

## **Big Prairie Township Parks Commission**

Wednesday July 13, 2022

**Meeting Called to Order:** 5 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Middleton, Ruehmeier, Ryman, Tucker and VanDam present.

**Public Input:** 0

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Ruehmeier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Middleton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to approve the minutes from June 29, 2022 as written. Motion carried.

**Board Reports:** Chairman – Chris L. helped with security. Guest(s) were removed from the parks via police officers.

Vice Chairman – asked to have a chart of Projects in Progress presented at each meeting. Chairman and PD to update the Projects and email all board members.

Presented photos of new wall at BB – trailer park – plants that have not been watered. Suggestion was to place a shepherd's hook with a hose (long enough to reach the plants) near the water spigot to make for easier watering of the plants.

Noticed Five (5) boat trailers parked without Registration tag.

Mentioned several trailers that need to be moved to conform with rule Section 9 L.

Chatter online saying “Disc Golf area is not being taken care of.” Director is aware and taking care of it.

Secretary – UIA is now accessible by Secretary and address has been changed to 2973 Cottonwood Ave., Newaygo MI 49337. Letter send to Big Prairie Township requesting reimbursement re: UIA.

Asked to have rule in short version reflect the same as in the full version.

Treasurer – AC Metals – a check to be reissued. Consumers Energy states design permitting, the Dam project could commence in 2023. Further information in the future.

Reyes Painting – have not received the refund of deposit as of this day, will be sending a letter of reminder.

Porta Jons – one at OX cabin area. One at BB primitive area. Clean outs are \$125.00 per unit per month.

Trustee – Dock #'s need to be finished. A swing from one area needs to be moved to the playground.

Referring to the sale of the Genie Lift – board discussed and implemented a new process for all future heavy equipment or items looking to purchase and or sell. Money would well spent for expert advice if needed.

BB – suggested clearing an area near pump house/disc golf for a walk path.

BB – Positive feedback from both seasonal and transient campers re: Security. Good communications.

Will be looking at trees and branches with PD for trim and or removal needs.

Meeting with a camper to reinstate their privilege to utilize our parks went well. All interested parties are satisfied.

**Treasurer Report:** June 24-30, 2022 =\$19,424.77. July 1-7, 2022 = \$27,775.21. Total = \$47,199.98  
Motion by Ryman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tucker to approve the Treasurer report as presented. Motion carried.

**Present and Pay Bills:** Motion by Middleton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to pay the bills as follows; Gross payroll week ending July 7, 2022 = \$26,219.51. Bills = \$19,711.59. Motion carried.

**Grant Report:** Application for Kayak Launch/Fish Piers/ADA Universal Grant has been reviewed. Letters of support have been received.

Bricks – selling bricks as a fundraiser towards matching funds and potentially building a walkway with them was discussed. Possibly selling to families of military past and present as a way to honor/memorialize them with a Heroes Walkway within BPT Parks. American Legion states they would support our efforts to raise needed funds.

Dragon Trail – as OVDP will be a trailhead for the trail, the Dragon Trail committee would fund the ADA parking lot at OVDP. More information forthcoming.

**Directors Report:** Camp Host – 0

Maintenance – OX – Cabin 2, flooring is near completion. Light/pole has been moved to reduce brightness for campers in the primitive area. Suggestion was made to possibly use Sunoco gas card when Dam is down for repairs in the future. Vandalism has increased. New cameras have been installed and will be utilized in the effort to reduce and or prevent future vandalism.

BB – supplied a list of priority tasks the crew is working on. Bathhouse shower - Second bathhouse – trailer park has 6 shower units that need to be replaced while bathhouse in The Point has 4. Sherry to check on details of the unit listings supplied.

OVDP – Women’s vault toilet may have a possible leak, Shultz to be contacted for confirmation.

Backhoe – Steering Case may need replacing. Mark to check with Andy and confirm. Also, checking on an invoice to confirm what was repaired already before making any decisions.

Office – Lottery Packets – Electric/Motorized Bikes – to follow rules set forth for regular bikes. Will add to the rules & regulations for all bikes the following; **“and not to exceed the posted speed limit.”**

Lottery packets information has been approved and will be ready for distribution in the coming weeks.

General – Yard Sale set for OX on July 30, 2022. Time to be determined. May place another employee at entrance to help direct traffic to parking.

BB – Guest – email received 7-5-2022 requesting dock and pass fees refund. Board examined both signed contract by applicant and the Invoice Details report which both clearly show the lot # that was chosen by the applicant. Additionally, Number 6 on the contract states: “No refunds will be issued on or after May 1<sup>st</sup> for seasonal campsites or docks.” Therefore, it is the duty of the Park Board to uphold the contract as signed **without issuing** a 1). Full Dock Refund 2). Refund of One (1) seasonal pass as requested. Request denied.

BB – Guest – Handwritten signed letter was received requesting a partial dock fee refund due to unforeseen issues. Additionally, Number 6 on the contract states: “No refunds will be issued on or after May 1<sup>st</sup> for seasonal campsites or docks.” The Board discussed the details and decided it is the duty of the Park Board to uphold the contract as signed without issuing any refund as requested. Request denied.

OX – Guests – Threats of great bodily harm towards another guest was witnessed by employees of BPTPC. Newaygo County Sheriffs was summoned and had the aggressor remove themselves and family from the park. Then returned to safely escort the non- aggressive guest and family out of the park and beyond. Police report requested. Park Board discussed the incident. Motion by Middleton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tucker to ban the aggressor for three (3) years with possible reentry after addressing the board at the end of the ban. Motion carried. Letter to be sent.

**Old Business:** 0

**New Business:** Flags/Signage Political/Profanity – Board discussed and agreed we are neutral ground for all campers and NOT allow any flags, signage or any type of political or profanity propaganda within the confines of BPT Parks property. This rule to be effective immediately.

After dark – Due to the increased night traffic of children/adults riding standard, motorized/electric bikes, scooters, hover boards, razors or the like, along with incidents of running into others and property and vehicles nearly hitting them, the board has instructed PD to strictly enforce the rule “no riding after dusk” and “must follow the posted speed limit” by means of written violation to all violators.

Conceal Carry/Weapons – While firearms are not permitted within the confines of BPT Parks, the board has decided due to the numerous threats of “I carry” by guests of our parks that ANY verbal “I carry, I have a weapon, gun etc.” will be considered a threat. Police will be contacted immediately. Additionally this will be added to the full set of rules and regulations.

**Miscellaneous:** Board to uphold the rule “All employees must wear closed toed shoes during working hours.”  
OVDP – there are trees that may need removed or trimmed. Need to determine responsible party, County or BPTPC.  
OVDP – need to begin drafting layout of park for ADA and Dragon Trail additions.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ryman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to adjourn this meeting at 7:32P.M. Motion carried.

Submitted for Approval

Colleen Ryman  
BPTPC  
Secretary

Approved on: