

Roscommon Metropolitan Recreational Authority
2012 Year in Review

The 2012 year was a big year for RMRA as it went through major restructuring. Bylaws were rewritten and revised adjusting its size to better match community resources. New officers included: in one year terms, Marlyn Byrd, Derek Smitz, two year, Connie Allen and Karrie Williams, and three year Sue Jock (chairperson) and Matt Nester. Meeting dates were changed to bimonthly.

With a change of board also came a change of focus for the Authority. This happened simultaneously with ongoing work on the 2013-2017 Recreation Plan. Preliminary results affirmed that the community lacked age related activities as well as playgrounds for area youth. This took top priority on the RMRA agenda working on playground renovation at Metro Park and initial planning of activities for the 2013 year.

The Recreation Authority started planning for the 2013 year by planning activities for age related groups, which is a new function of the Authority. It entered into a land maintenance agreement with the MDNR to maintain the trails located on Tisdale for the use of cross country skiing, hiking and biking. It was the recipient of \$2,027.00 in fundraising and \$25,000 donation from the Roscommon Rotary for the playground project. Metro Park itself was maintained on community service from RSHLL and trustee time. A local Boy Scout (Eagle) project cleaned and painted areas around the concession stand and reroofed the shed and fountain area. Vandalism continued at the park and a grant has been submitted for surveillance within park boundaries.

The CRAF Center continues with programs such as Silver Sneakers, gymnastics, seasonal volleyball as well as open gym six days a week. The past summer the lawn was full during the Gazebo Concert Series, pulling persons of all ages into the village. Marlyn continued to find areas in need of renovations in the aged building and this past summer the lighting was replaced by a more energy efficient fixture. New canopy and ramp was also renovated at a primary entrance of the building.

Gahagan Nature Preserve had a successful summer of day camp attendees. The biography of Marguerite Gahagan was completed and currently for sale. New members are recruited and plans for a part-time naturalist is being considered.

The AuSable River Center constructed and raffled off their seventh canoe on September 15. The center includes a museum of AuSable River history that is visited from groups all over Michigan. It was also the backdrop of the Saturday Farmers Market which has become a busy place from May to October. Along with the farm market the River Center sponsored a Made in Roscommon event that was a huge success. The Roscommon Train Club completed their outside ride and display situated north of the River Center building.

Year end reports and fiancés have been submitted and insurance is reviewed annually.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Jock, Chairperson