



Friends of Clare County Parks & Recreation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Don Kolander Named Temporary Chair Friends of Clare Parks & Recreation

The Friends of Clare Parks & Recreation has named Don Kolander as temporary chair at a meeting on July 22. Don replaces Gerry Schmiedicke who recently resigned because of a move downstate. Kolander will remain as chair until two remaining open positions on the board of directors is filled, and the board votes as a whole for a permanent chairperson.

“I am honored to serve as chair as Friends works in partnership with county and township boards, businesses and individuals to improve the health and lives of Clare County residents,” said Kolander, who has served on the board for 7 years.

Friends is an independent non-profit agency, that supports the improvement of recreational areas throughout the county and works closely with the Clare County Parks & Recreation Commission to improve recreational resources throughout the county. As a 501(c)3 organization, it is able to accept donations and issue grants to organizations and groups throughout the county. This year they have helped sponsor the triathlon at Wilson State Park that drew participants from across the state and a bike ride along the Pere Marquette Rail Trail from Clare to Evert. They have several more activities in the planning stages including a fall rail trail ride and their annual Halloween Fun Fest.

“Gerry saw Friends as a way to continue to make sure children and adults had adequate access to recreation and recreational programming through our granting process, and by hosting events and activities. Our county is stronger as a result of the work Gerry, the board of directors and our volunteers have done over the years,” Kolander said. “We thank him for his service and wish him and his family all the best.

The group invites everyone to their meetings held the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Jay's Sporting Goods in Clare. Learn more about Friends, their activities-and grant program requirements at clarecountyrecreation.org. Individuals interested in learning more about board positions on Friends can contact Don at (989) 539-2761

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