



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES

December 8, 2022 7:00 PM  
Maple Wood Nature Center

**PRESENT:** John Egli, Eric Maginn, Ardala Hepler, Paul Yoder, Paul Baker

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe

**MINUTES:** Paul Yoder moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Delt Pavilion Project  
Concrete pad was poured yesterday. Next Tuesday, concrete for sidewalks and pits for vault toilets will be installed. Today, Mary Franke and George DeWald finalized selections for fireplace stone and building materials.
- B. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project  
Getting very close to completing trails. Finishing install on boardwalk bumpers, limestone topcoat, and transitions. Will plan an official ribbon cutting for next spring.
- C. Master plan – Board to set goals  
After discussion, the Park Board approved 9 goals for the Master Plan.  
Eric Maginn moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve the nine goals for the 2023-2027 Master Plan. Motion carried. Mary Franke plans to share the final draft at the January meeting. After that, it will be submitted to the state for review and approval.  
After state approval, the master plan will be presented in a public meeting.
- D. Delt Well  
Water tests from new well have come back clean. Water will be turned off for the winter and retested in the spring.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Memorial Bench Applications  
We received two applications. Board approved applications with placement at Pine Knob.
- B. Pine Knob Furnace  
The furnace at the clubhouse died last weekend. A new furnace was installed by Rawles Services yesterday. In the process of installation, it was discovered that the wrong A.C. coil was previously installed. That will need replaced before summer use. Furnace cost was \$4500. Estimate for new A. C. coil is \$1000.
- C. Limestone Quotes  
With some remaining 2022 budget funds, limestone is needed on some trails at Pine Knob (350 tons) and Delt Church Park (65 tons). Eric Maginn moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to accept quote from Clifford for 415 ton of #11F for \$12,327.00. Motion carried.

D. Archery Targets

This year, the Park Dept collected \$6,834.96 from the archery post for target replacement. This amount is a record high! Mary Franke requested permission to use the funds to purchase seconds pallets from Rinehart auctions. Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve spending up to \$6,800 on archery targets/inserts. Motion carried.

E. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule/pay/attendance

Mary Franke shared that in 2023, board members will only be paid for meetings they attend and that an attendance sheet will be available to sign. Board meetings will continue to be held at 7pm on the fourth Thursday of the month.

F. 2023 Director's salary

John Egli signed letter of approval for Mary Franke's 2023 Director salary.

G. Programs

With the upcoming new maintenance technician next year, Chris Sluyter, one of the Parks Dept. current mtnc. Tech, is excited to help Leslie Arnold plan events. Leslie Arnold will focus more on the school and nature programs while Chris Sluyter will focus more on social events.

**ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. Signs – new directional road signs have been received for Shipshewana Lake Park. Smaller ones will be posted at the Pumpkinvine Trail and larger ones at the main road.
- B. Dallas Lodge Furnace – Mary Franke would like to use some of 2022 remaining funds to replace furnace at the Dallas Lodge. This would be the start of a plan to have the Lodge be available to rent during colder months, especially during the winter holidays. One quote has been received. Mary Franke will seek at least 2 more quotes before presenting to the park board for final approval.
- C. Grants – Mary Franke shared that she is applying for a grant from the Wild Turkey Federation for \$2500 to purchase safety clothing and equipment for controlled burns.

**CLAIMS:**

Paul Baker moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve December 8 docket claims. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler  
EW/ew