



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2025 7:00 PM
Pine Knob Clubhouse

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Karen Eagleson, Marilyn Wingstrom

MINUTES: Paul Baker moved, and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the **March 20, 2025**, meeting. Motion carried. 5-0

CLAIMS:

Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve **April** docket claims. Motion carried. 5-0

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Hawpatch Trail

Marilyn Wingstrom shared updates of status of Hawpatch Trail. It's been 10 years since the process began. A purchase agreement has been signed with the Railroad. Land surveys will begin soon. A tentative closing date is set for December of 2025. Still working on privately owned land portions. Phase 1 will run from 75W to 500W. Phase 2 is from 600 W to 1200 W (county line). Plans for trail to be 12' wide and hope to break ground by end of 2026. Noble County and Elkhart County are working on connecting trails. Marilyn said they are now working on bid request packets so things are as ready as possible when property purchase are final. They are also working on marketing efforts to establish logo, brochure, branding, etc.

B. Dallas Playground

Mary Franke requested permission from the board to start collecting quotes for a new playground for Dallas Lake Park. She wants to create a more accessible playground with swings and more ground level equipment options. Would like to have all quotes to approve for 2026 budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Storm Damage

Mary Franke shared that LaGrange County was included in the State of Emergency for recent storms on March 30 and April 2. Mary will submit damage amounts sustained on park property for possible disaster relief funds.

B. Directors Report

- Mary Franke applied for a \$3000 Nipsco Grant to be used for day camp expenses since JDAI funds are not available.
- The Disc Golf Tournament is on May 3 with 39 signed up so far.
- The new well is in at Dallas. Still working on connections.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Wolfe

Appointed Board Secretary
Park Dept. Administrative Assistant
EW/ew