



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
August 26, 2021
7:00PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Richard Muntz, Emily Wolfe, Terry Martin, Brandon Tester

MINUTES: Bob Arnold moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project – The park staff has been working again on the boardwalk the last couple days. We had been delayed while waiting for approval from the DNR Fish & Wildlife and the US Fish & Wildlife to approve rerouting a boardwalk bridge to not disturb a Massasauga Snake hibernating area. We have now received that approval.
- B. ADA Projects – All 2020 Encumbered ADA projects are complete except for the Dallas Lodge railing and plumbing covers for under sinks. These materials are scarce this summer. Invoices for installing pads at Delt and the concrete pad at Maple Wood exceeded the initial quotes and set budget. The board discussed the options available to pay for the overages for these items. It was decided to ask for available funds from the 2021 ADA account.
- C. 2022 Budget – The council will vote on the 2022 Budget on September 13, 2021. The council seemed supportive of a Skid Steer as a need for the Parks Department. Once the initial investment is made, the skid steer would be added into the Parks 3 year equipment rotation. If this purchase is approved, we will get 3 current quotes to choose from.
- D. Delt Pavilion – Mary Franke applied for a Dekko Grant to help with funds to build the new Delt Field Pavilion.
- E. Other – Terry Martin said the county has not heard back from the family in regards to the Big Long Lake property.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Playground Equipment Grant - Mary Franke would like to enter a grant application to the LaGrange County Community Foundation to cover purchasing two pieces of playground equipment totaling \$7439. The grant application deadline is next Wednesday. Julie Wolheter moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve grant application. Motion carried.
- B. Canoe Waiver – Richard Muntz discussed the verbiage within the waiver, and said for our purposes, it would be fine. Eric Maginn moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to accept the Canoe Waiver as written. Motion carried.

C. Events/Programs

1. Free Canoeing Day – Leslie will be at Pine Knob Park this Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 10am – 2pm offering free canoe rides in 30 minute sessions on Meteer Lake.
2. Not So Spooky Trail Event – Is planned for October 21 and 22, 2021 with two sessions, 3-4:30pm and 5:30-7pm. The Friends of LaGrange County Parks will be there to help. The Dekalb Horsemen have agreed to be there to provide horse-drawn wagon rides through the woods.
3. Music in the Park – Here nor There will be performing at Dallas Sweetgum Pavilion on September 18, 2021. Leslie Arnold has had no luck in finding available food trucks for this event.

D. Other

1. Quotes or Straight Hire - Mary Franke asked if the Parks Department needed to solicit quotes for hiring someone to do an estimated \$1000 to \$2000 job. For example, the process to hire Blue Heron Ministries to do natural area maintenance work. Terry Martin said it is acceptable to just hire them for that price range. Mary Franke asked if it was necessary to ask for new quotes every year for services such as trash service and port-o-johns. Discussion resulted in decision that it was not necessary every year; it would be up to Mary Franke when or if the need arose to collect quotes for any of these types of services.
2. Dallas Beach – Since the arrests were made earlier this summer, the Parks Department hasn't encountered any more concerns so far this summer.
3. Brandon Tester – Brandon Tester is present tonight fulfilling a school requirement to attend a public government meeting. Brandon worked for the Parks Department over the summer at the gate and helped with summer day camp. He continues to work maintenance in the mornings as part of a school work study program, and attends classes at Westview High School in the afternoons.

CLAIMS:

Bob Arnold moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to accept August claims as presented. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler
EW/ew