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Mackinac Island State Park Commission to Hold Meeting December 7

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — The Mackinac Island State Park Commission will hold its regularly scheduled meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Lyon Meadows Conference Center in New Hudson. The meeting will also be available to stream live on youtube.com/MackinacStateHistoricParks.

The meeting agenda includes review of the 2022 Mackinac State Historic Parks audit, a request to reclassify unrestricted funds to restricted funds, renewal of the Fort Mackinac Tea Room concession, Mackinac Island Airport annual renewals and updates, policy updates, lease renewal requests, and a use permit request. The commission will also enter closed session as authorized by section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act at the end of the meeting.

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 127 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 Steve Brisson, 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, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State 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 online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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