



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

January 16, 2024 7:00 PM

Maple Wood Nature Center

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**PRESENT:** John Egli, Julia Wolheter, Eric Maginn, Paul Baker, Perry Miller, Michael Holcomb

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Terry Martin, Karen Eagleson

**MINUTES:** Paul Baker moved, and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the **December 19, 2024**, meeting. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

Eric Maginn moved, and Perry Miller seconded a motion to approve **January 16** docket claims. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Agle Property

Mary Franke received annual maintenance estimate of \$3500 for the property, from Blue Heron Ministries. IDNR is requesting a decision from the Park Board.

Paul Baker moved, and Perry Miller seconded a motion to accept the Agle Property from the IDNR, when presented, with the maintenance responsibility that is expected.

5 in favor / 1 opposed. Motion carried.

B. Rental Discount

Mary Franke requested consideration for Park Employees to receive a discount when renting a park facility. The Park Employee cleans the facility after they use it so it is ready for the next rental. Julia Wolheter moved, and Mike Holcomb seconded a motion to approve a 25% discount on park rental facility rates for LaGrange County Parks Dept Employees and Park Board Members. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

C. Hawpatch Trail Update

Mary Franke shared that the purchase of the large portion of trail property from the railroad is almost complete. The next step is to acquire property from private owners. Terry Martin estimates the process to trail completion is still a few years away.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Election of Officers

Paul Baker moved, and Mike Holcomb seconded a motion to maintain officers, John Egli as Board President and Eric Maginn as Vice President, and appoint Emily Wolfe as Board Secretary. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

B. 2024 Annual Report

Mary Franke created & presented a power point sharing 2024 Annual Report highlights. Emily Wolfe created & shared printed copies of 2024 Annual Report.

C. Disposal of Property

Mary Franke shared a list of inventory items and requested approval to approve as worthless to discard. Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve all items on list as worthless. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

D. Polaris Quote

The maintenance staff tested five different UTV's for load capacity and qualities suitable for hauling stone on park trails. The Polaris Ranger was the best fit. Paul Baker moved, and Mike Holcomb seconded a motion to accept quote from Planet Powersports for a Polaris Ranger UTV quoted for \$37,997.12. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

E. Bank Account / Software

Mary Franke requested approval for the Parks Dept to establish a separate bank account. All online payments would be directed to this account and once a month be transferred to the main county account under parks 1179. Eric Maginn moved, and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the establishment of a separate Parks bank account and to approve John Egli, President, to sign any necessary forms outside of meetings. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

Mary Franke has been researching recreation software possibilities. The main reason is for a Point of Sale System to be used at Maple Syrup Days. Still researching.

F. Board Meeting Locations

Maple Wood Nature Center is committed to be used on the days of our April and May board meetings. The board chose to have the April meeting at Pine Knob Clubhouse and the May meeting at Dallas Lake Lodge.

G. IPRA Membership

Mary Franke requested approval to obtain a Park Agency Membership instead of Individual. This option will include 4 employees and 1 board member and provides discounts for training and conferences for the year. Paul Baker moved, and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve obtaining a Park Agency IPRA Membership this year for \$396. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

H. Target Purchase

Mary Franke requested approval to spend \$9100 on new/replacement archery targets/inserts. Eric Maginn moved, and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve \$9100 budget for purchasing archery targets. 6 in favor / 0 opposed. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Emily Wolfe, Appointed Board Secretary  
Park Dept. Administrative Assistant  
EW/ew