

Minutes: Cayuga County Parks Commission
Wednesday, September 25, 2019 - 6:30 PM
Location: Parks & Trails Administrative Office, Emerson Park

Meeting Called to order at 6:30 pm

Present: Aileen McNabb-Coleman, Joe DeForest, Doug Dello Stritto, Connie Reilley, Susan Rusinko, Kristina Sherman, Jim Young

Excused: Brian Soper, Jean Saroodis

Other Attendees: none

1. Approve/Correct Minutes from the August 28, 2019 meeting Motion: J. DeForest, 2nd C. Reilley, passed unanimously
2. We had no Resolutions for September.
3. We have 2 Resolutions for October:
 - A. **AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CAPITAL "H" PROJECT NO. _____ CATO BRUTUS TRAIL BRIDGE C**
 - B. **AUTHORIZATION TO FILL A VACANCY OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS RETIRING: BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC, PARKS & TRAILS DEPARTMENT**
4. Emerson Park:
 - A. CFA Grant for the Deauville Island improvements:
 1. The contractor, landscape architect, Planning and Parks personnel met on 9/13 to review plans and schedule construction start. Contracting has been received and site work will begin the week of 9/23.
 - B. Park Programming Initiative: Biederman Redevelopment Ventures is planning an October release and public presentation of the Programming Plan.
 - C. Painting prep of the exterior of the Merry Go Round theater has started.
 - D. Pavilion Catering RFP; to be distributed in September.
 - E. The playground equipment adjacent to the Merry-Go-Round theater has been inspected and some suggested repairs have been made. Replacement is recommended.
 - F. 2020 Parks & Trails budget requested additions are as follows:
 1. The Assistant Parks Maintenance Supervisor position.
 2. Change of the Sterling Nature Center Director position from part time to full time.
 3. A request for \$25,000 for the Cato Brutus Trail Bridge C to be combined with 2019 budget funds.
 4. The purchase of a new dump truck to replace a 1997 flat-bed truck.
 5. The purchase of a new lawn mower.
 6. Replacement of 3 ATV's with UTV's.
5. Ward W. O'Hara Ag Museum/Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Educational Center Update (Tim Quill Director PT):
 - A. Planning for installing insulation and heating in the museum has begun. Funding was generously provided by the Fred L. Emerson Foundation and Theodore O'Hara.
 - B. Feedback, recap meeting for the Cayuga County Fair/Remember the Big 6 Picnic was conducted 9/9. D. Dello Stritto: Cornell Cooperative Extension, The Cayuga County Agricultural Society and The Big Six Picnic representatives met. The event was well run by Tim Quill, Museum Director. The hours dedicated by Museum and Parks staff is extensive and sustainability of the investment in time and resources by the county was discussed. Challenges exist with the equitable distribution of responsibilities. C. Reilley: Public and

participant feedback should be sought. J. Young: Participant rosters, participation numbers, amount of programs and participant demographic information, specifically youth impacted would be valuable. J. DeForest: This is a great free admission event for the Emerson Park. Attendance numbers would be helpful

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

A. *REDI estimated funding grant request for infrastructure projects at the Nature Center total \$1.8 million. Included; permeable parking lot, repair of McIntyre Rd. trail engineering (storm water management). This is an 80/20 grant match if the project is approved by NYS and accepted by Cayuga County. Parking improvements and site storm water management were both elements included in Phase 2 of the new Sterling Nature Center building design.*

J. D'Angelo: Explained how the Nature Center was given the section of McIntyre Rd. and explained the participation in the spring birding program. A. McNabb-Coleman: The Monarch butterfly image and social media impact is impressive. J. DeForest: Is the Nature Center still interfacing with Cayuga Community College on using the facility? J. D'Angelo: Noted the Nature Center does work with college on programming. J. DeForest: please have BRV programming plan include impacts of increased parks programming and the need for the Nature Center to have full time staff on support.

B. *Based on the recommendation of the Parks Commission and The Friends of the Sterling Nature Center a budget request to change the Nature Center Director from part time to full time has been included in the 2020 Parks budget.*

7. *Owasco Flats:*

A. *Millings have been transported and used to improve the access road conditions. Roadside mowing has been requested from the Highway department.*

8. *Trail Update:*

A. *The Auburn Fleming Trail: millings have been transported to the north end (Dunning Ave) to address soft trail conditions.*

B. *The Cato-Fair Haven Trail: an abandoned RV was removed from the trail, Highway is assisting with culvert clearing North of Cato, some illegal UTV use has been reported.*

C. *Hojack trail – no report.*

D. *Cato Brutus Trail bridges: we have included funds in the 2020 budget to complete Bridge C with the assistance of Cayuga County Soil & Water.*

9. *New Business*

A. *H&J Hospitality has elected to assign their contract to the current managers of the facility. This will be for the remainder of the current and final extension of the contract ending on December 31, 2021. This does not impact the current RFP process underway for the contract term starting on Jan 1, 2022.*

10. *Announcements:*

Motion to Adjourn: J. DeForest, 2nd A. McNabb-Coleman