



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES

February 24, 2022 @ 7:00PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Richard Muntz,

MINUTES: Julia Wolheter moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project

1. Board signed bid contractual agreements for the following already approved bids:
Item 8A Interpretive Signs - Fossil Graphics \$2,237.00.
Item 9A Native Seed Mix – Mongo Seed \$9,326.00.
2. Richard Muntz confirmed that the board can choose to accept other bids received as they were sole bidders in their categories.
3. Paul Yoder moved and Eric Maginn seconded to accept the following bids:
Item 5A Restroom Materials/Lumber – Big C \$4,885.58.
Item 7A Signs Exterior HDPE Plastic – Clearview Routing \$320.00.
Motion carried

B. Delt Pavilion Project

Mary Franke and George DeWald have met with an engineer to design the new Delt pavilion plans. The board reviewed the contract from Anchor Construction, LLC for \$4,500.00. Agreement includes Architectural design, structural and foundation designs, fireplace design, and electrical and plumbing design. Richard Muntz reviewed and approved the contract from a legal standpoint. George DeWald, Park Superintendent, reviewed and approved the contract from building standpoint. Anchor Construction, LLC would submit designs to state for approval and provide the Park Dept with engineer and state stamped approved plans to use for bid packet. Anchor Design, LLC can have designs ready by mid-April for our approval, then plans are sent to the State for approval, which can take up to 5 weeks. Paul Baker motioned and Ardala Hepler seconded, to accept design contract agreement with Anchor Construction, LLC for \$4,500.00. Motion carried. The board signed the contract.

C. Maple Syrup Days

1. Maple Syrup School Tours are full – have nearly 1000 children scheduled to attend a syrup tour.
2. A Facebook Post announcing the Maple Syrup Days has reached over 9000 people.
3. Pancake Breakfast – Tables will be spaced around 75% capacity in comparison to past years. Julia Wolheter shared that the South Milford Lions Club decided on pricing: \$9/adult and \$4/child; and, that orders for sausage and pancake mix will be reduced in response to costs.
4. First run of sap was collected on Tuesday, February 22 with 950 gallons. Park staff boiled sap Tuesday through Thursday. Next week's weather looks ideal for a second sap collection.
5. The county employee pancake breakfast is planned for Wednesday, March 23rd, probably from 5:30 to 9am. Invitations will be sent out soon.

D. Drinking Fountains

The drinking fountains in the parks are not currently ADA compliant. The town is visiting our parks next Monday to check the ADA status of our facilities. The board discussed the option to replace current drinking fountains with combination fountain/bottle filler units so users have a choice on how to use. Quotes will be obtained and the possibility of using county ADA funds will be looked into.

E. Other

1. John Egli mentioned he might have a contact to have a trailer made for Naturalist, Leslie Arnold, to use for programs at different parks through the summer. They will discuss trailer design later.
2. Master Plan – no new progress at this time. Maple Syrup events have taken priority.
3. Delt Well – Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion for Mary Franke to request fund appropriations be transferred into an expense account to be used to pay for new well at Delt Church Park. Motion carried.
4. Amish event at Delt Church Park – There has been great interest and donations of money and services provided so far. Sherriff Department and Fire Department plan to be present with the Sherriff's dunk tank. A date will be set after a meeting with the LCYC.
5. Paul Baker asked if it were possible to have a QR code available at parks for people to scan and then have a multiple choice screen come up for them to select why they have visited the park. That may be a question for the IT department.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Goshen Health Fitness - Trail Signs

Goshen Hospital is applying for a grant to purchase nice permanent exterior trail signs with fitness activities to do. There are signs available for kids and adults. The kids' signs could be at Delt Church Park and the adult signs at Dallas Lake Park. The board discussed that this was a great idea; however, they would like to know if Parkview LaGrange Hospital would be interested in providing the signs in an effort to support local partnerships. Mary Franke will follow up with Parkview LaGrange.

B. Other

1. LaGrange County Together – Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 22 at the county fairgrounds to share was learned from previous meetings and research for the new county comprehensive plan. The reports are available to review online at lagrangecountytogether.org under reports and analysis. Mary Franke showed a couple maps & shared the positive response that the park dept. received.
2. Morley Athletic Supply Company – Mary Franke asked the board for approval to order the pads before the pricing increases, however, a shipping cost was not provided. Eric Maginn motioned and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve order from Morley Athletic Supply Company for new tee pads for \$1728.00 if shipping is less than \$650.00. Motion carried.
3. John Egli was approached --- has someone interested in using the open area in Delt Church Park for a volleyball tournament. There would be approximately 35 – 3 or 4 man teams. They would rent a pavilion (possibly the East River) and are willing to pay any event costs we have. They bring their own food, so no vendors are expected. This event happens once a year in August usually. After discussion, it was suggested that the person be directed to contact the park office to make arrangements to rent the facility.
4. The park board discussed the option to update our park board ordinance to reflect the changes the state has made. After discussion, the board would like to see the currently used park board ordinance side by side with what a revised version would be. John Egli requested from Richard Muntz to create a new park board ordinance to reflect the changes needed to update it to meet current state county park board items. When that is ready, the board will review and compare before making any revisions or approvals.

CLAIMS:

Paul Yoder moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve February docket claims as presented. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler

[EW/ew](#)