

Barry County Parks & Recreation Commission

January 29, 2026; Tyden Center Community Room, 121 S. Church Street; Hastings, MI 49058

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:38pm by Director Dan Patton

1. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Voting Members Present (Roll Call):** Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Jensen, LaForge, Lyke, Moore
Absent: Hutton, Lewis, Solmes (5:56pm)
Others: None.
Staff: Director Patton
3. **Election of Board Chairperson (Roll Call):** motion to nominate D. Cheeseman as Chair by Moore, seconded by Bremer.
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Jensen, LaForge, Lyke, Moore
Nays: none.
Absent: Hutton, Lewis, Solmes
Motion carried 7-0
4. **Election of Vice-Chair and Secretary (Roll Call):** motion to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Getty as Vice-chair and Lyke as Secretary by Bremer, seconded by Moore.
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Jensen, LaForge, Lyke, Moore
Nays: none.
Absent: Hutton, Lewis, Solmes
Motion carried 7-0
5. **Approval of Agenda (Roll Call):** motion to approve agenda as presented by Moore, seconded by LaForge.
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Jensen, LaForge, Lyke, Moore
Nays: none.
Absent: Hutton, Lewis, Solmes
Motion carried 7-0
6. **Limited Public Comment:**
 - a. Rick Moore: thank you to all the volunteers that serve on these boards!
7. **Consent Items (voted up at one time by Roll Call):** motion made by Bremer, seconded by LaForge, to approve the consent agenda as presented (approval of the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes)
Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Jensen, LaForge, Lyke, Moore, Solmes
Nays: None.
Absent: Hutton, Lewis
Motion carried 8-0
8. **Items for consideration (Roll Call):**

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- a. **2026 BCPRC Meeting Dates:** motion by LaForge, seconded by Bremer to approve the meeting schedule as presented.

Ayes: Bremer, Cheeseman, Getty, Jensen, LaForge, Lyke, Moore, Solmes

Nays: None.

Absent: Hutton, Lewis

Motion carried 8-0

9. Old Business

- a. **LEO Grant Update:** the funding for the LEO Museum grant is currently in limbo due to budget cuts made by the Michigan House. Funding is pending litigation; this project is currently paused until clarification is provided from the State on how to proceed.
- b. **DNR Passport Grant:** funding was awarded for improvements to the canoe/kayak launch on Thornapple Lake. Award amount is \$150k; working on solution and sources for matching fund requirement (can be covered with endowment funds). Engineering and permitting will take place; goal is to start this summer with completion for Spring of 2027.
- c. **MI Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant:** was not awarded; this grant is highly competitive. The executive committee will re-evaluate to determine next steps.

10. New Business

- a. **None.**

11. Director's Report

- a. Park staff is working on weatherproofing and snow maintenance over the winter months
- b. Staff was able to use time-off over the holiday/winter season
- c. Museum projects are ongoing; staff is working on organizing and maximizing storage, and updating exhibits
- d. Intern housing: working on bathroom updates and general maintenance
- e. Summer event planning has started; meetings with various event partners and groups have taken place
- f. Advertising: working on the development of an advertising program
- g. America's 250th Birthday: working with the Legion to incorporate as part of the 4th of July celebration; working on a MACC grant to cover patriotic/historic band performers; TAC is a partner for this event as well
- h. Regional Wayfinding signage program: potential grant available to unify regional wayfinding signage along the connected trail systems in the West MI Region; potential to partner with B. Healthy coalition for local, coordinated signage program if funding is not granted
- i. Winter Klondike: Boy Scouts event, will take place in February

12. Committee Reports

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. Did not meet.
- b. Trails Committee

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- i. Did not meet.
- c. Marketing Committee
 - i. Did not meet.

13. Park Commissioner Time

- a. D. Cheeseman: looking forward to having more time to dedicate to cleanup at Bailey and to focus on cleaning up that area
- b. C. Getty: Board of Commissioner assignments didn't change, so will remain as BCPRC member. NCTA is hosting a Winterfest hike on Feb. 7th. B. Healthy coalition is hosting monthly winter hikes every Wednesday at 9:45am, reach out if you'd like details to join.
- c. J. LaForge: wife volunteered at Christmas and loved it! She is looking forward to volunteering at future events as time allows.
- d. R. Moore: Village of Nashville is doing a great job keeping the trail cleared during the winter months
- e. N. Lyke: BCCEDA is hosting a CareerFest – all organizations are welcome to attend; great opportunity to highlight park positions and seasonal openings

14. **Adjourn (voice vote):** motion to adjourn the meeting was made by LaForge, seconded by Moore; all yeas. Motion carried 8-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.

Respectfully submitted: Nichole Lyke, BCPRC Board Secretary

Nichole Lyke