

**MINUTES OF THE LENA WEE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD  
APRIL 3, 2000**

Present were Park Commissioners, Larry Gould, Dan Bruggeman, Lowell Eisenmann, Ralph Tillotson and Hugh Flippo, together with County Administrator, Bill Bacon and Gaylord Herriman and Jody Shavalier from the Maintenance Office. Also present was Craig Weatherby to make a presentation concerning the prairie seed project and John Skinner who wishes to inquire concerning the position of caretaker at Ramsdell Park.

The minutes of the February 3, 2000 meeting were reviewed and upon motion made and supported,

**RESOLVED**, That the minutes of the February 3, 2000 meeting were approved as presented.

Craig Weatherby indicated that pursuant to his previous agreement with the Commission he had available to deliver to the Commission prairie seeds harvested at Bicentennial Park in an amount which would seed five acres. It was decided that the Commission will meet at Ramsdell Park on Tuesday, April 11, 2000, at 3:00 P.M. for the purpose of deciding where the prairie seeds will be planted and in what manner.

The question of burning the prairie at all three parks was raised and upon motion made and supported,

**RESOLVED**, That Bruce VanWieren be authorized to proceed with controlled burns of the prairie areas at all three parks within the next two weeks.

Bruce VanWieren indicated that he would have all of his property moved out of the Ramsdell Park house and buildings before July 1<sup>st</sup>.

John Skinner addressed the meeting and he indicated that he was currently working with the River Raisin Watershed Initiative and would be interested in applying as caretaker at Ramsdell Park. He indicated that at the present time he could make a three year commitment to the position.

The Commission considered procedures for retaining a new Park Superintendent at Ramsdell Park and upon motion made and supported,

**RESOLVED**, That Bill Bacon advertise for persons who wish to apply for the position at Ramsdell Park.

Dan Bruggeman indicated that Scott Staelgraeve from the Michigan Wetland Reserve Program had visited Ramsdell Park and that Mr. Staelgraeve was also interested in applying for the position.

Gaylord Herriman reported that another case of vandalism at Gerber Park had been discovered and that maintenance was in the process of repairing the damage. The Commission discussed the question of ongoing vandalism at the park and upon motion made and supported,

**RESOLVED,** That the Parks Commission recommend to the County Ways and Means Commission that the County offer a standing reward of \$500 to be paid to any person whose information would lead to a criminal conviction for vandalism at any County Park.

The question of the condition of the soccer field at Bicentennial Park was raised and upon motion made and supported,

**RESOLVED,** That the maintenance department be authorized to order and have delivered and applied one ton of fertilizer on the soccer field and adjacent lawn areas from a local fertilizer company.

The Commission further considered the opening of the Parks and upon made and supported,

**RESOLVED,** That the maintenance department be authorized to order and have applied gravel on the various park driveways as required.

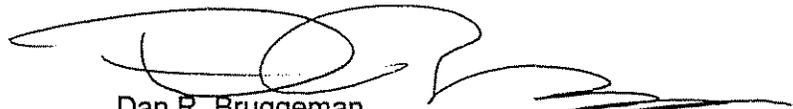
Jody Shavalier reported that Eagle Scout Josh Skampo was building and installing a sign at the Taylor Road Park for his Eagle Scout project and that other Eagle Scouts were considering the installation of a boardwalk through the wet area of the woodland trail at Bicentennial Park and that other scouts were interested in projects at Gerber Park.

The Commission considered the commitment to seed the new 2.7 acre parcel donated to Gerber Park by the Gerber family and this area will be seeded. The Commission will make further inquiry concerning a "no mow seed mix" as recommended by the Prairie Nursery. This question will be revisited at the April 11 meeting.

Dan Bruggeman reported to the Commission concerning the possibility of a charitable donation of the church building at the corner of Carroll Road and County Line Road to be refurbished as a community meeting hall for scouts and 4-H and FFA and other such use by community groups. The Commission will inspect the building and further consider this donation offer at its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M. until April 11 at 3:00 P.M. when the Commission will meet at Ramsdell Park.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dan R. Bruggeman  
Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE LENAWEЕ COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD  
APRIL 11, 2000**

Present at Ramsdell Park were Park Commissioners, Larry Gould, Dan Bruggeman, Lowell Eisenmann, Ralph Tillotson and Hugh Flippo, together with Gaylord Herriman and Jody Shavaliеr from the Maintenance Department. Also present was Craig Weatherby and Bruce VanWieren.

The Commissioners toured the caretakers residence at Ramsdell Park as to what work would be needed in preparation for the new caretaker and by consensus it was decided to replace the carpeting in the living room and the flooring in the kitchen and possibly paint the walls and change the wallpaper, however, this work would be delayed until the new caretaker has been selected so that the caretaker and his family could choose the colors and styles which would best suit their taste. Bruce VanWieren indicated he would clean the house and grounds completely upon his departure. Thereafter, Building and Grounds will also send out a crew to complete the process.

The question of the job description for the new caretaker was reviewed and it was decided at the present time to add to the description that the caretaker not keep pets such as cats and dogs on the premises and that the Committee would have reasonable access to inspect the residence from time to time and that in case of problems the Commission would have the right to terminate the caretakers tenancy on 30 days notice.

The meeting then took up the question of five acres of new prairie seeding using the seeds obtained pursuant to agreement with Craig Weatherby and it was decided that the seeding shall be on the West 5 acres at the Southwest corner of the farm along Glen Hill Road. Dan Bruggeman and Ralph Tillotson and Larry Gould volunteered to spray round-up on the five acres in preparation for autumn seeding. 2 ½ acres will be seeded in a conventional fashion and 2 ½ acres will be seeded no till and the Park Commission can then observe the strength and weaknesses of the two seeding methods.

Gaylord Herriman reported that he had investigated the question of no-mow seeding for the 2 ½ acres at Gerber Park and upon motion made and supported

**RESOLVED**, That the Maintenance Department be authorized to purchase the no-mow seed from the source which Mr. Herriman located and then proceed to an early Spring planting of that seed as soon as they receive notification from Frances Gerber that the land has been tilled for seeding purposes.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan R. Bruggeman  
Secretary

## **MINUTES OF THE LENAWEЕ COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING**

**HELD JUNE 28, 2000**

Present were Park Commissioners, Larry Gould, Dan Bruggeman, Lowell Eisenmann, Ralph Tillotson and Hugh Flippo, together with Gaylord Herriman and Jody Shavalier from the Maintenance Department and County Administrator, Bill Bacon.

UPON MOTION MADE AND SUPPORTED, the minutes of the April 11, 2000 meeting were approved as submitted.

The Commission then proceeded to discuss the current situation concerning the caretaker position at Ramsdell Park.

Dan Bruggeman reported on preliminary discussions with Professor Christine Corn, representing the Animal Science Department at Michigan State University and the Merillat Equine Center concerning their interest in participating in retaining an individual or couple who could establish a joint working relationship with the County whereby a livery service would be operated at Ramsdell Park in connection with the Merillat Equine Center and the Michigan State University large animal draft horse course of instruction. Basically, the individual or a couple would operate the Ramsdell Park Livery Service and supervise maintenance at Ramsdell Park and also work with the Merillat Equine Center and work with Professor Corn in the development of her draft horse curriculum program.

The Parks Commission was favorably disposed to pursue discussions with Professor Corn for such a project, however, the Commission noted that developing such a program would entail a substantial amount of time.

The Commission then reviewed applications for the caretaker position currently on file and it was decided to schedule interviews with applicant McVay and applicant Janbor for July 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. in the committee room of the old courthouse.

The Commission discussed the need for a replacement lawn mower tractor at Ramsdell Park.

The Commission reviewed an application to obtain a driveway easement across the Southwest portion of Ramsdell Park and after reviewing the restrictions contained in Mr. Ramsdell's Will and other considerations, upon motion made and supported,

**RESOLVED**, that the application for the driveway easement of Stephen Landberg not be granted.

Thereafter, upon motion made and supported, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan R. Bruggeman  
Secretary

MINUTES OF THE LENA WEE COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION

MEETING HELD JULY 12, 2000

Present were Park Commissioners, Larry Gould, Dan Bruggeman, Lowell Eisenmann, Ralph Tillotson and Hugh Flippo, together with Gaylord Herriman and Jody Shavalier from the Maintenance Department and County Administrator, Bill Bacon.

Upon motion made and supported,

RESOLVED, the minutes of the June 28, 2000 meeting were approved as submitted.

The Parks Commission then proceeded to interview applicants for the position of caretaker at Ramsdell Park, namely, Nathan T. McVay and Jason Jambor. After the interviews and after extensive discussion, upon motion made and supported,

RESOLVED, That the Parks Commission offered the position to Nathan T. McVay with the understanding that there would be a complete and full review after six months as to a continuation of the association and Dan Bruggeman was directed to prepare the necessary Agreement whereby Nathan McVay would become independent contract in the capacity of Supervisor of Ramsdell Park and that accompanying Rental Agreement and other documents also be provided at that time.

Thereafter, Larry Gould indicated that the Blissfield High School baseball team had won the state championship and that in accordance with past practice the Parks Commission should consider presenting the team and their coach, Larry Tuttle, with a commemorative resolution and it was decided that Virgil Eisenmann would contact coach Tuttle and begin preparations for the commemorative resolution honoring the Blissfield High School baseball team and its coach.

The question of a new lawn mower tractor was raised and upon motion made and supported, it was

RESOLVED, That \$4,207.00 from Park funds be expended for purchase of a new lawn mower tractor.

Dan Bruggeman reported to the Commission on his discussions with Vivian Brighton concerning her desire to assist in the development of a bridge and pier at Ramsdell Park as a fishing site for young people as a memorial to her late husband, Jack Brighton. It was noted that Vivian would specify that the facility be constructed on recycled material and thereafter upon motion made and supported, it was,

RESOLVED, That County Administrator, Bill Bacon and Maintenance Supervisor, Gaylord Herriman, be authorized to make inquiries and investigation concerning vendors and contractors who could provide a proposed facility at Ramsdell Park.

Thereafter, upon motion supported, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan K. Bruggeman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan K. Bruggeman  
Secretary