

December 21, 1965

Mr. Norman Smith
Recreation and Resources, Planning Section
Michigan Department of Conservation
Mason Building
Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is to confirm some of the items we discussed over the telephone.

Mr. Ken Palmer, Supervisor, Coloma Village and Chairman of the County Zoning Committee, has invited you and anyone you care to bring to address the January 24th (Monday) meeting of the county supervisors at 11:00 A.M., at the courthouse in St. Joseph. (I offered to contact you since I was going to write you anyhow).

Mr. Palmer suggests you outline the operation of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and the steps Michigan is taking to qualify. Also, please outline to them the provisions of the Act recently passed authorizing establishment of county park boards.

I ask that, to the extent you can, you endorse the Grand Mere area as a park area and outline a possible type of park as you did to me. Also, to the extent you can, I ask that you endorse the aims of the Grand Mere Association (as outlined in the attached newsletter) as being the type of grass roots effort that is to be encouraged, etc.

Please plan to leave fifteen to twenty minutes of the hour for a request by the Grand Mere Association for the formation of a County Park Board.

After lunch, which I hope you will have with me, I hope to arrange a joint meeting of the recently appointed Berrien County Planning Commission (business men appointed by the Board of Supervisors) and the County Plat Board. At this meeting I would like to have you go over the same material as in the morning presentation to the Supervisor. The Grand Mere Association could then put on their slide program and ask these public bodies to endorse the idea of a park for the Grand Mere area. Any comments you can make as to the value of such a park to a community would be pertinent.

By the end of this second meeting, we'll all be worn out!

I have several copies of the publication "County Action For Outdoor Recreation. Some of the Supervisors have already been given copies -- along with the May 1965 Fact Sheet by the Department of Interior on the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Best wishes for a fine holiday season and I am looking forward to this January meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Frank Lahr
Vice-President

FL/jd

cc: K Palmer
P Armbruster
D McGrath
E Tosi
✓ F Lahr