

**Midland County Parks & Recreation  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
October 3, 2025**

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**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mike Atton, Roy Green, Terry Hall, Leah Ziems, Joe Sova, Jim Malek, Alaynah Smith

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT**

Larry Schuelke, Jeanette Snyder and Lynn Evans

**STAFF PRESENT**

Patrick Clark, Director Midland County Parks, and Recreation

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Green. A quorum was declared present, and the Midland Count Parks Commission would officially conduct business.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Atton, supported by Commission Hall 'Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

**MINUTES**

The motion to approve the minutes of the 3 September 25 meeting made by Commissioner Malek and supported by Commissioner Hall. The minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments

**PARK/PROJECT UPDATES**

Park Staff Mechanic received the 2025 fleet pickup truck purchased with 2025 capital funds.

The Park Staff Mechanic received the turbine blower that was purchased by the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

The Sanford Lake Park Splash Pad was shut down and winterized for the season.

One hundred (100) picnic tables were dismantled, rebuilt, stained, and prepped for spring at Sanford Lake Park.

The Sanford Lake Park gatehouse building was renovated to include new doorframes, paint, drop ceiling, floor covering and deleting several non-necessary shelves and cabinets.

The Director is working to close out the Rail Trail Refurbishment Phase I Grant.

The Director responded to the MDNR regarding the preliminary scoring response to the Sanford Lake Park Project(s) Grant.

The Mud Creek Crawl was hosted on September 13 at Pine Haven Recreational Area. There were 32 total participants.

The Director approved the Chippewa Nature Center as the recipient of the kayak/paddle shack assets. (\*)

*\* The CNC has a strong history operating a livery with a program currently in place. The assets will remain in Midland County (Homer Township), grant funding sources are familiar with the operation which favors MCPR in future requests, many of the activities at the CNC will be lake based (what the crafts were designed/purchased for), the crafts will also help support educational programs and support programs with individuals with physical and developmental needs.*

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mission Statement discussion postponed indefinitely.

Flood wall- Drawings presented

Rain Garden- Drawings presented

Proposed Park Fees- Director noted no possible change until first quarter of 2026

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Emergency Bin Profile—Bins will be constructed, per EGLE requirements for sand and stone on Midland County Park property at Sanford Lake Park (south of the gate splitting dam/park property). Bunker bins will be 25" x 30'. Motion made by Mike Atton and supported by Leah Ziems to proceed with the project on park property. The motion passed unanimously

Hunting incidents at River Trails Park—Reported deer hunting activities at River Trails Park. Park commission voted on publishing notice no hunting in the area. Motion made by Joe Sova and supported by Leah Ziems. The motion passed unanimously

Heinz Tree Service donation requests Removal of trees from Sanford Lake and replacement with tree fish attractors in anticipation of the return of water to Sanford Lake in 2026. Request made to obtain additional information on proposed project by Commissioner Sova regarding asset disposal.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion for meeting adjournment made by Commissioner Malek and by Commissioner Sova. Meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM

*Respectfully submitted*

*Roy Green*

*Substitute Secretary*

*Midland County Parks and Recreation*

*25 October 2025*