

Approved:

**Midland County Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**December 18, 2025**

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mike Atton, Lynn Evans, Roy Green, Terry Hall, Jim Malek, Larry Schuelke, Joe Sova, Jeanette Snyder,

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT**

Leah Ziems

**STAFF PRESENT**

Patrick Clark, Director Midland County Parks and Recreation

**OTHERS PRESENT**

N/A

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Parks Commission Chairman Green at 11:22 AM. A quorum declared present and the Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission could officially conduct business.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Atton, supported by Commissioner Schuelke; Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

**APPROVAL MINUTES**

The motion to adopt Approval of November 5, 2025 Minutes, Motion was made by Commissioner Atton; supported by Commissioner Schuelke; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

N/A

**PARK/PROJECT UPDATES**

Fall clean up continued with leaf mulching, blowing, collection and tree trimming/felling.

Laur, Manitou and Veterans Park North park gates were closed for the winter season on 11/1.

Support legs were fabricated for the new Buffalo Turbine Blower

Patrick worked with Information Technology and 'Pay-Trace' (county financial software) to dial in the Sanford Lake Park gatehouse technology and work up solutions for start-up in 2026.

Snowplows were installed on trucks for the winter season (staged in shop when not in use)

A crossbow bolt was removed from the Alamando Rail Trail bathroom door (the door was promptly repaired).

The work schedule for all of 2026 was created and delivered to pro-staff via Google Drive.

The Sanford Historical Society 'Lighting the Bridge' project took place on 11/18. Staff assisted by placing cones for trail warning. A spotter from Jerome Township Fire Rescue was present the entire time installation was taking place. The installation went smoothly with no issues.

Britt Heinz (Heinz Tree Service) cut through and continued the trail at River Trails Heritage Park creating a loop for visitors to the property. Heinz also donated two loads of wood chips for staff to use in trail stabilization at River Trails Heritage Park. Heinz Tree Service continues to work in Sanford Lake Park for tree extraction for the fish habitat project.

Mark McCartney and Patrick met to take some pictures for social media acknowledging and celebrating the blower donation from the Friends of The Pere Marquette Rail Trail (FPMRT). Info was posted via Midland County Facebook, FPMRT Facebook and in the Midland County Newsletter.

The Rail Trail, Pine Haven and Veterans Park were all checked and downed trees removed/cut after the heavy winds on November 26.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

N/A

### **NEW BUSINESS**

After submitting supplemental responses to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the Sanford Lake Boat Launch Parking Lot grant, the initial grant score was raised from 265 to 335. The top score that can be earned is 500. All projects that scored over 315 in 2024 were funded.

Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) permitting was approved for Sanford Lake Park dredging, boat launch re-build and boat dock installation.

Director proposes 2026 Park Commission meeting dates.

Motion to adopt the 2026 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting dates; Motion was made by Commissioner Snyder; supported by Commissioner Malek; the Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **ADJORNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 P.M. was made by Commissioner Hall and supported by Commissioner Atton. Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lynn Evans, Secretary*

*Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission*

*1/04/2026*