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Mackinac Island State Park Commission to Hold Meeting March 6

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — The Mackinac Island State Park Commission will hold a meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2020 at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Lyon Meadows Conference Center in New Hudson, MI.

The agenda encompasses several items, including horse and bicycle license requests, an admissions policy update, a sublease approval, use permit requests, and collections acquisitions, among other items.

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission is the seven-member governing body of Mackinac State Historic Parks. In 1875, the government land on Mackinac Island—encompassing 50 percent of the island—was designated the second national park in the United States. It was turned over to the State of Michigan in 1895, becoming Michigan’s first state park. At that time, the state legislature created the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to be stewards of the park and its many historic structures. Due to the commission’s efforts, parkland now encompasses more than 80 percent of Mackinac Island, which includes 1,800 acres. The commission also oversees and manages parks on the mainland. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission is responsible for a combined 2,500 acres of parkland within Mackinac State Historic Parks, over 110 buildings, and approximately 1.7 million artifacts.

“During its 125 years of history, the commission has protected, preserved and presented the parks’ historic and natural resources by securing additional park acreage, restoring historic

structures, and creating and operating one of the most visited history museum systems in the nation,” said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director.

Mackinac Island State Park Commissioners, who serve six-year terms, are appointed by the governor of Michigan and subject to confirmation by the Michigan Senate. Commission Chairman Dan Loepp began his chairmanship in September of 2019. He has served on the Mackinac Island State Park Commission since 2015.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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