



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES

October 27, 2022 6:30 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Terry Martin, Mandy Williams

6:30 pm

MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

Mary Franke shared a visual slide presentation sharing Park Department information, park amenities, and collected data from the public survey (so far).

Input from attendees:

1. Trail signs to indicate where a person is on a trail. Sometimes it is easy to get turned around at Maple Wood and Pine Knob. Indicate at beginning of trail how long the trail is.
2. Trail signs that share information about what is seen on the trail – plants, flowers, trees, animals. Maybe also include a QR code to scan for additional information (visual and/or audio) that would be too much to put on a sign.
3. Parking on the north edge of the new fen trail for easier access.
4. David Rogers is under-utilized: Ideas could be improvements that would encourage more weddings (beautiful setting). Could use as a Halloween venue with all the cabins. This has become an ideal park for Forest School in the spring and fall. Maybe another restroom – either renovate the old one or replace it. The old west pavilion is never used and the slab could be used as a pickleball court. Historical events have dwindled.
5. Maybe make consideration for permitting alcohol during events such as weddings. Could establish a policy and charge for an alcohol permit and security presence.
6. Finding ways to reach more people to share events, programs, and amenities of the LaGrange County Parks.

7:00 pm

BOARD MEETING

MINUTES: Eric Maginn moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2022 and October 17, 2022 meetings. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Delt Pavilion Project – rental fee
Shetler Construction is waiting on bonds and will start when received. The new pavilion will seat 125 people, have a fireplace, and pull-down wall screens. Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to set rental fees for new Greenwood Pavilion as \$150 per day Monday – Thursday, and \$175 per day Friday – Sunday. Motion carried.
- B. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project
Still working on completing new trail. George DeWald is hoping to finish this fall and would like to announce a ribbon cutting soon.
- C. Master plan - set goals
The Park Board members will consider to what they would like be goals for the next five years and discuss at the next board meeting for entry in the master plan.
- D. Delt Well
The well is installed and hooked up. Water test results are still not where we would like them to be. Mary Franke is waiting for input from our IDEM representative.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Maple Wood rentals
Currently, someone has to be present during rentals at Maple Wood Nature Center due to the openness of Leslie Arnold's office and other items she would like supervised. Mary Franke presented the idea of finding ways to secure the office in a way that would not detract from the beauty of the building. Discussion also led to replacing the carpet with hard flooring for easier maintenance. Ideas offered will be discussed and chosen based on costs, security, and aesthetics.
- B. Shalom Church Pine Knob Rental
Shalom Church would like to rent Pine Knob Clubhouse every Sunday from January 1 through end of April – 18 Sundays – and asked for a discount. After discussion, the Park Board decision was to maintain their stance on no discounts for facility reservations. All reservations are first come at set fee.
- C. Susie Arnold memorial
The Board Members decided to purchase a bench with plaque in memory of Susie Arnold and place at Maple Wood.
- D. Programs
Not So Spooky: 185 attended. Everyone had a wonderful time. Since this event has been successful, we will look for sponsors and/or grants to help with expenses and more permanent/reusable props.

CLAIMS:

Eric Maginn moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve October docket claims. Motion carried.

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