

Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission
REGULAR MEETING UNAPPROVED MINUTES
August 5, 2026

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Terry Hall, Jim Malek, Larry Schuelke, Janette Snyder, Joe Sova, Leah Ziems and Roy Green

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Atton and Lynn Evans

STAFF PRESENT

Patrick Clark, Director Midland County Parks and Recreation

OTHERS PRESENT

N/A

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM (EDT) by Parks Commission Chairman Green. A quorum declared present and the Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission could official conduct business.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The motion to adopt the agenda was made Commissioner Ziems and supported by Commissioner Sova; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of July 1, 2026

The motion to adopt Approval of 1 July 2026 Minutes was made by Commissioner Larry Schuelke and supported by Commissioner Malek; the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioners Hall and Snyder made comments regarding initial signage placed along the upper sections of the Tittabawassee River and the wording contained the signs. Director Clark informed the commissioners that the revised signs presented are to be installed at the river location. The revised signs contain information required by Michigan Risk Management Authority.

There were comments from Commissioners Snyder and Hall regarding the invasive grasses in Sanford Lake near the beach area. Director Clark informed the commissioners of the current implemented process to control the species by Professional Lake Management. Commissioner Sova made comments regarding the growth characteristics of the evasive species.

Commissioner Schuelke and Hall made comments regarding the questionnaire use for the development of the Five-Year Plan for Midland County Parks as required by Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The question regarding the wording and addition of an additional question.

PARK PROJECTS/UPDATES:

Fisher Contracting was on site 27 and 28 July, 2026 to repair erosion that is occurring within one of the retention basins at Sanford Lake Park. More stone was added along with matting.

Professional Lake Management (PLM) Corporation treated for Phragmites with pre-emergent at Sanford Lake Park. The swimming area was closed down precautionary (from 9:00am-2:00pm).

Director met with PLM Corporation at Sanford Lake Park to assess and set up a treatment plan for Phragmites and algae blooms. **Note algae blooms are what causes beach closures (swimmers itch) and can no longer be treated with copper products by PLM due to certain mussels in the watershed (EGLE).*

Newly purchase Buoys through Jim Buoy were found to be defective and/or inoperable. Cal-June/Jim Buoy (Manufacturer) agreed to replace the buoys. Midland County Parks and Recreation will send back the originally purchased buoys.

Director and Pam Blough (Architect) met to plan a timeline for the Midland County Parks and Recreation five year master plan. Press releases for the survey portion of the plan released on 27 July 2026 and the survey is currently active.

Sanford Lake Park splash pad and beach/swimming area were shut down due to air quality on 16 and 17 July, 2026. Park staff throughout the Great Lakes Bay (GLB) region communicated efficiently during the event and out of an abundance of caution for the public and Park staff alike.

Director met at River Trails Heritage Park with Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority regarding the abundance of boats at River Trails Heritage Park. Park staff will be placing more permanent signs noting that the area is not a designated swimming/mooring area. Trash in the area has been negligible; staff has monitored the site at various times each Monday.

Girl Scouts Day camp was hosted at Veterans Memorial Park on 13-16 July 2026. Attendance averaged 50 campers per day and 15 adult chaperones.

"Pedal to Pines" bike event was hosted on the Pere Marquette Rail Trail by the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail on 23 July 2026 with 80 participants total.

Gatehouse receipts total: \$111,921.00 at 4 August 2026.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Punch Cards Conclusion- Public notice given via the Midland County Parks and Recreation website, at the Sanford Lake Park Gatehouse and at the Midland County Parks and Recreation offices (per Midland County Legal Counsel) regarding previously issued punch passes. Current punch cards can be exchanged for vouchers to be used in the 2026 season and that after the 2026 season passes will no longer be accepted or exchanged.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Sanford Lake Park Improvement Project # TF25-0149 Trust Fund Grant Agreement Acceptance

Motion Requested: Proposal to accept the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Agreement as presented to Midland County Parks and Recreation by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources including the opinions of Midland County Legal Counsel. The motion to approve the acceptance of the grants by Midland County Board of Commissioners for their approval was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by Commissioner Sova. The motion passed on unanimous voice vote

B. Park Manager Update

Director Clark informed the commissioners three (3) additional person will be interviewed in August for the Park Manager position. The anticipated candidate had the employment offer withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn meeting was made by Commissioner Hall and seconded by commissioner Sova. The meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 6:50 PM (EDT)

Respectfully submitted, *Roy Green acting Secretary--Midland County Parks and Recreation Commission*
8/28/26