



*Enhancing community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.
Making longer lives, better lives.*

Business Development Team of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, March 3, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Room 300, Governmental Center

400 Boardman Avenue

Traverse City, Michigan 49684

AGENDA

General Meeting Policies: Please turn off all cell phones or switch them to silent mode. Any person may make a video, audio, or other record of this meeting. Standing equipment, cords, or portable microphones must be located to not block audience view. If you need auxiliary assistance, contact 231-922-4780 or TDD 231-922-4412.

Members: Pete Albers (Citizen Member), Rodetta Harrand, Rod Kivell (Citizen Member and Chair), Alisa Korn, Whitney Waara (Vice Chair), Shirley Zerafa

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Public Comment

Any person shall be permitted to address the Parks and Recreation Commission, which is required to be open to the public under the provision of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, as amended (MCLA 15.261, et.seq.). Public comment shall be carried out in accordance with the following Board Rules and Procedures:

- Any person wishing to address the Board shall state his or her name and address.
- No person shall be allowed to speak more than once on the same matter, excluding Commissioners' questions. The President shall control the amount of time each person shall be allowed to speak, which shall not exceed three (3) minutes. The President may, at his or her discretion, extend the amount of time any person is allowed to speak.

- V. Approval of/Additions to Agenda
- VI. Commercial Paddling Businesses Using County Parks on the Boardman River, and Medalie Park's Role (Continued Discussion; Letter from The River Outfitters Attached; E-mail from Ulingher Attached)
- VII. Second Public Comment (Please refer to rules above.)
- VIII. Notices and Team Member Comments
- IX. Adjournment



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Business Development Team of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners' Committee Room, Governmental Center

400 Boardman Avenue

Traverse City, Michigan 49684

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
Members Present: Rodetta Harrand, Rod Kivell (Citizen Member and Chair), Alisa Korn, Whitney Waara* (Vice Chair), Shirley Zerafa
Others Present: Jeff Bensley, TC Paddle; Chris Bott, TC Tritons; Steve Largent, Grand Traverse Conservation District and Parks and Recreation Commissioner; Kristine Erickson*, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
* Director arrived at 5:38 p.m., after notifying Team Chair and Parks and Recreation Commission President she would be delayed. Commissioner Waara arrived at 6 p.m.
- IV. Public Comment
There was no public comment
- V. Approval of/Additions to Agenda
MOTION by Korn, second by Harrand, to approve agenda, as presented.
- VI. Approval of Minutes, January 14, 2020 Business Development Team Meeting (Attached)
MOTION by Korn, second by Harrand, to approve minutes, with the addition of Steve Largent, Grand Traverse Conservation District, in attendance.
- VII. Managing Requests from Paddling Vendors/Liveries other than Parks and Recreation's Selected Vendor/Livery Operating Out of Medalie Park (Continued Discussion; E-mail Request Attached)
Commissioner Largent provided some maps of the Boardman River with paddling launch points indicated on them to aid with the discussion. Director provided a document with a list of all of the Boardman River launch points and their descriptions for team members' future reference. Team and others in attendance discussed adding a Park Rule stating that any commercial business that wishes to operate out of or use a county park for commercial purposes must be permitted to do so by Parks and Recreation. Team asked Director to make that recommendation to the full Parks and Recreation Commission during its regular meeting on February 13, 2020.
- VIII. Draft Park Partnership and Process (Discussion; Draft Provided at Meeting)
Team asked Director to bring this item back to the Business Development Team when the discussions about paddling businesses using county parks have finished.
- IX. Second Public Comment (Please refer to rules above.)
There was no public comment.
- X. Notices and Team Member Comments
Commissioner Zerafa expressed concern about providing handouts at the beginning of a meeting, rather than in the packet, and about team members and staff arriving late to meetings.
- XI. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



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Business Development Team of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, February 18, 2020, 5:30 p.m.

Room 300, Governmental Center

400 Boardman Avenue

Traverse City, Michigan 49684

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
Members Present: Pete Albers (Citizen Member), Rod Kivell (Citizen Member and Chair), Alisa Korn,
Members Excused: Rodetta Harrand, Whitney Waara (Vice Chair), Shirley Zerafa
Others Present: Tawny Hammond, River Outfitters; Steve Largent, Conservation District and Grand
Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commissioner
- IV. Public Comment
There was no public comment.
- V. Additions to Agenda
There were no additions to the agenda.
- VI. Commercial Paddling Businesses Using County Parks on the Boardman River, and Medalie Park's Role (Discussion; E-mails, Medalie Park Business Plan Attached)
Continued discussion from previous meeting about commercial paddling businesses using Medalie Park.
- VII. Second Public Comment
There was no public comment.
- VIII. Notices and Team Member Comments
There were no notices or team member comments.
- IX. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Kristine Erickson, Director
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation
1213 W Civic Center Drive
Traverse City, Michigan, 49686

February 19, 2020

Dear Director Erickson,

The River Outfitters is requesting permission to utilize Jack's Landing as a put in (launch location) for guided and self-guided kayak experiences. On our busiest days, we anticipate launching approximately 60 boats in total, with the majority of departures between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Prior to removal of the Sabin and Boardman Dams, The River Outfitters routinely launched boats from Sabin Dam. With the Sabin launch removed, Jack's landing has become our only safe, Boardman River experience available south of Boardman Lake. As we consider the potential for two or more summers of river closures in downtown Traverse City, our business has become increasingly dependent upon use of the Boardman River upstream of Medalie Park.

Providing quiet, nature-based, recreational experiences is an essential part of our culture at The River Outfitters, and as such we do not allow alcohol, marijuana, or amplified music on our paddles. We also provide our customers with an interpretive introduction before their paddle about the natural and cultural history of the River.

If this request is approved by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, I will seek approval from Garfield Township to pick renters up at their Boardman River dock adjacent to the YMCA.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Tawny Hammond

About the River Outfitters

The River Outfitters provides people-powered recreational opportunities that respect indigenous cultures and are in harmony with the natural world. With over 25 years in environmentally sensitive parks management, owner Tawny Hammond is committed to environmental education, riparian restoration, preservation, and stewardship. Her credentials and references can be found at <https://tawnylynnhammond.com/>

The River Outfitters shares the goals and vision of Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, City of Traverse City and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in providing contemporary, responsible and relevant recreational activities and programming for the Boardman River.



Kristine Erickson <kerickson@grandtraverse.org>

Medalie Park and Boardman Lake access

1 message

Gretchen Uhlinger <guhlinger@gmail.com>
To: kerickson@grandtraverse.org

Wed, Feb 19, 2020 at 4:24 PM

Good afternoon,

I read the Ticker article regarding the questions that have arisen regarding the use of Medalie Park as a launch site for an additional number of commercially owned kayaks and stand up paddle boards. Having witnessed the steady increase in the number of people using the lower portion of the Boardman River as a place to consume alcohol while paddling, I would like to voice my objection to expanding that type of activity to include both ends of the Boardman Lake.

I have three reasons:

1. as the Medalie Park website describes, Boardman Lake is home to a variety of water birds who bring bird watchers to the docks that were built for that purpose.
2. as the website does not describe, one of those varieties of birds is a pair of nesting loons who return (or whose offspring return) annually to the east side of the lake. It is rare to have such shy birds in our midst.
3. I believe Traverse City could be proud of a "quiet lake and pristine river". Rather than that we are at risk of expanding our reputation as a town where one can pay a purveyor to sell you beer, then drive you to a spot on the Lake where you get in a small craft (often with your own beer) and attempt to paddle to the Bay where you climb out on the sand and walk, wet and drunk, back to the beginning where you get more beer.

I am happy to participate in public forums.

thanks for all that you do!
Gretchen Uhlinger
116 Hillcrest Court
Traverse City, MI 49684

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Gretchen Uhlinger, *Independent Educational Professional Consultant*
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