

Approved:

Midland County Parks & Recreation Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2025

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Atton, Lynn Evans, Roy Green, Terry Hall, Jim Malek, Larry Schuelke, Jeanette Snyder, Leah Ziems

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Sova

STAFF PRESENT

Patrick Clark, Director Midland County Parks and Recreation, Manager Midland County Parks and Recreation

OTHERS PRESENT

David Haskin, President Sanford Historical Society

Dolores Porte, Village President, Sanford, MI

Ed Kerns, Park-a-Palooza Organizer

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Parks Commission Chairman Green at 6:02 PM. 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 Malek, supported by Commissioner Atton; Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL MINUTES

The motion to adopt Approval of August 6, 2025 Minutes, with the spelling of Commissioner Schuelke's name being corrected. Motion was made by Commissioner Schuelke, supported by Commissioner Ziems; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

Parks and Recreation Department Notes: 9-3-25

PARK/PROJECT UPDATES

The Pere Marquette Rail Trail was sealed from Cedar St. (in Sanford) eastward to Pioneer Trail. The Little Forks Conservancy pathway at Averill was also included in this work.

All trucks were taken to have undercoating touch up completed for the winter season.

Patrick received a 100% funding request from the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail to purchase a new PTO driven Buffalo Turbine Blower for the Rail Trail.

The Sanford Lake Park gate was re-set after being backed into by a school bus on 8-19-25.

Michigan Recreation Construction completed the installation of the Variable Frequency Drive at the Sanford Lake Park Splash Pad.

Patrick met with the Chippewa Nature Center regarding the Paddle Shack operation and possible equipment that could be donated for use via children's day camps, guided trips and educational programs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mission statement Review/Discussion; **TABLED** for October 1, 2025 Meeting

Flood Wall and Rain Gardens: Drawing Review; **TABLED** for October 1, 2025 Meeting

Kayak Paddle Shack: Drawing Review; **MOTION:** To authorize the Director of the Midland County Parks the authority to research to find the most beneficial method for the disposal of the Kayak Paddle Shack items. Motion was made by Commissioner Atton and supported by Commissioner Evans. Motioned passed with a 7-1 vote; Commissioner Hall - Voting Down.

NEW BUSINESS

Executive Committee Budget Meeting Report **MOTION:** Recommend Submitting the Midland County Parks & Recreation Budget to the Midland County Commission Board for approval. Motion made by Commissioner Hall, supported by Commissioner Schuelke Motioned passed with unanimous voice vote.

Proposed Dredging Agreement with Fisher Contracting for beach dredging work at Sanford Lake Park. Per Spicer Engineering, Fisher Contracting is able to complete the dredging and grading of the Sanford Lake Park beach/swim area. Since they are already mobilized, equipped, and familiar with site conditions, this approach avoids unnecessary mobilization costs, reduces delays, and minimizes safety and coordination risks. Engaging a separate contractor would add expense, administrative effort, and scheduling complications, whereas the existing contractor can complete the work efficiently and cost-effectively. Additionally, the County will realize significant cost savings by using the contractor already on-site. Based on the avoidance of separate mobilization, demobilization, and procurement expenses, the estimated savings are \$20,840.

MOTION: Move forward with the proposed beach dredging agreement in the amount of \$185,000 +/- 10%. Motion was made by Commissioner Hall, supported by Commissioner Atton; Motioned passed with unanimous voice vote.

Sesquicentennial/Park-a-Palooza Event Application, Director advises an earlier end time to allow staff to properly close the park and adjacent parks down and allow ample time for volunteers to gather items and vacate the park so that concluding and cleaning up from the program does not stretch into the next day or place any undue burden on staff. **MOTION:** To approve Sesquicentennial/Park-a-Palooza Event Application, Motion was made by Commissioner Snyder, supported by Commissioner Ziemis; Motioned passed with unanimous voice vote.

Lighting the Bridge Event Application, Director advises set up w/o the use of the scissor lift due to the weight and unknown safety issue of having a large amount of weight in one spot on the bridge for an extended period of time. **MOTION:** To approve the lighting of the Rail trail Bridge Event Application Motion was made by Commissioner Atton and supported by Commissioner Evans. Motioned passed with unanimous voice vote.

Proposed 2026 Park Fees TABLED for October 1, 2025 Meeting

ADJORNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 P.M. was made by Commissioner Atton and supported by Commissioner Malek. Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Evans

Secretary

Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission

9/26/2025