



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

April 18, 2024 7:00 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

PRESENT: John Egli, Julia Wolheter, Paul Baker, Eric Maginn

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe

MINUTES: Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the **March 21, 2024**, meeting. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

Julia Wolheter moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve **April 2024** docket claims. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Tetrick Property

Mary Franke spoke with Tom Laycock with DNR about status of approved grant funds. Tom shared that their department is backlogged. He is hoping paperwork will be ready in July with expected closing in October.

B. ARPA Project Quotes

1. Delt Driveway Concrete - Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to take no action on presented quotes and to request quotes be resubmitted at next board meeting. Motion carried.
2. Pine Knob Boardwalk –Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to accept quote from Michiana Builders for \$79,261.05. Motion carried.
3. Dallas Reroof Barn and Office – Eric Maginn moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to take no action on presented quotes, and to request quotes be resubmitted with a shingle and metal roof option. Motion carried.

C. Maple Wood Siding

Mary Franke presented a metal board and batten option to re-side the nature center. The board looked at samples and approved getting quotes for consideration.

D. Duff Memorial Trail – Site Plan

Paul Baker is close to completing the mountain bike trail paths. Paul will submit the trail layout/site plan to Mary Franke as soon as it is finalized.

E. Wilderness Bound – Life grant/cfdlc grant

Mary Franke shared that we have received funds from LCCF Life Grant and are waiting for approval status on funds requested from Council for Drug Free LaGrange County. Daniel Schelinski purchased equipment from a school - tents, backpacks, and sleeping bags – to

use for the program. There will be 10 openings for this program. Additional chaperones are being finalized.

F. Rogers – pickleball court

The concrete was powerwashed last week. Paul Baker painted court lines this week. Need to cleanup the edges, post holes, and get a net before it's ready.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ADA Projects

Mary Franke presented two needs: Limestone to resurface trails at Delt & Pine Knob, & new drinking fountains at Pine Knob. Julia Wolhete moved & Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve Mary Franke asking for ADA funding. Motion carried.

B. Director's Report

1. REMC Broadband internet is hooked up at the office. Yay!
2. 3-D target order was received and archery trail is set for the season.
3. New disc golf baskets were received and installed at Delt Church Park.
4. ARK Bark in the Park event – 75 registered so far with more expected. Randy Merrifield and Doug Leslie will be present to direct parking. Parking is a concern.
5. Summer hires: Hired 5 maintenance, 2 day camp assistants, and 2 swim instructors.
6. Dallas driveway paving began today and is expected to finish tomorrow.
7. Dallas lodge improvements are almost complete. The porch is done, windows are in, and the bathroom floors have been refinished. Waiting on base trim and resetting bathrooms for spring cleanup. Still considering the fireplace update.
8. Mary Franke will be meeting with Sonya Nash at the visitor's bureau tomorrow to review requested reports for park attendance last year and Maple Syrup Days this year.

C. May meeting – Lodge

Mary Franke is planning for the May Board meeting to be held at Dallas Lake Lodge so the board can see the improvements. The Board agreed.

D. Maple Wood – Tables

Mary Franke shared that she will be looking for quotes to start replacing tables in the Nature Center with new plastic ones. She wants to eventually get enough to replace what we have and to have extra for Maple Syrup Days and other special event needs.

E. Ardala Memorial Bench

Ardala Hepler passed on April 4, 2024. She served as Park Board Secretary since 1992, for 33 years of park service. The board agreed to purchase a memorial bench.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

A. New Park Board Member

Will be appointed by the LaGrange Soil & Water Conservation office soon.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Wolfe

EW/ew