

# Roscommon Metropolitan Recreation Authority (RMRA)

November 14, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sue Jock at 7:00 p.m. at the CRAF Center.

Present: S. Jock, D. Smitz, M. Byrd, K. Williams, M. Nester, C. Allen

Recognition of Guests: J. Borak (AuSable River Center), R. Edwards (Roscommon Historic Model Train Club), J. Mellgren (Gahagan Nature Center), D. Lippert (Roscommon Village Trustee)

Approval of Agenda – Motion S. Jock, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Nester

Minutes – Motion to accept as presented M. Nester, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Byrd

Correspondence – Playground equipment grant request to HME denied as it does not fall under their guidelines for a fundable project.

Treasurer Report – M. Byrd – As of August 31, 2012 Checking account balance \$6,021.15, savings account balance \$356.59, motion to accept C. Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Nester, report filed subject to audit.

## Reports:

Recreation Authority – S. Jock – The Jeep Jamboree held October 20, sponsored by Don Nester Chevrolet brought RMRA a donation of \$2,027. Next year M. Nester will look at event scheduling conflicts, there are some trail adjustments that need to be made as we expect a larger turnout in 2013.

AuSable River Center – J. Borak – The River Center will have a float in the CIV Parade December 1. Carol Stauffer has retired, RSVP still maintains an office at the River Center. The second office has been rented. The River Center's annual Made in Roscommon event is scheduled for August 3, 2013. The Roscommon Farm Market is over for the year. A meeting was held with representatives from the Train Club, Farm Market and the River Center to discuss issues that arose this past season. The set-up of the Farm Market will be set so there is a better flow for the visitors and vendors alike. The next meeting for the AuSable River Center is scheduled for November 29, 2012.

Christmas in the Village (CIV) – No report.

CRAF Center – M. Byrd – Presented financial report as of October 31, 2012. Expenditures are down from last year. Membership numbers are staying consistent.

Gahagan Nature Preserve – J. Mellgren – The book, Pine Whispers, authored by members of the Preserve has received favorable reviews. The book is a biography of Marguerite Gahagan, a Detroit newspaper woman and author of the Northwoods Call. The Preserve has \$185,000 in short and long term investments, membership is holding. The Board is considering creating a part-time director/naturalist position starting sometime in 2013. Duties would include outdoor education, children's programs, pay bills, and maintain the website.

## Old Business:

- The Recreation Plan has been approved by the Planning Commission and the Village.
- Review and update current Personnel Policies – S. Jock – Will review the current policy (1999) and make recommendations at our next meeting.
- Safety Plan for current public areas – S. Jock – J. Adair will look at the areas to see that we are in line with our plan.
- PAR Plan Grant – PAR Plan Grant of up to \$5,000 to purchase security cameras for Metro Park. Motion by J. Borak, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Nester to pursue grant in the amount of \$4,716 with RMRA funding 20% or \$1,179 of the project.

A bid proposal from Habitec Security was submitted in the amount of \$5,895. This will allow RMRA to purchase a security system for Metro Park. With this system we would be able to access and hold responsible those who mistreat, damage or steal equipment within its boundaries.

- Selection of Funding Opportunities RMRA – Suggestions included (K. Williams) Chili Cook-off, food offered must be prepared and cooked in a licensed kitchen; (M. Nester) Scavenger hunt in the spring; (J. Mellgren) Logging/railroad themed event to include a bike race, marathon, axe throw, chainsaw carving, “PineFest”; (S. Jock) St. Patrick’s Day celebration with Irish Stew, Corned Beef & Cabbage, music, green beer, celebrate our connection with Roscommon, Ireland; (M. Byrd) 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament; (M. Nester) Street games; (D. Lippert) an event using the Tisdale Trail; (D. Smitz) Turkey Trot; (S. Jock) Marl Lake Triathlon with canoe/run/bike; (J. Mellgren) Hayride bonfire; (S. Jock) Comedy night \$30 per ticket; (S. Jock) Demolition Derby; Brews on the Banks of the AuSable with Michigan beer and wine; (C. Allen) Mud Bog, possibly in conjunction with ABATE event, sell space for vendor sales of equipment (toys), Dog Sled races; (J. Mellgren) Winter Street Fun with snow and ice games; (B. Edwards) Tagged trout in the AuSable River; (S. Jock) Community Calendars; (M. Nester) Whiffle ball or T-Ball tournament. S. Jock will check regarding insurance coverage for discussed events.
- Activities sponsored by RMRA – Tabled until January meeting

#### New Business:

- 2013 Meeting Dates – Approved – Next meeting January 16, 2013.
- Playground Equipment – K. Williams – Looked at equipment from Landscape Structures. Equipment needs to have a function and physical interaction to work on child balance, coordination and dexterity. Our proposed site size is good, with room for a Tiny Tot area. The current area would be enlarged using existing fencing. We propose one basketball court and one tennis court, add additional parking spaces and handicapped spaces, increase the green space, thin the treed areas. January 2013 the grant cycle starts. We will look at DNR and other recreation grants. Playground equipment will cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000. We will request bids. S & J Excavating will remove the current tennis courts and basketball court. We will scrap the fence for income.
- Tisdale Upkeep – S. Jock – Tisdale Trail has been mowed for full season. Bill Torongo will groom but will need help. A tracker will have to be made, there will be fuel expenses. A schedule will be worked out with volunteers
- AuSable River Center Management Agreement – Currently states that one member must serve on the RMRA Board. This agreement will have to be amended as RMRA Board members are appointed by the Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township.
- 2012 Year End Reports – Due by January 16, 2013.
- 2013 Budgets and Financials – The Village of Roscommon and Higgins Township can assist with project funding. RMRA will need to get requests in for consideration. Irrigation well at Metro Park was discussed. The Village currently grants \$7,000 per year towards water usage at the Park. S. Jock adjusts the sprinklers and have them run as needed to ration water usage. D. Smitz will look in to cost of irrigation well for Metro Park.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn D. Smitz, 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Byrd. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next meeting will be January 16, 2013, 7:00 p.m., the CRAF Center.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connie Allen  
Secretary