



*Parks and Recreation enhances community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.  
Senior Center Network makes longer lives, better lives.*

**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission  
Virtual Meeting  
Thursday, June 11, 2020, 5:30 p.m.  
Minutes**

**A. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:32 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

**C. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Alisa Korn, David Grams, Rodetta Harrand, Whitney Waara\*, Andy Marek, Jalen Provo

**Commissioners Excused:** Betsy Coffia, Steve Largent, Shirley Zerafa

*\*Arrived after start of meeting.*

**Others Present:** Kristine Erickson, Director, Ryan Walsh, Office Manager, Lori Wells, Senior Center Network Manager, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation; Nate Alger, Grand Traverse County Administrator; Rod Kivell, Pete Albers, Parks and Recreation Business Development Team citizen members; John Sohacki, citizen member of the Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning Subcommittee; Ty Schmidt, Executive Director of Norte

**D. First Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**E. Approval of/Additions to Agenda**

Motion by Marek, second by Provo, to approve the agenda, as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Grams, Harrand, Largent, Marek, Provo, Korn (6)

Nays: (0)

Absent: Coffia, Waara, and Zerafa (3)

Motion passed, 6 to 0.

**F. Special Orders of Business/Presentations**

There were no special orders of business/presentations.

**G. Consent Calendar**

Motion by Harrand, second by Marek, to receive and file the Consent Calendar, with the exception of Items 6 and 8.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Provo, Marek, Harrand, Grams, Korn (5)

Nays: (0)

Absent: Coffia, Largent, Waara, and Zerafa (4)

Motion passed, 5 to 0.

### **Receive and File**

1. Parks and Recreation-Senior Center Network Financial Report
2. Approved Minutes from March 3 and May 5, 2020 Meetings of the Parks and Recreation Business Development Team
3. Grand Traverse Conservation District's Monthly Report
4. Grand Traverse County's COVID-19 Reopening Plan
5. Parks and Recreation and Senior Center Network Summer 2020 Plan for Re-opening and Providing Recreation and Facility Rental Services
6. Parks and Recreation's Applications for Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Two Percent Grants, June 2020 Cycle
7. VASA Skillz Loop Update from TART Trails
8. May 20, 2020 Correspondence from U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Cottrell to Parks and Recreation Director

### **Approvals**

1. Draft Minutes from May 14, 2020 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
2. Draft Minutes from May 19, 2020 Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission

## **H. Items Removed from Consent Calendar**

1. Item 6. Parks and Recreation's Applications for Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians Two Percent Grants, June 2020 Cycle  
Director spoke on Commissioner Waara's behalf regarding her concerns with air dryers in restrooms.  
MOTION by Korn, second by Marek, to receive and file Item 6.  
Roll Call Vote  
Yeas: Marek, Grams, Provo, Harrand, Korn (5)  
Nays: (0)  
Absent: Coffia, Largent, Waara, and Zerafa (4)  
Motion passed, 5 to 0.
2. Item 8. May 20, 2020 Correspondence from U.S. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Cottrell to Parks and Recreation Director  
Commissioner Provo stated it is not every day a thank-you letter is received from a Coast Guard Rear Admiral.  
Director stated that Facilities Management Director was responsible for making arrangements for Coast Guard Rescue swimmers to use Easling Pool to train during the pandemic.  
MOTION by Provo, second by Marek to receive and file Item 8.  
Roll Call Vote  
Yeas: Harrand, Provo, Grams, Marek, Korn (5)  
Nays: (0)  
Absent: Coffia, Largent, Waara, and Zerafa (4)  
Motion passed, 5 to 0.

## **I. Reports**

1. Parks and Recreation and Senior Center Department Report  
Director summarized written report.  
Commissioners discussed e-mail correspondence about the Maple Bay Natural Area that was sent as an update after the agenda packet was issued.
  - [Supplemental Information Provided before Meeting: Department Report](#)
  - [Supplemental Information Provided before Meeting: Maple Bay Emails](#)
  - [Supplemental Information Provided before Meeting: Maple Bay Timeline](#)

Senior Center Manager summarized the Senior Center Network written report.

3. Committee and Representative Reports

Business Development Team Chair provided an update. The team discussed contracts affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and strategies for moving forward. Chair also informed board that YouthWork will submit a proposal to the team for its potential use of the Meyer property.

Commissioner Korn updated the board about a recent decision made by the Garfield Township Parks Board to not permit commercial paddling businesses to use Garfield Township launches along the Boardman River.

**J. New Business**

1. Request to Install Covered Bike Parking and Little Library at Civic Center Park

Norte's Executive Director requested permission to install covered bike parking and a little library near its Clubhouse at the south end of Civic Center Park.

MOTION by Marek, second by Waara, to work with staff to identify a safe location for each item.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Grams, Marek, Provo, Waara, Korn (5)

Nays: Harrand (1)

Absent: Coffia, Largent, Zerafa (3)

Motion passed, 5 to 1.

MOTION by Marek, second by Waara, to work with staff for determining locations of the proposed tents and to include Parks and Recreation with the branding.

Roll Call Vote

Yeas: Waara, Provo, Marek, Grams, Korn (5)

Nays: Harrand (1)

Absent: Coffia, Largent, and Zerafa (3)

Motion passed, 5 to 1.

2. Camp Update

Norte's Executive Director provided an update about Norte's joint summer camp with Parallel 45 Theatre at the Civic Center.

3. Virtual versus In-person Parks and Recreation Meetings

Commissioners discussed meeting in person again in July.

**K. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**L. Second Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**M. Notices and Commissioner Comments**

Director stated the department likely would have to pay for restoring the site where the farmhouse was removed at Maple Bay Park and Natural Area.

President spoke about increased phone traffic at Parks and Recreation for reservations and stated she is impressed with staff diversifying revenue sources and stabilizing the department.

County Administrator stated that Civil Counsel is comfortable with softball beginning at the Civic Center.

**N. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.