



# LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

May 25, 2023 7:00 PM  
Maple Wood Nature Center

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Scheduled May 18, 2023 Board Meeting was canceled & rescheduled for May 25, 2023.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe

**MINUTES:** Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

Julia Wohleter moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve May 25, 2023 docket claims. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project  
George DeWald is waiting on building permit to start fen shelter and pit toilet construction.
- B. Delt Pavilion  
Pavilion project is done. George DeWald and Mary Franke met with Jonathon Shetler of Shetler Construction to go over “punch list” items to complete. Jonathon Shetler/Shetler Construction will follow up and complete soon. Greenwood Pavilion is already rented for much of the summer. The old metal artwork was saved from the old Logan Field Pavilion; plan to install them on the Greenwood Pavilion stone fireplace.
- C. Master plan  
Will make changes required and re-submit for approval.
- D. Property Acquisition – Tetrick Property  
Tetrick family will consider splitting the property. Mary Franke is researching available funding for purchase. Tetrick family will try to schedule a survey for property soon.
- E. Pickleball  
Paul Baker is waiting for school to be out to do more research in the possibility of a pickleball court at David Rogers Park and/or future courts at Dallas Lake Park. The Board discussed options for the old shelter at David Rogers Park.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. 2024 Budget  
Mary Franke shared the 2024 proposed park budget with the board and asked them to review. The board will need to approve at the next, June, meeting. Discussion included wage increases and capital purchases for 2024.

B. Conservation Camp

LCYC is asking permission to close Pine Knob Park for a couple hours during one day of Conservation Camp for DNR instruction of shooting firearms. The Park Board approved and requested that notice of day and times be share with the public as soon as known.

C. Suzanne Arnold Memorial Bench

The Park Board discussed the purchase of a Memorial Bench in memory of Suzanne Arnold.

D. Programs/Events – Delt Youth Day

June 17. Randy Merrifield has been approved funds that should cover the tent, food, and some doorprizes.

**ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Abuse & Misconduct Policy for Employees. – Mary Franke shared the policy with the board. The board discussed a few changes before final approval.
2. Michiana Brighter Monuments – Ben Myers contacted Mary Franke and is interested in professionally cleaning the David Rogers monument, free of charge, in exchange for the right to take photos for his advertising portfolio and an online review. Paul Baker moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve the above monument cleaning terms.
3. Mary Franke suggested the board meeting in June be held at the new Greenwood Pavilion at Delt Church Park. The Park Board agreed.
4. Paul Yoder suggested a need for hitching rails at Pine Knob Park. There is an increasing number of Amish visitors at Pine Knob Park.
5. The board discussed that they have all heard great feedback about the new Fen Trail at Pine Knob Park. Would like to find ways to increase parking for everyone.

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