

Minutes: Parks Commission
Wednesday, April 24, 2019 6:30 PM
Location: Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center at the Ward O'Hara Agricultural Museum

Meeting Called to order at 6:29 pm

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

Excused: Jean Saroodis

Other Attendees: Jim D'Angelo, Tim Quill, Charlie Ripley, Rachel Ripley, David Gardner

1. *Approve/Correct Minutes from the March 27, 2019 meeting.* Motion: J. Young, 2nd B. Soper
Passed unanimously
2. *We had no resolutions for March.*
3. *We have no resolutions for April.* Correction: 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.
4. *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.* Not present, no presentation.
 - B. *CFA Grant for the Deauville Island improvements:*
 1. *TWMLA (landscape architects) will be submitting to OPRHP the design plans for the new pathway system and destination playground. They have estimated 4 weeks for approval response. Bidding for paving and playground construction will follow the approval process*
 2. *Park Programming Initiative: Biederman Redevelopment Ventures continues to collect data and market demographics for the programming plan. Incorporation of public and stakeholder input has been ongoing as well as requests for information following up on the sessions held in March.*
 - C. *The sluiceway excavation: the site has been sealed and closed until further plans and funding are procured.*
 - D. *The Ag Museum sewer pit: Installation is scheduled for April 17-19. The installer received the incorrect control panel and is awaiting the proper parts to install.*
 - E. *The new county website; the new Emerson Park page is being created and facilities module is being populated with our current inventory of rentable facilities.* D. Dello Stritto: populating the facilities, photos, descriptions and rates is still required and staffing levels have not permitted time to be allocated to the completion of this project.
J. Young: Are there other County resources that can assist with this project? J. DeForest: It would be a good opportunity to utilize an intern. D. Dello Stritto: I will research both options.
 - F. *Painting of the exterior of the Merry Go Round theater is being quoted.*
 - G. *The contract with H&J for the management of the Emerson Park Pavilion expires in 2021. The current extension and original contract was distributed to the Parks Commission following the March meeting. Input from the Parks Commission is requested.*

C. Reilley: Are local businesses interested? Can we request a preference for a local business? D. Dello Stritto: We did have vendors from Auburn and Cayuga County submit proposals originally. J. Young: How would we designate that area considered to be "local"? D. Dello Stritto: The original RFP was specific to the qualifications sought, no reference was made to geographical location preference.

J. DeForest: I suggest we conduct outreach to inform any interested parties about the elements that were requested in the original RFP, how they protect this county facility and the investment the Emerson Foundation made in upgrading the building. In reference to the provision for public concerts to be held in the Pavilion and hosted by the contracted caterer: J. Young: with the limited number of days that are booked in our season it has to be a challenge to keep staff and be profitable. To take days out of the calendar to host public events will decrease the profitability. B. Soper: The more prohibitive and prescriptive the public events requirement is the fewer bids we will receive. D. Dello Stritto: It is common for publicly owned facilities to have requirements for public or owner entity events. These do reduce the inventory of bookable days available.

D. Dello Stritto: Please send any recommendations you would like included in the updated RFP. We will submit the updated RFP to the County Administrator for feedback.

5. *Ward W. O'Hara Ag Museum/Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center Update (Tim Quill Director PT):*

- A. *Insulating parts of the museum has begun. This is being completed by museum staff where possible.*
- B. *County Fair/Big 6: See 4 a*
- C. *Museum Patron/Staff/Volunteer Recognition Outing will be Wednesday, June 12 Mark Your Calendar*
- D. *June 1, 2019 Old Ways Day at Museum 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.*

6. *Sterling Nature Center (Jim D'Angelo Director PT):*

A. *Review and approval of Sterling Nature Design Proposal.*

C. Reilley: In addition to a need for maintenance cost estimates as we move forward will there be a full time Director position? B. Soper: We have made this suggestion each year for the last several years. C. Reilley: Have all the current Legislators seen the Nature Center? If not can we organize a bus trip, possibly to one of the upcoming events like Art Inspiration or suggest a committee meeting be held onsite? J. D'Angelo: Many of the Legislators have visited the Nature Center. J. DeForest: I agree with the need for staffing plan and costs. How will changes to the currently submitted plan be made? D. Dello Stritto: BDA's contract is complete with this design plan. We are using it as a planning document to move forward and seek funding. Changes could be made during the construction documents phase either by choice or necessity due needs, logistics or funding. Site changes could be necessary due to subsurface conditions. J. DeForest: Have the Friends of the Sterling Nature Center seen and approved of the design? J. D'Angelo: Yes they have seen the design and approved it at the last meeting.

Motion to approve the new Sterling Nature Center design: J. DeForest, 2nd A. McNabb-Coleman Passed unanimously.

- B. *We have created a page on the Sterling Nature Center site featuring the plans and a brief overview of the project goals.*
- C. *A grant application has been submitted to the Northern Border Regional Commission for funding for architecture and engineering plans for a new Sterling Nature Center.*

7. *Owasco Flats:*

A. *A parks department "Road Closed" sign that was placed onsite in 2018 for use during some material hauling/dredging completed by DOT has been put out at the entrance to the site recently by others not employed by Cayuga County. The sign has since been removed.*

8. *Trail Update:*

A. *The Auburn Fleming Trail: maintenance requests are being managed on an as needed basis.*

B. *The Cato-Fair Haven Trail: The Oswego Valley ATV club has contacted the parks department and committed to performing the trail maintenance as outlined in our agreement. Surveys of trail conditions will be performed throughout the year to ensure compliance.*

C. *Cato Brutus Trail bridges: DEC and Army Corps of Engineers has been contacted to update and extend permits and plans for both sites. 2 vendors have provided opinions on cost effective bridge designs to complete this section of trail. Based on these options a design will be selected for quoting the project. The Cato Trail Blazers Snowmobile club has offered to financially support this project if funds are needed.*

9. *New Business*

A. *Parks Commission member search; County and City of Auburn officials have been contacted regarding a candidate from the City of Auburn to fill the vacancy on the Parks Commission.*

10. *Announcements:*