

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2016

Location: Belle Isle Flynn Pavilion

Roll Call and Excused Absences
Meeting called to order: 9:30 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Mike Curis
Sommer Woods

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Michelle Hodges
Sommer Woods Arrived: 10:35 a.m.
Bryan Barnhill Arrived: 9:15 a.m.
Mike Curis Arrived: 10:15 a.m.
Alicia Bradford Arrived: 9:25 a.m.
Bud Denker

DNR STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson
Amanda Hertl
Ray Fahlsing

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Hodges requested approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2016 Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meeting. Alicia Bradford moved for approval, the motion was seconded by Bud Denker with unanimous approval.

ACTION ITEMS:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Applications

- Amanda Hertl – Reviewed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for the Master Trail Plan and Interpretive Signage grant. The board unanimously approved a resolution supporting the applications.

- Guest Speaker, Vickie Anthes and Jim O’Brian, Parks and Recreation staff facilitated a Michigan State Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan Update Process: SWOT Exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) The Power Point presentation will be available online at www.belleislepark.org.

GENERAL UPDATES

Park Operations:

- Jacob Brown, acting Belle Isle Park Supervisor, gave a monthly update regarding several park operations items as follows:
 - Park Supervisor/Park Ranger positions to be posted
 - Seasonal and short term workers positions to be posted.
 - The new accessible Kayak launch is now open to the public
 - Repairing and upgrading will be completed on the Whitehouse this summer.
 - Repairing and upgrading to several shelters will be starting this spring/summer.
 - 2 Belle Isle Rangers have become commissioned Rangers following graduation from the academy.
 - Meeting with the Contractors about completing work on the Shelters (1,5,6,19,20)
 - Public (Detroit Department of Transportation) bus service has started on Belle Isle Park as of April 23, 2016 and tentatively there will be 3 routes to the park each day and the bus stop will be located at shelter 7 (bus stop). This was requested by the DNR and is a pilot funded by the Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix.
- Darlisa Rickman, Belle Isle Park, Outreach and Events Coordinator, reported on the 2016 upcoming events. The following upcoming events were noted:

○ Detroit Water Festival	April 28
○ Belle Isle Spring Into Nature	April 30
○ Caring hands Sarcoidosis	April 30
○ RKC Free Kayak Day(Beach)	April 30
○ Charlotte Mason School Walk/Run	May 7
○ Koi Transfer 2016(Aquarium)	May 7
○ Rec 101: Kayak Fishing(Flynn)	May 12
○ Volunteer Stewardship Saturday	May 21
○ Salvation Army Walk/Run	May 22
○ Free Fishing Weekend	June 11 and 12

Staffing:

- Jacob Brown, Belle Isle Park Supervisor (acting), reported that non career applications are now available for summer positions at Belle Isle Park. Jake also reported that positions are available for Park Rangers at Milliken and Belle Isle Park. The Park Supervisor position for Belle Isle will be posted by spring 2016.

DNR Law Enforcement:

- DNR Law Enforcement Officer Sgt. Todd Siska reported that there was a drowning incident at the Yacht club on April 20, 2016. He reported that the activity patrol will be increasing due to warmer weather and motorcycle units will be put on the island. He stated that he will work with Darlisa Rickman concerning upcoming events. He stated that with the use of social media the word of events planned or unplanned spread quickly and law enforcement would like to stay on top of all events coming to the island. He spoke about the upcoming traffic patterns with regards to the Grand Prix and he reported there have not been any critical incidents on the island and zero arrests were made related to any major events.

Infrastructure Update:

- Amanda Hertl, DNR, reported on the continuing park building assessments and repairs to the white house and shelters 5, 6, and 8 to be done this spring/summer. The shelter renovations will include; concrete pads will be removed and there will be new handicap assessable pads put in place and fresh painting in shelters, and inside and outside the white house. Assessments of the T pier of the boat club with regards to water erosion is underway and MDOT engineers have looked at and determined that it is structurally sound and the DNR will be working with them. The Phase 100 study will start in May by Hamilton-Anderson. A grant was awarded in the amount of \$10,000 by REI Grant for an Interpretive Signage Grant that will be used to post interpretive signage around the athletic complex.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: (3 minutes each)

Skip Davis	Concerned about public input with the Conservancies Strategic Planning
Stephanie D	Stated that 500 recreation passports have been donated by the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix. They will be given to seniors who attend senior power days.
Craig/Regina Kuper	Stated the Grand Prix set-up and take down is too long and the barriers are obstructing citizens of Detroit from the view of the park and limited access to the park as well.
Peter Forsythe	Expressed concerns regarding the Grand Prix.
Carol Rhodes	Stated the Grand Prix is obstructing the view and the enjoyment of the park.
Roger Cheek	Concerned about the nature/extent of shelter renovations as to the effect on his scheduled event.
Mark Loab	Stated that the upcoming art fair will have available booths.

Dave Friedrichs

Presented the concept of creating cable propelled transit on Belle Isle.

BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY UPDATES:

- Michele Hodges, Chair, Belle Isle Advisory Committee and President of the Belle Isle Conservancy introduced a new staff member to the Belle Isle Conservancy, Danielle Jackson, is the new Events Coordinator. She stated that Brittany was doing a great job with the Belle Isle Beat which is a monthly publication with a wealth of information for the public concerning upcoming events. She stated that Belle Isle Park has an official face book page, which is: [belleislepark-michigan](https://www.facebook.com/belleislepark-michigan).
- Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation, indicated that the SWOT Exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) results be included with the minutes on the Belle Isle website and the Belle Isle Facebook page.

DNR UP ITEMS:

Upcoming Events:

Belle Isle Spring - (into nature walk/run)	April 30, 2016
Rec101: Kayak Fishing	May 12, 2016
Stewardship Saturday	May 21, 2016
Grand Prix	June 3 – 6, 2016
Free Fishing Weekend	June 11 and 12

Meeting Adjourned: 10:24 a.m.

Approved: _____
Michelle Hodges, Chair

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation (DNR)

Date: _____