

## Barry County Parks and Recreation Commission

February 26, 2026; Tyden Center Community Room 121 S. Church St., Hastings, MI 49058

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 by vice-Chair Catherine Getty.

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Alliance.
2. **Voting Members Present (Roll Call):** Bremer, Cheeseman (5:33), Getty, Hutton, Jensen, LaForge, Lewis, Solmes  
Absent: Lyke, Moore  
Others: None  
Staff: Director Patton and Maintenance Supervisor Strimback
3. **Approval of Agenda (Roll Call):** motion to approve agenda as presented by LaForge, seconded by Hutton.  
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Hutton, Jensen, LaForge, Lewis, Solmes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Lyke, Moore  
**Motion** carried 8-0
4. **Limited Public Comment:**
  - a. Cheeseman apologizes for late arrival and introduces new Board Member Matt Lewis (filling Nelson vacancy).
  - b. Lewis gives brief statement regarding his interest/background as to BCPRC.
5. **Consent Items (voted up at one time by Roll Call):** motion to approve the consent agenda as presented (approval of the January 29, 2026 meeting minutes, approval of the February 12, 2026 expense report and the February 12, 2026 revenue report) by Getty, seconded by LaForge.  
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Hutton, Jensen, LaForge, Lewis, Solmes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Lyke, Moore  
**Motion** carried 8-0
6. **Items for Consideration (Roll Call):**
  - a. Approval of OCBA for Final Design & Construction Admin. – Passport Grant: Director Patton gave a brief synopsis of the project and following a Q&A Commissioner discussion, motion to approve the OCBA Proposal for Professional Services as presented by Solmes, seconded by Hutton.  
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Hutton, Jensen, LaForge, Lewis, Solmes  
Nays: None  
Absent: Lyke, Moore  
**Motion** carried 8-0
7. **Old Business:** None
8. **New Business:** None
9. **Director's Report:**
  - a. Hosted scouting Klondike Derby event. Five troops with over 100 participants. Some camped overnight at the Park.

- b. The Waldorf will host “The Faces of Conservation” event on February 28. Patton and Cheeseman will attend.
- c. Patton will attend a Thornapple Sewer Authority meeting in March. The Barry County Conservation District has received a \$300,000 grant to assist with water quality issues in and around Thornapple Lake.
- d. Operations at Charlton Park are moving from winter focus to summer functions.
- e. All events are set for the 2026 season, including a dog sled race. The “official” calendar will be coming soon.
- f. School groups will begin arriving at the end of March. The spring schedule is full and they are currently booking for next fall. LaForge requests copy of the school groups schedule when they become available.
- g. A part-time maintenance position will soon be posted.
- h. There are eight applicants for the summer intern position.
- i. The County’s accounting software is changing and will present some challenges for Park staff.

**10. Committee Reports:**

- a. Executive Committee: Met February 10.
  - 1. Discussed the mini-grant program and tabled for now.
  - 2. Discussed Bailey Park and Charlton Park grant applications that have been received and denied.
  - 3. LaForge asked about the Consumers Grant regarding the Track Chair. Cheeseman reported that the grant covered approximately ½ of the cost and that the remaining \$2,500 was still needed.
- b. Trails Committee: Met February 13.
  - 1. Their next project is to map useable/accessible trails at Bailey Preserve. The Committee will meet again on March 21, at 1:00 at Bailey for on-site evaluation of potential trail locations.
  - 2. A high school student intern traversed the Paul Henry Trail across the County and inventoried 255 items (i.e. signs, benches, tables, kiosks, etc.). B-Healthy covered the cost of the intern thru DK Engineering. The Committee continues to work with municipalities and entities along the Trail to insure future consistency in mapping and signage.
- c. Marketing Committee: Did not meet.

**11. Park Commissioner Time:**

- a. C. Getty: Recently met with Caledonia Township officials regarding continued multi-jurisdictional collaboration to have our Thornapple River be designated a part of the Pure Michigan River Trail network.

12. **Adjourn (voice vote):** motion to adjourn the meeting was made by LaForge, seconded by Hutton, yeas all. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted by M. Bremer, emergency BCPRC Secretary

*Mike Bremer*