



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2025 7:00 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

PRESENT: Eric Maginn, Julia Wolheter, Michael Holcomb, and Paul Baker by video

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Randy Merrifield, Tim Cleveland, Karen Eagleson

MINUTES: Julia Wolheter moved, and Michael Holcomb seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the **July 17, 2025**, meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

CLAIMS:

Julia Wolheter moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve **August** docket claims. Motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2026 Budget

Mary Franke presented the proposed 2026 budget to the County Council on August 11. We are just waiting on approval process.

B. Dallas Playground

Mary Franke reviewed prices for expanding playground and possibly adding pickleball.

1. For three pieces of equipment mulch, edging, and installation - \$33,000.

2. For double pickleball courts with fencing – approximately \$54,000

Additional options for paint and fencing may affect final pricing.

Mary Franke shared that she has 3 grant applications ready to send with the board's approval. The board approved applying for grants from LaGrange County Community Foundation, Cole Foundation, and Dekko Foundation.

C. Truck Engine Quotes

Mary Franke shared two quotes received for the truck repair from the building department. The commissioners have committed \$6000 from their funds to apply to the repairs, the remaining will come from the parks non-reverting fund. Quotes include TriStar for \$17,343.78 and Hostetler Tire for \$13,321.20. Paul Baker moved, and Michael Holcomb seconded a motion to accept quote from Hostetler Tire for \$13,321.20. Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Pine Knob Drinking Fountains

Mary Franke shared the need to replace the drinking fountain by the clubhouse to an accessible water station as listed on ADA Transition report. Mary will seek approval to receive funds from the ADA fund. Two quotes – 1 with bottle filler \$6706.34 and one without bottle filler \$5164.07. Julia Wolheter moved, and Michael Holcomb seconded a motion to approve the quote to include a bottle filler for \$6706.34. Motion carried 4-0.

B. Park Ranger Report

Park Ranger Randy Merrifield, with Assistant Park Ranger Time Cleveland, shared highlights from the summer and notes from a meeting with the prosecutor's office.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Youth Day is September 6 and we have not received the funds the program usually has. JDAI, in the past, has shared nearly \$20,000 a year in funding; but is not available this year. Tent costs are \$700, food is \$800, and we still need more doorprizes for the raffle drawing. Mary Franke requested permission from the board to allocate money received for programs and events and use for youth event expenses and purchasing doorprizes. Julia Wolheter moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to use up to \$4000 for expenses and doorprizes for the Youth Event. Motion carried 4-0.
- B. Chicken Fundraiser - planned for October 11 beginning at 8am until chicken is sold. We need about twenty drivers.
- C. Pine Knob Vault Toilets – the maintenance staff has spent time redoing the older vault toilets to repair rotting sections, residing the exteriors, and relining interior surface.
- D. Pine Knob – Installed new trail signs that include the new primitive trail.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Rental request to use Pine Knob Clubhouse for extended nighttime hours. The board discussed. Michael Holcomb moved, and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the reservation. Motion carried 4-0.
- B. The board discussed options for enhanced security measures for our park rangers and Dallas Lake Park Beach area.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Wolfe

Appointed Board Secretary
Park Dept. Administrative Assistant
EW/ew