

**ALPENA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 16, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Brenda Fournier at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ROLL CALL: All members present except D. Guthrie, who was excused and replaced by Commissioner Bill Lahaie.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion by G. Macarthur to adopt the agenda as presented. Second by M. Rhodes, a voice vote was taken, motion carried with unanimous support.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Chair Fournier informed Long Lake Park Manager Patrick Martin that she is giving him the option to discuss a personnel matter in open session or enter into closed session. He stated his preference for closed session.

CLOSED SESSION

The Commission went into closed session at 6:03 p.m. to conduct a personnel discussion and opened session at 6:27 p.m. All Commission members present.

ROLL CALL: All members present except D. Guthrie, who was excused and replaced by Commissioner Bill Lahaie.

Chair Fournier made the motion to terminate the Long Lake Park Co-Manager's contract effective April 30, 2025, with one month's severance pay. Second by B. Lahaie, discussion ensued. C. Lefebvre questioned the legality of grouping the co-managers together in a single action to terminate. Chair Fournier answered that since their contract identifies both as "at will" employees, the Commission is legally able to terminate both at this time. Administrator Osmer clarified further that this action can be taken in this manner and that a roll call vote is required. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Chuck Lefebvre, Gerald Fournier, Gerald Macarthur, Bill Lahaie, Kevin Osbourne, Michael Rhodes and Brenda Fournier. NAYS: Dan Ludlow, Pam Kirchoff and Lucille Bray. Motion carried.

Next, Chair Fournier addressed the Sunken Lake Park Co-Managers Brian and Laura Ulch whether they are interested in moving to Long Lake Park. They indicated their desire to do so. Since Patrick Martin has been allowed 30 days to vacate the residence at Long Lake Park, the Ulch's will move their personal trailer to the park until they are able to move into the residence. The Ulch's discussed the extent of clean-up work still required at Sunken Lake in order to be ready for the May 15 campground opening day.

Chair Fournier stated that she is quite concerned about the burden of that park to the County and is contemplating addressing the Board of Commissioners with the suggestion of returning that park to the State. She then asked the Commission for suggestions on moving forward, should new managers be hired for Sunken Lake? G. Fournier asked if a motion needed to be made to accept the Ulch's as the new Co-Managers of Long Lake Park. Motion made by Chair Fournier to approve the Ulch's as Co-Managers of Long Lake Park. Second by K. Osbourne, a voice vote was taken, motion carried with unanimous support.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

2) Vice Chair K. Osbourne made the motion to accept the background checks conducted on applications received for the Campground Hosts. A list of applicants was provided with the agenda. Second by P. Kirchoff, a voice vote was taken, motion carried with unanimous support.

More discussion regarding how the Commission would like to proceed with Sunken Lake. C. Lefebvre stated that with the work that has been done so far with the Sparks Grant and the history of the park, he would like attempt made to hire co-managers and keep the park with the County. Motion by C. Lefebvre, second by B. Lahaie to keep Sunken Lake Park open, hiring new managers. Roll call vote was taken: AYES: Lucille Bray, Chuck Lefebvre, Gerald Macarthur, Bill Lahaie, Pam Kirchoff, Kevin Osbourne, Michael Rhodes and Brenda Fournier. NAYES: Dan Ludlow and Gerald Fournier. Motion carried with unanimous support.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Howard Male Conference Room

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by K. Osbourne, second by P. Kirchoff to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucille Bray, Secretary
Alpena County Parks Commission



Brenda Fournier, Parks Chair