

AGENDA
MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
BOC Committee Room
125 E Second Street
Monroe, MI 48161

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - 1. December 9, 2024 Rescheduled Meeting
- VII. STAFF & SPECIAL REPORTS
 - 1. Staff Report
- VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
- IX. COMMUNICATIONS - None
- X. OLD BUSINESS - None
- XI. NEW BUSINESS
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
RESCHEDULED MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2024

A rescheduled meeting of the Monroe County Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Monroe County Courthouse 125 E Second Street, Monroe, MI 48161 on Monday, December 9th, 2024.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Larry VanWasshenova at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Rusty Davis, Loretta LaPointe, Greg Stewart, David Hoffman,
Larry VanWasshenova, Robert Kull, and Misty Green.

ABSENT: Brian Hoppert, David Thompson, and Connie Velliquette.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry VanWasshenova.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Larry VanWasshenova to approve the agenda, seconded by Greg Stewart.

Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September 9, 2024)

Motion by Rusty Davis to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting held on December 9, 2024 with no corrections, seconded by Robert Kull. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

1. Lucie Fortin, Community Planner and Landscape Architect from Mannik Smith Group, presented a summary of public comments that were received by the County regarding the 2025-2029 Monroe County Parks, Trails, & Recreation Master Plan. Ms. Fortin recommended amendments to the Master Plan regarding upgrading or constructing restrooms in each County park; constructing a pedestrian bridge connection over the River Raisin to the Mark Worrell Trail; adding the City of Luna Pier to the locations of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

and Erie State Game Area; adding references to local municipality recreation plans in the County; and adding references to the Great Lakes Way, Underground Railroad Bike Route, and other US Bike Routes crossing the County.

Robert Kull asked if all local municipalities had been contacted. Ms. Fortin stated that all local municipalities were contacted and feedback from those that responded was considered. Mr. Kull stated the importance of economic development and stressed that community engagement would be critical to the success of the Master Plan.

Greg Stewart thanked Ms. Fortin for her thoroughness.

Motion by David Hoffman to the adopt amendments into the 2025-2029 Monroe County Parks, Trails, & Recreation Master Plan, seconded by Robert Kull. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

2. David O'Shea, from the Toledo Area Disc Golf Association, stated his desire for a disc golf course to be constructed at Nike Park and outlined potential sites for development, and outlined the benefits of a similar course already in place at Vienna Park.
3. Florence Buchanan, from the Monroe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Trails Advisory Panel, expressed her desire to collaborate with the Parks & Recreation Commission on future activities and development.
4. Jim Gardner recommended the Parks & Recreation Commission visit Glass City Metropark and Jackson, MI parks to use them as models for future development. Mr. Gardner also stated that a better quality parks system would attract more residents to the County.
5. Michael Bosanac, Monroe County Administrator/CFO, discussed the range and intention of the 5-year Master Plan, stating that approval of the 5-year plan is the first priority and will allow a broader vision to be implemented.

David Hoffman asked how long it takes to obtain grant approval and who would be the grant writer. Mr. Bosanac explained the grant application and approval process and stated the grant writer would be determined on an individual project basis.

VII. STAFF & SPECIAL REPORTS

Motion made by Larry VanWasshenova to approve the Resolution in Support of the Adoption of Monroe County 2025 Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan, seconded by Robert Kull. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Dale DeSloover, from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel, discussed potential funding and process requirements for grant approval.
2. Michael Bosanac discussed progress and key points of the Loop Trail projects, highlighting the projects' benefit to the community.
3. David Hoffman discussed inquiries he has received regarding parks being closed during the winter season and the possibility of opening them to the public during that period.

Larry Wasshenova stated potential concern about liability to the County and asked for Michael Bosanac's input. Mr. Bosanac stated that it would depend on the situation, and would also add additional labor and maintenance requirements for the County, but the possibility of keeping the parks open later into the year could be considered.

Larry VanWasshenova recommended tabling this topic for future discussion.

4. Tim Gardner expressed concerns regarding funding being dedicated specifically for parks versus other areas.
5. Florence Buchanan discussed lack of community involvement in bicycle events in the County. Ms. Buchanan stated she is exploring opportunities to bring more people into Monroe County from surrounding areas, which is something the County is making progress on but must continue to improve.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS – None

X. OLD BUSINESS – None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Robert Kull to approve Parks & Recreation Commission Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2025, seconded by Larry VanWasshenova. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Loretta LaPointe to adjourn, seconded by Misty Green. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 6, 2025

TO: Monroe County Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: Andrew Kish
Operations Coordinator

Re: Parks Staff Report

General Summary

There are no major events to report since our previous meeting. Parks are closed and winterized for the season, and staff will continue to address maintenance issues as needed. If you have any questions between meetings or reports, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (734)-240-7268 or andrew_kish@monroemi.org.

Reports on Parks

A brief overview of each park and any significant activities or updates since our last report is as follows:

Waterloo Park

- The entrance gate that was malfunctioning has been repaired.

Nike Park

- A project to replace the landscaping at the front entrance is being planned for the spring.
- Brush piles are scheduled to be burned this winter.

Heck Park

- Brush piles are scheduled to be burned this winter.
- We are working with the veterans group to coordinate replacement of the eagle statue, at their own cost. Discussions are ongoing regarding the statue design and location.

Loranger Square

- Nothing new to report.

Vienna Park

- Brush piles are scheduled to be burned this winter.

West County Park

- Detroit River Western Lake Erie Cooperative Weed Management Area came out in November to assist with identifying invasive trees in the park and advised that we apply an herbicide and do a controlled burn, which should eliminate this issue for several years.
- Due to time the year, applying an herbicide was not functional. Staff will coordinate with JAWS to cut down invasive trees and a controlled burn will be scheduled.

End of Report