



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

April 20, 2023 7:00 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

ALSO PRESENT: Terry Martin, Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe

MINUTES: Paul Yoder moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Delt Pavilion Project

The pavilion and restrooms are very close to completion. To finish yet:
Some trim, concrete treatment, fireplace grate, parking lot, grills, and finishing touches.

B. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project

The trail is always busy. Plan to resume project work on shelter and vault toilet soon.

C. Master plan

Received response from DNR – only need 2 items addressed/revised for approval.

D. Maple Syrup Days

An attached summary report was reviewed. Pancake meal prices may increase next year in response to rising costs.

E. Property Acquisition

A few board members and George DeWald met with the property owners to further discuss the possible property purchase. Discussed splitting the property, feasible decision deadline, and possible budget sources.

F. Kayak Rental

Mary Franke shared more information: flat mounting surface for cage, solar power, 50/50 split, \$14,000 initial investment for 4 kayaks with cage and contract. Board discussed and decided to table for a year and revisit the idea next spring.

G. Parkview – Maple Wood

Mary Franke shared additional information with the board: FitKids360 program would be August – October, 8 wks long, 1 night a week, 2 hours in evening 6-8. Would include 6 to 8 children with their families. Would also have professionals attending to teach and share information. They would setup, teardown, and clean up. After board discussion, Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to waive fee for above program this fall.

NEW BUSINESS:**A. Music Together Program**

Laura Metz is requesting permission to use Maple Wood Nature Center Classroom for a music class for infant-elementary children. Program would take place in the fall for ten weeks, each class is 45 min, with enrollment fee. She plans to offer the first class for free to gauge attendance. Eric Maginn moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve use of Maple Wood Nature Center Classroom for 30% of enrollment fee after free initial class.

B. Summer Plans

- Swim lessons: Mallory Mynhier is returning as swim instructor. Makenna Mynhier was hired as swim instructor assistant. Makenna will be attending lifeguard certification at the end of May. Swim lessons will be held in June and July. Schedule will come out soon.
- Day Camp: Sam Plew will lead Adventure Bound; Leslie Arnold will lead the rest. Two day camp assistants have been hired.
- Assistant Naturalist: hired to assist with programs on weekends and to attend Maple Wood Nature Center on Wednesdays and needed Saturdays while Leslie is doing summer day camp.
- Summer maintenance: Gramm Egli is returning. Lacking applications for maintenance this year.

C. Upcoming Programs/Events

- Fun run: this Saturday with ribbon cutting at 10 am; run/walk to follow.
- Youth day: June 17 at Delt Church Park. LCYC is heading the event with Park support.
- Walking Club: "Every park every trail" starts May 6 for 7 months. Participation is recorded for possible reward at the last walk.
- Fitness trail: At Dallas Lake Park and will be ready for ribbon cutting for the May 6 fitness walk. Signs have been received and will be installed before May.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Board reviewed quarterly reports of park funds.
2. Pickleball – board discussed idea of trying a pickleball court. Maybe at Dallas? Maybe convert shelter pad at Rogers? Paul Baker will research the costs involved for either location.

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