

# Marion County Parks And Recreation Commission

\_October 21, 2024\_\_ – Regular Meeting Minutes

6:00 PM CVB Conference Room

## COMMISSIONERS

### PRESENT:

Jay Ford, President  
Robert Brookover, Vice Pres.  
Craig White, Secretary  
J. Philip Burton, Treasurer  
Jimmy Bledsoe  
Tracy Evans  
Rick Garcia  
Cathy Maxwell  
Josh Rice  
Dave Shaw  
Butch Tennant

## STAFF

### PRESENT:

Tony Michalski, Director  
Tina Mascaro, Sports Management Director

### GUESTS:

Rusty Cain – skate park  
Katie Knott – skate park  
Mike Book – WV Raptor Center

## I. Opening of the meeting and approval of minutes

The meeting was called to order at \_\_6:00\_\_p.m. by \_Jay Ford\_(President).

President Ford introduced the guests in attendance.

Rusty & Katie – interested in having a skate park in Marion County. The community currently has to travel to Morgantown, Waynesburg, and Pittsburgh. MCPARC currently does not have any property available to develop a skate park. Tony mentioned that the city has some property to the right of Palatine Park that might be a potential site (next to the gas station); Morris Park also has potential in the tennis court area. Bob Brookover mentioned that there was someone in Shinnston that has a bike shop and is very interested in stake boarding. (Pike Street Bikes) – He suggested that they contact him. They asked about the green space next to the dog park – this is actually park of FIDO park so it's not available. They are looking for space approximately 100' X 100' with no fencing needed. It was recommended that they attend the City of Fairmont meeting being held Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Public Safety Building to discuss the former Helmick manufacturing site property. It was also suggested that they look into EQT or some other non-profits to secure some funding; the Bowers Grant was also recommended. Some things to consider with this type of facility would be the insurance involved based on the number of persons using the facility.

Mike Book, Chairman of the WV Raptor Center – Mike started in raptor rehab in 1977;; in 1983 the center started, and in 1995 Hardrock Bunner deeded property to them with the mandate that if they close the property goes to MCPARC. MCPARC currently has 90+ acres next to this property that is landlocked. The center will be closing, and they will be vacating the property by March 2025. Mike described the property: 24 x 40 building with 2 sections, bathroom, sinks, counter tops, full utilities, is insulated, and has ac and heat; 25,000 sq. ft. parking lot; approximately 37 flight cages that could be salvaged; and a garage. Mike has documents of all water and electric lines as well as utility expenses. He stated that the lines are buried deep enough that no winterizing is necessary and there are several shut-off valves. They currently have an agreement with the neighbors and allow

them to hunt on the property with specific guidelines. Based on the deed guidelines, you can not harvest the timber or use the land to make money. Photos were provided.

The deed can be found in the property book 908 page 707.

The motion was made by Butch Tennant and seconded by Craig White for the **approval of the minutes** for September 23, 2024. Motion Carried \_\_X\_\_ Motion Denied \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Financial Report for September 2024

There were questions about the pool financials and those will be discussed in the Director's report. Phil asked where we stood with the tax dollars and Tony indicated that we are up from last year.

The motion was made by Butch Tennant and seconded by Bob Brookover for the **financial report and invoices** for September 2024. Motion Carried \_\_X\_\_ Motion Denied \_\_\_\_\_

## III. Committee Reports

- a. Program and Planning -met October 16 and the agenda was included in the board packet
- b. Finance – the audit committee will be meeting Oct. 22 to score proposals
- c. Nominating
- d. Personnel – met before tonight's meeting; Tony will email recommendations to the board for a vote

## IV. Director's Report

- a. Programming and Planning Committee: current fiscal budget capital development projects; FY 2024 completed capital development projects; community assistance obligations; future fiscal year capital development projects; Middletown Commons project; Baxter Motor Sports Park AML; Rails to Trails cross town connection and a partnership with the City of Fairmont; the Bunner's Ridge Raptor Center property and horizon projects.
- b. Audit Committee – will meet Oct. 22 to score the two proposals received for the MCPARC fiscal year ending June 2024 audit. The bid summary and certification information were enclosed in the board packets.
- c. Personnel Committee – met prior to the meeting and Tony will email recommendations to the board.
- d. Mary Lou Retton project – minutes from progress meeting #18 and photos were included in the board packet. THE project was once again delayed because of the issues and change orders on the 3<sup>rd</sup> base side viewing area. Duraedge arrived on September 24<sup>th</sup> and renovations to both the A field and the EFHS softball field have been completed – pictures were enclosed. We are planning a small ribbon cutting ceremony when the project is complete to publicly thank the County Commission. They will be the first plaque on our Winners Wall.
- e. Baxter VFD AMLER grant – Tony attended a meeting in Charleston October 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss moving forward on the grant. The legal advertisement and Request for Proposals for the required environmental assessment were included in the board

packet. Tony is serving on the 5G selection committee to procure professional services for the project.

- f. Pool concession financial report – an adjusted profit and losses for the concessions at both pools was distributed. Jay requested a presentation next Feb/March with information on how to increase profit at these pools. Labor costs need to be decreased.

## **V. Sports Management Director Report**

### **a. Community Engagement**

- i. Local resident contacted MCPARC with interest in a skate park – she was invited to attend the meeting.
- ii. MCPARC received a complimentary email from local resident who rides the Rail Trail thanking us for the work our team has put into the rail trail. (copy of his email was included for review) Mike Queen completed 393 miles and raised \$1610 for children’s cancer research by utilizing MCPARC’s rail trails.
- iii. MCPARC is assisting Penn Line with work they are doing in Marion County by providing them a place to park their personal and work vehicles.
- iv. Pool passes were donated to Barrackville school PTO annual raffle.

### **b. Programs**

- i. MLR project update – see Director’s report. We are working to keep the new sod watered so it can take hold.
- ii. The office staff completed training on our new on-line reservation/registration system, and it is now live. [Mcparc.recdesk.com](http://Mcparc.recdesk.com)
- iii. K-3 basketball registration opened up on October 7<sup>th</sup> and we are using the new on-line site. I met with the new owners of the 5<sup>th</sup> Street gym to see if any collaborations could be made. They are running their own leagues which has our registration numbers down slightly but we were able to secure one night usage for practices.
- iv. The annual Trick or Trout event will be held October 26<sup>th</sup> thanks to the diligent work of our maintenance staff in monitoring and securing appropriate water levels for us to be able to re-stock and hold this event.
- v. Field usage at all facilities are still at full capacity – most facilities will be done the first weekend in November.
- vi. Upcoming bus trip – December 7<sup>th</sup> - North Pole Express Potomac Eagle train.
- vii. The community garden closed on October 1<sup>st</sup> and our program coordinator submitted her end of year report which was available for review. Garden usage was down this year and I have been working with FSU Nutrition program on a collaboration for next year..
- viii. Robert Brummage from the Fairmont Lions Club called to let us know that they did trail cleanup along the Monongah to Everson trail on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Brookover asked for us to check into the field located behind the 12<sup>th</sup> Street pool. I had already checked once and the Board of Education is paying rent to Valley Distributing during certain months of the year for their teams to be able to use it. I will follow up again with Mr. Green to see if that space was available for anyone else to use.

Bob Brookover said there is a drone show in Olgeby November 7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> and he wondered how much that would cost to bring it to Fairmont.

**VI. Maintenance Report**

The maintenance report was submitted with a detailed list of jobs completed at the various MCPARC properties.

**VII. New Business**

- a. Tony presented the renewal agreement between the DNR and MCPARC for the 25 year contract for permission for both parties to mutually use the property. Discussion was held.

The motion was made by Cathy Maxwell and seconded by Rick Garcia for the **approval of** the renewal agreement between MCPARC and the state of WV, Department of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources for agreement to the development of a public access site on the West Fork River at Worthington Park. Motion Carried X Motion Denied \_\_\_\_\_

- b. Tony and members of the Board were contacted by Board of Education Administrator Chad Norman in regards to a request for donation. Discussion was held.

The motion was made by Phil Burton and seconded by Craig White for the **approval of** a \$5000 donation towards the E-W Stadium project now and for MCPARC to only ask for \$30,000 from them next year instead of \$50,000 that we normally ask for with the stipulation that the \$20,000 be applied to the stadium project. Motion Carried X Motion Denied \_\_\_\_\_

**VIII. President's Remarks – none**

**IX. Around the Horn**

- a. **J. Bledsoe** - absent
- b. **R. Brookover** – no comment
- c. **P. Burton** – no comment
- d. **T. Evans** - absent
- e. **J. Ford** – no comment
- f. **R. Garcia** – no comment
- g. **C. Maxwell** – no comment
- h. **J. Rice** - absent
- i. **D. Shaw** - absent
- j. **B. Tennant** – no comment

