

**MINUTES**  
**Newaygo Community Recreational Authority**  
Newaygo County, Michigan  
**September 11, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM in at the County Sports Park Complex at 4684 Evergreen, Newaygo MI 49337.

Present: Rich Blachford (City of Newaygo), Jane Parsley (City of Newaygo), Jennifer Badgero (Brooks Twp), Nancy Kinniburgh (Garfield Twp), Erik Larsen (Garfield Twp),

Absent: Les Salacina (Brooks Twp), Ron Welton (County Park Dept.)

Guest: Harry Burkholder (LIAA)

**MINUTES**

Motion by Parsley, support by Larsen to approve meeting minutes from 08/14/08. AIF/MC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Badgero was sworn in by Schneider as a new board member replacing Chris Haynor on behalf of Brooks Township.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Bid on putting in a new light pole and new breaker, at the County Sports Park, from Southside Electric was \$1,000.00. Motion by Kinniburgh, support by Badgero to approve this expenditure. AIF/MC

The new sign for the Winter Sports Park is \$4,000; cost to NCRA was \$5,000 total.

The board discussed the need for picnic tables, trash cans and grills at the Sports Park. Look at recycled plastic tables and put up trash cans before the winter. Another suggestion was to put in a fire pit for use by those sledding or skiing.

The board discussed the use of Graves lodge and some would like to be able to rent it out. The hours through winter time were also discussed. Many variables would need to be worked out such as to keep it open or winterize it, what fees to charge for renting the lodge, could the lodge be used as a warming station and who would open, close and monitor the lodge. There needs to be a sign put up that exempts the NCRA from any liability as well as a sign on the lodge for seating capacity.

Blachford mentioned that the TIFA Board was asked to support the irrigation costs for the soccer fields on Croton Road. Currently bids are being taken on the cost of irrigation. The soccer fields on Croton Road are seeded and the plans for the field's locations and parking were reviewed.

Blachford reviewed the Fremont Area Community Foundations grant request and approval of the skateboard and ice skating rink park. He went over the budget and noted that the City pledged \$20,000 of in-kind work for the parks. The board discussed the idea of putting an additional, smaller ice rink in Brooks Park along with the larger one on Barton Street.

Need to put NCRA's name on signs at each of the parks or projects. Kinniburgh will work on Henning, Evergreen, Croton Rd. and the Barton St. locations. Will name the parks and put "managed by Newaygo Community Recreation Authority" on them. Need to come up with a standard sign and logo.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Plans on Penoyer Trail are coming close to completion. The trail is slightly longer than originally projected. An alternate location down Basswood was also researched. There will be a need for some bridges in the valleys. The cost to construct the trail is more than anticipated so there is a need to pursue a grant from MDOT to cover additional costs. Because the trail is non-motorized there will need to be gates placed at certain locations to prevent motorized access. Motion by Kinniburgh, support by Badgero to install gates and benches where needed on the trail. AIF/MC

Still planning on doing a spur to the North Country Trail (NCT) from the Sports Park.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Barb Barber, Evergreen Dr, asked if the trail was going south of Newaygo. She placed information in a local paper saying it was. Blachford stated that it was not and that people should put only correct information in publications. Barber stated that she will put whatever she wants in the newspaper.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

There will be a public meeting at the Newaygo High School on Tuesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to discuss the Newaygo County Growth Management Initiative and this board is invited to attend. Will be an informative meeting to educate the public on the plan.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2008 at 8:00 am at the Winter Sports Park building.

Motion by Parsley, support by Badgero to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.

---

Jon Schneider, NCRA Secretary