



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES  
December 2, 2021  
7:00PM  
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Richard Muntz, Terry Martin, Steve Engleking,

**MINUTES:** Eric Maginn moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2021 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project – The crew has completed the bridge, fishing platform, and the northeast boardwalk. The crew will continue to work on the south boardwalk as weather permits. The next bid packet for the project will be put together soon and would like to issue that in January, which will include the pavilion and restroom. Will bring for review to the January meeting.
- B. Delt Well Quote – Mary Franke asked for 3 quotes for a new well at Delt Church Park; only 2 were received in response. It was recommended during our last meeting discussion, that we aim for at least a 100' deep well. Quotes received were from Graber's Well Drilling for \$7,282.27 for a 80 ft 5" well and Sanderson Well Drilling quote for \$7,700.00 for a 100 ft 5" well. After discussion, Paul Yoder moved and Julia Wolheter seconded to accept the quote from Sanderson Well Drilling for \$7700. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Delt Pavilion – Mary Franke asked the board for their preference on a steel or wood pavilion kit for the new pavilion at Delt Church Park. Research has shown a wood/glue lam kit would run around \$86,000 while a steel kit of same size would be nearly half the cost. Mary Franke, found through conversation at the IPRA Conference, that steel is the now preferred over wood. After questions and discussion: the steel posts and support beams can be any of 50 colors; the roof material and color can match the other pavilions at Delt; the construction would be hired out for installation. The board recommended that Mary Franke get quotes for a steel pavilion kit to share at the next meeting.
- D. Electronic Meeting Ordinance – Richard Muntz has reviewed and will make a few verbiage changes and bring to the next meeting for review.
- E. 2023-2027 Master Plan – Bob Arnold, and business associate Jerry Byanski, has visited all of our county parks with Mary Franke and George DeWald. Bob Arnold and Jerry Byanski offered ideas to get us started on putting together the new master plan. Mary Franke is planning to bring a slide show to the next meeting to share some of their ideas.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Position description/wages – Mary Franke shared that with Scott Beam retiring, she wants to replace his position with a Maintenance Technician only position. Mary Franke will add a new job description for Emily Wolfe's position to absorb the communication portion of Scott Beam's job description. It was suggested to go before the HR Committee with both new job descriptions and wage changes at the same time. Mary Franke will prepare new job descriptions as needed.

- B. Trailer Purchase – Three quotes were received for a new dump trailer for two reasons – the old dump truck has some bed operation limits, and the new trailer would offer the ability to haul the upcoming skid steer to different parks. Cargo Plus \$15,210.00. John’s Trailer Sales \$14,490.00. I69 Trailer Center \$19,390.00. The board discussed the different operating systems: the Cargo Plus trailer offers a telescopic lift system for better load control. Eric Maginn moved and Paul Yoder seconded to accept quote from Cargo plus for \$15,210.00. Motion carried unanimously.
- C. Targets – The target insert order from February was finally received and will be held for next spring when targets are set again. Mary Franke asked permission from the board to bid/spend up to \$5000 on a pallet(s) of blemished targets in an upcoming online auction. The funds are already allocated in the 2022 budget. By purchasing blemished targets, we can receive them right away since they are ready to ship. Paul Yoder moved and Eric Maginn seconded to approve a blemished target purchase up to \$5000.00.
- D. Events/Programs – Leslie Arnold has included her monthly Naturalist reports for October and November for the board to review. Not so Spooky event went well and is planned to be repeated in 2022. The next major event will hopefully be Maple Syrup Days in March.
- E. Next Year’s Meetings – After discussion, the board members agreed to maintain the same schedule for 2022: the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm.
- F. Pay Claims before next public meeting – There is not another board meeting scheduled before the end of 2021. Any claims received in December will have to wait for approval and payment until the next scheduled board meeting on January 27, 2022.
- G. Other: Drinking Fountains – Existing drinking fountains in Delt are not ADA compliant. Mary Franke received three quotes for four new ADA compliant drinking fountains ranging from \$10,114.49 to \$10,699 total. Discussions from the last commissioners meeting has led to the possibility of purchasing bottle filler stations instead of drinking fountains. Drinking fountains have been closed for 2 years and many facilities do not plan to turn them back on and are replacing them with bottle fillers. After a brief discussion, it was decided to review the options and table any decision until the next meeting. Mary Franke will also collect three quotes for bottle filler stations for review at the next meeting.
- H. Other: Disc Golf Course – Chris Sluyter, maintenance technician, is looking for ways to fund and update the course at Delt Church Park. The staff is working on clearing paths, new markings, and looking for other ways to use the old Field Pavilion slab as a starting/gathering point for the disc golf course. Mary Franke asked permission from the board to apply for a \$10,000.00 grant from Parkview. Julia Wolheter moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve a grant application for \$10,000.00 from Parkview for improvements to the Disc Golf Course at Delt Church Park. Motion carried unanimously.
- I. Other: Intern – A Lakeland high school student, Cali Godlewski, is interested in being an intern with Leslie Arnold at Maple Wood next semester. It would be for 1.5 hours each afternoon, Monday- Friday, from February through May. Leslie Arnold has approved. After discussion, the board likes the idea but has decided to await approval until the next board meeting.

#### **CLAIMS:**

Eric Maginn moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to accept November claims as presented. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler

EW/ew