

Approved:

Midland County Parks & Recreation Commission
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 3, 2026

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Sova, 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 6:00 P.M. 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 Snyder, supported by Commissioner Schuelke; Agenda approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL MINUTES

The motion to adopt Approval of May 6, 2026 Minutes, Motion was made by Commissioner Atton; supported by Commissioner Schuelke; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Discussion took place on the fantastic job that the park staff is doing getting Sanford Lake Park ready for the first summer season after the flood.

PARK PROJECTS/UPDATES

Landscaping and mowing was conducted on the entirety of the Rail Trail, Sanford Lake Park and all other parks and properties. This work is being conducted by one seasonal staff and the remainder full time Supervisors at current.

Mowing & care of downtown grounds has been shifted to Facilities.

Picnic tables were moved under pavilions, pavilions were power-washed, buildings and sidewalks in main pedestrian walkways were power washed, retaining wall at the beach side power washed, turf raked back and leveled and the roofs cleaned on both the main bathrooms and concession building.

All seasonal staff were taken through orientation, trained on basic equipment and the gatehouse.

Health Department approved the operation of the Splash Pad prior to the Memorial Day weekend opening. Parks and Recreation conducted a test on lake water quality, due to scheduling conflicts with the Health Department staff. Health Department staff will continue to monitor water quality for the remainder of the season.

River Trails Heritage Park, the Equestrian Trail, Girl Scout Property, River Trails Heritage Park and Coleman field properties were brush hogged by staff.

Lakeside Services installed the EZ dock system at Sanford Lake Park.

Lake debris at the Sanford Lake Park beach is heavy; staff has ordered a roll off dumpster for debris collection and disposal. Collection occurs every A.M. shift.

The sprinkler irrigation system at the Sanford Trailhead blown out and turned on.

The Sanford Lake Park gatehouse was opened for the season and there was much troubleshooting conducted within the first week by IT/GovPros software to get the entire system fully functional.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Midland County Rail Trail Village of Sanford: Railroad Bridge Dialogue Conclusion

This matter rests regarding the Park Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission does not have the funds allocated to pursue a project of this magnitude and/or of this short notice. Commissioner Sova has more information and can field further comment. Director will inform the Village of Sanford President.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Sanford Lake Park Opening Update

The public has had mixed reviews on the gatehouse being open. Some individuals understand the daily/annual charges and others do not. Staff is having conversations at the gatehouse to promote public understanding and helping individuals make informed decisions. The Point-Of-Sale credit card reader/IT system at the gatehouse is having daily malfunctions; it is leading to cash overages (not underage) by gatehouse staff due to the lag time and confusion. GovPros and IT are working tirelessly to remedy the technical issues. Seasonal staff went from five total to four total, with one individual letting staff know that they had found permanent employment elsewhere.

B. Sanford Lake Park Paving Project Update

Spicer Engineering Communication (project completion estimate June 8).

C. Five-Year Plan

Director is in the early stages of scheduling the Michigan Department of Natural Resources five-year plan process with Pam Blough (PMB Landscape Architect).

D. Park Manager Interview Update

Director and Board Chair interviewed two candidates; screening criteria and evaluations rated low and professional backgrounds were not a fit for the position advertised.

ADJORNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 P.M. was made by Commissioner Atton and supported by Commissioner Snyder; Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Evans, Secretary - Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission 6/15/2026