



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES

July 20, 2023 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 Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

Paul Yoder moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve July 20, 2023 docket claims. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2024 Budget

August 14 is budget presentation with County Council. Mary Franke will share the presentation schedule as soon as its available.

B. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project

The concrete pad was poured last week. The framing of the restroom is started this week. Will need to complete restroom construction and construct shelter and remaining signage and project should be complete.

C. Tetrick Property

LaGrange County Community foundation agreed to purchase and hold the property for the Parks Department. This will a bit more time for grant applications and fund matching. Mary Franke will submit grant applications for the President Benjamin Harrison Trust Fund available from the DNR and apply for local grants from the LCCF and Cole Foundation. Mary Franke met with Taylor Surveying at the property yesterday with report expected to be ready next week. Mary Franke asked the board appoint 2 appraisers for the next step. Eric Maginn moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to appoint Caldwell Appraisals and Stanner Appraisal Service. Motion carried.

D. Rogers Pavilion/Pickleball

Nipsco disconnected service to the Rogers Pavilion. The county has approved the pavilion as surplus and is ready to be removed. Paul Baker is making arrangements to have the old pavilion removed. After its removal, Paul Baker will begin marking the concrete slab to be used as a pickleball court.

E. Suzanne Arnold Memorial Bench

Final decision was tabled until all Board members are present.

F. Other

Master Plan – Mary Franke said Emily Wolfe has made the state requested revisions on the master plan this week. Mary will review before re-submitting to the state for approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Greenwood Pavilion Weekend Rate

Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to set the weekend rate with the same formula as other facility rentals. Greenwood weekend rental would be Friday 3:30pm through Sunday closing for \$350.00. (Normal daily park hours apply – no overnights)

B. Disc Golf Tournament

Mary Franke shared that Chris Sluyter is working with disc golf tournament organizers to hold a tournament on Saturday, October 14 at Delt Church Park. Would be 72 players and all entry fees collected is split 50/50 with the Parks Department. Half is used as prizes and the other half as a fundraiser to raise money to replace disc golf goal baskets on our course. The board would need approve the tournament organizers to bring a sponsor, Michiana Pro Shop, who would have items for sale. The board invites Chris Sluyter to the next board meeting to share more information.

C. ARK 5K

They have decided to wait until next year to hold the event.

D. Director's Report

1. Mary Franke printed pages of recent reviews of LCPD parks from Google and AllTrails for the park board to view. Comments are positive and ratings high.
2. Mary Franke included printed copies of the budget status for the board to review.
3. Seasonal Naturalist, Samantha Biernat, is doing well. She included a contribution in this month's naturalist report.
4. Looking for ways to share all park information in each park. Many may only visit the park closest to them and this effort will hopefully encourage more visits to all parks.
5. You are here signs: Pine Knob "you are here" signs are installed. Maple Wood and Dallas you are here trail signs will be installed soon. Delt you are here trail signs will be ordered soon.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Art & Music Fair

Mary Franke shared that Chris Sluyter would also like to hold an Art & Music Fair, hopefully this fall, at Dallas Lake Park. Chris would like to invite local artists, food trucks, bands, and also have beer/wine vendors present. The park board invites Chris Sluyter to the next board meeting to share more information before making a decision.

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