



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
April 25, 2019
7:00PM

PRESENT: John Egli, Julia Wolheter, Bob Arnold, Ardala Hepler, & Mark Thompson

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Metz, Terry Martin (commissioner), Richard Muntz, George DeWald, & Mary Franke. There were 15 guests who attended the public meeting.

MINUTES: Mark Thompson moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/24/19 meeting. Motion carried.

DUFF FEN LWCF GRANT PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES:

Mike Metz presented a slide show overview of the proposed Duff Fen Development Project. The project will include 9200' of trail and boardwalks, a bridge, fishing platform, small pavilion with a table and bench, and Restroom. The boardwalks will be made with Azek recycled lumber. Project cost is \$350,000. The county has promised \$75,000 and we have applied for two other grants to help cover the \$175,000 matching funds needed.

Comments:

We really appreciate and enjoy LaGrange County Parks. The trails are really nice and easy to walk and the facilities are well kept up.

Will there be additional parking?

We have looked into where to put an additional parking lot. Someone from the county highway department has been up there, and we have concluded there is not a good place to put a driveway.

Is there any concern about security?

We do not have much trouble in any of our parks. We do have a park ranger who patrols on weekends. We also have security cameras at our trailheads and in the parking lot.

Dallas and Delt trails are wonderful, they are great for running, walking, etc. This will be great also.

Is there any opportunity for private funding for the match?

We've never had luck in the past with that. We've talked about putting ads in lawyer offices for people planning their estate.

Is it cut in stone to use plastic lumber? Natural areas should have natural materials.

It is not cut in stone, but because of maintenance concerns we feel that the recycled plastic would be the best choice. It is our experience that pressure treated lumber does not last long. Cypress or cedar would double the cost. Azek has 30 year warranty.

Glad to see what it looks like. We enjoy the park.

Is there a construction time limit?

We have three years to complete it.

Anyone wanting to donate, send checks to LaGrange County Community Foundation with Friends of LaGrange County Parks in the memo.

This is a lucky county because of the wonderful park staff who love their work which accounts for their success.

Most of the public left while the meeting continued. Many great comments.

OLD BUSINESS:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Fen Project (Cedar Lake Property) – There has been progress with the owner regarding boundaries. Waiting on appraisals. Scott Fetters, from the DNR, thinks it will be resolved by the end of the year.

LaGrange County Trails –Contacted a consultant. Money is holding them back. Hoping for a grant. Moving along.

LWCF Grant – Ardala Hepler moved to let John Egli sign all the forms. Julia Wolhete seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brett Bateman asked for ball diamonds to be added to park systems. Mike made a template to see if we have an option to do this. Mike says we have NO space that would be feasible plus it would require more maintenance we don't have the staff for.

Horse Barn lumber quotes- received 2 quotes:

Big C \$11,507.78 and Alpha 11,881.50

The laminated beams from Big C do not look nice, the ones from Alpha look very nice and would match the ones in the pavilions. Mike requested that we accept the bid from Alpha. Ardala Hepler moved and Mark Thompson seconded a motion to accept Alpha due to the quality of the beams. Motion carried.

Mower quotes- Only received one quote. It was from Greenmark for \$5,280.90 after trade in.

Julia Wolhete moved and Mark Thompson seconded motion to accept Greenmark's quote. Motion carried.

Target quote- Quote from Rinehart for \$3,399. Bob Arnold moved and Julia Wolhete seconded motion to accept the bid from Rinehart. Motion carried.

Duff Lake Fen Excavation quotes – The Duff Lake Fen area needs more clearing and dozing. This cost was not included in the grant. \$8,000 is available in Non-reverting to cover it. We received 2 quotes for hourly rates.

Kevin Northup and Miller Backhoe

\$75-\$100/hour \$110-\$160/hour

Mark Thompson moved and Julia Wolhete seconded motion to accept quote from Kevin Northup. Motion carried.

We received grants from Operation Round Up for the puppet shows at Maple Syrup Days, and from REMC Enviro Watts for eradicating honeysuckle at Pine Knob. Both grants were submitted by Mary Franke.

Scott Mill Park-The lease expired, but the wording of the lease says that it automatically renewed for another 25 years. Mike has contacted Rich Dunbar with DNR Nature Preserves, and Savanna Vaughn from the Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area. Rich does not want the land but would accept it if he had to. Savannah would like add the land to the Fish and Wildlife area as a satellite property. Bob Arnold moved and Ardala seconded motion to release this property to the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife. Richard Muntz looked over lease and said there was no consequence for terminating the lease. Bob renewed motion. Motion carried.

Programs-A written report from Leslie Arnold was given to the board members. Leslie will present it at the next board meeting.

Claims.- Julia Wolhete moved and Bob Arnold seconded motion to approve the claims as presented. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardala Hepler

AH/mf