

Minutes: Parks Commission
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 - 6:30 PM
Location: Sterling Nature Center

Meeting Called to order at 6:30 pm

Present: J. DeForest, D. Dello Stritto, Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Connie Reilley, Susan Rusinko, Kristina Sherman, Brian Soper, Jim Young

Excused: Jean Saroodis

Other Attendees: Jim D'Angelo, Charlie Ripley, June Ouellette

1. *Approve/Correct Minutes from the April 24, 2019 meeting. There was no May meeting due to lack of quorum. Motion: B. Soper, 2nd C. Reilley, unanimously approved*
2. *We had 1 resolution for April: Resolution 144-19 was passed at the 4/23/19 Legislative meeting "Authorizing an agreement with Auburn YMCA-WEIU allowing for the operations of Auburn Little League at Emerson Park" The term is October 2019 through September 2024 in exchange for \$1 for each year approved.*
3. *We have no resolutions for May.*
4. *We have 2 Resolutions for June:*
 - A) ***AUTHORIZING CAYUGA COUNTY SUBMISSION OF A 2019 CFA GRANT APPLICATION FOR PHASE II OF EMERSON PARK PRIORITY PROJECTS AND CONFIRMING CAYUGA COUNTY'S INTENT TO ALLOCATE IN-KIND FUNDING RESOURCES TO THE PROJECT PENDING AWARD OF NEW YORK STATE CFA GRANT FUNDS***
 - B) ***AUTHORIZING CAYUGA COUNTY SUBMISSION OF A 2019 CFA GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STERLING NATURE CENTER INTERPRETIVE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS AND CONFIRMING CAYUGA COUNTY'S INTENT TO ALLOCATE CASH AND IN-KIND FUNDING RESOURCES TO THE PROJECT PENDING AWARD OF NEW YORK STATE CFA GRANT FUNDS***
5. *Emerson Park:*
 - A. *The Agricultural Society would like to propose permanent storage structures for the gates and pens for the livestock that are currently stored behind the park maintenance building. Lindsey Gerstenslager will present plans.*
 - B. *CFA Grant for the Deauville Island improvements:*
 1. *TWMLA (landscape architects) Final design plans for the new pathway system was submitted 5/21. OPRHP has provided guidance on draft drawings, final drawings will be submitted upon receipt. Bidding for paving and playground construction will follow the approval process. Bid was posted on 6/17/19. Pre-bid site meeting will be 6/27 at 11am. Bid closing date is 7/9.*
 2. *Park Programming Initiative: Biederman Redevelopment Ventures has provided demographic information to be used in their market analysis. Cayuga County has reviewed the deliverable list expected at the end of project and communicated desired elements identified through public meetings and staff feedback.*
 - C. *A park patron has requested the Parks Commission revisit the dawn to dusk policy as the individual and family members have been asked to leave the park by law enforcement while fishing after dark. No action was taken.*
 - D. *The Ag Museum sewer pit: Installed 5/6, now is operational.*
 - E. *Riparian buffer zones: Emerson Park would like to begin establishing vegetative buffer zones along the channel that surrounds Deauville Island (see attached map). These will include plantings obtained from the NYS DEC Buffer in a Bag program. In addition to*

seedlings Parks staff would like permission to further establish this zone by refraining from mowing a zone of 20-30' from the high water level where appropriate to allow the zone to repopulate with vegetation with more significant root systems to stabilize the area. Mowed fishing accesses will be maintained and ongoing evaluation of the zone will be managed with assistance for the Watershed Inspection program staff. Pedestrian safety, pest management and fishing access were all discussed. C. Reilley requested to visit the area at 6pm prior to the next Parks Commission at Emerson Park. This will be included in the meeting announcement.

- F. *Painting of the exterior of the Merry Go Round theater has been awarded. Start date is under negotiation.*
 - G. *Pavilion RFP; Final recommendations for inclusion in the document to be submitted will be accepted at this meeting. Feedback on the 2010 RFP and subsequent addendums focused on the inclusion of 2 public events per year. There was concern that the mandate to host numerous public events could discourage bidders on the contract. The current structure of the agreement has been beneficial both in the consistently high quality of management of events held in the Pavilion as measured by the feedback from guests and in the ability to build a reserve fund from the revenue generated to make ongoing repairs to the building and systems.*
 - H. *The Farm Bureau has requested to return the hay wagon with their banner to the Ag Museum area for display along East Lake Rd. The wagon was taken in 2018 to repair the frame that holds the banners. Motion –J. Young, 2nd K. Sherman passed unanimously*
 - I. *Doug Clark has submitted a request to donate a bench to the park. B. Soper – Motion; To hold this proposal in anticipation of the BRV programming plan which will provide guidance on sponsorship/non-memorial donations.*
 - J. *Car show parking revenue 2019 - \$784 due to heavy rain. 2018 - \$4315*
6. *Ward W. O'Hara Ag Museum/Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center Update (Tim Quill Director PT):*
- A. *Old Ways Day June 1 , 2019 10-4*
 - B. *Patron/Staff/Volunteer Dinner was Wednesday June 12. Thank you for attending.*
 - C. *8 School group Tours scheduled for May and June*
 - D. *BOCES Students work day at Museum was Friday May 17*
 - E. *4-H Work day at Museum Sunday May 19*
 - F. *Memorial Day to Halloween Hours: Mon thru Sat 10-4, Sun 11-4, Wed in July and Aug 10-8:30*
7. *Sterling Nature Center (Jim D'Angelo Director PT):*
Sterling Nature Center Director's Report, Jim D'Angelo
- A. *Jim has a base schedule of Thursday - Sunday for June this will fluctuate as needed for meetings, programs and other work. Jim is scheduled 110hrs for June.*
 - B. *Lake shore:*
 - o *Erosion continues with high rain fall and lake levels.*
 - o *We are monitoring bluffs and adjacent trails condition to ensure visitor safety*
 - o *We have redirected/moved trails in four places further away from the bluff and will continue as needed.*
 - o *Most of this erosion is related to the high water two years ago eroding the base of the bluff and the wet spring causing the bluff to slump.*
 - C. *Lake View Deck; Paul is working on a plan to move it back from the edge. It is only three feet from the edge of the bluff to the front support pylon.*

- D. *Fair Haven May Day, May 19, 2019 11am-3pm: Funds from the raffle and other activities at the event are being donated to the Nature Center. We will have an information booth set up at the event.*
- E. *Art Inspiration was June 2, 2019 is one of the Friends annual events and fundraisers*
 - o *59 local business have donated \$2,450 to sponsor the event*
 - o *\$120 in other donations*
 - o *\$300 value of donated items*
- F. *Vandalism: Lake View Deck was spray painted. Dogwood Road, a sign was removed and cables preventing ATV access were cut and removed. This is a continuation of last year's illegal ATV use of this area.*

<i>Blue Birds, with John Rogers</i>	<i>47 (standing room only)</i>	<i>April 13</i>
<i>Walk when the Moon is Full</i>	<i>rain</i>	<i>April 19</i>
<i>Spring Beach Clean-up</i>	<i>snow, waves, wind</i>	<i>April 27</i>
<i>Poetry Extravaganza</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>April 28</i>
<i>Warbler walk</i>	<i>08</i>	<i>May 04</i>
<i>Wandering Naturalist</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>May 05</i>
<i>Warbler walk</i>	<i>05</i>	<i>May 11</i>
<i>Volney Elementary Earth Day</i>		<i>May 17</i>
<i>Once in a Blue Moon Walk</i>		<i>May 18</i>
<i>May Day, Fair Haven</i>		<i>May 19</i>
<i>Trail Work Day; Button Bush Trail bridge</i>		<i>May 25</i>

J. Deforest: Is Parks able to advertise on monitors in the DMV? D. Dello Stritto – I will inquire.

8. *Owasco Flats:*

A. *No report.*

9. *Trail Update:*

- A. *The Auburn Fleming Trail: 6 maintenance requests received and completed. Some nuisance beaver activity is being monitored.*
- B. *The Cato-Fair Haven Trail: The Oswego Valley ATV club has begun trail maintenance, unfortunately it has consisted of disc tilling the trail surface. They have plans to level the surface. As of 5/15 this has not been completed. They have been notified that this not an acceptable condition to leave the trail. Parks staff will York rake sections of the trail as they dry sufficiently to access with equipment. Highway will roll sections as conditions allow.*
- C. *Cato Brutus Trail bridges: DEC and Army Corps of Engineers have been contacted to update and extend permits and plans for both sites. 3 vendors have provided quotes on cost effective bridge designs to complete this section of trail. Mobilization, site work and crane quotes are being sought for a total budget comparison. The Planning Department has identified a CFA opportunity that could be applied for with the intent of completing this project.*

10. *New Business*

- A. *Parks Commission member search; Susan Rusinko has been nominated for the vacant position representing the City of Auburn. S. Rusinko: I'm excited to be a part of the Commission. While visiting Emerson Park I have encountered unleashed dogs outside of the dog park, specifically at the sail boat launch. This can be a hazard for other pedestrians and individuals using the launch to launch small boats/kayaks. What can be done to alleviate this? D. Dello Stritto – Calling the Park ticket booth during operating*

hours would be the first call. 315-253-1378 They can notify security and request the owner leash their dog as per local law. J. Young: Carl Collier is the animal control officer for the Town of Fleming should those services be needed.

B. C. Reilley – Could a system like PayGo be used in other areas of the park to charge for parking? D. Dello Stritto – we will research this.

11. Announcements: