



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES

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

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

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

**MINUTES:** Paul Baker moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project

No new progress on building trails.

The board signed the previously approved bid form Fossil Graphics for Item 8A Interpretive Signs \$2,237.00.

B. Delt Pavilion Project

We are still waiting on plans from Anchor Construction, LLC.

The last estimate for the new pavilion is approximately \$200,000.

The property on Big Long Lake is slowly moving forward to be sold. The property owner has agreed to moving forward with the new pavilion to be named after family "Greenwood Pavilion". The County Commissioners will work with the Park Dept. to help fund expenses until the property is sold. There is discussion on offering sale first, to neighbors of the lot or to the lake association.

C. Maple Syrup Days

A report was shared with the Park Board showing the expenses and income to date.

Mary shared that there was a record number of children attend the school syrup tours this year.

D. Other Old Business

1. Drinking Fountain Combo – Quotes haven't been received yet.
2. Tee pads for Delt Disc Golf Course improvements were ordered yesterday, March 24, 2022. Nothing of concern for shipping costs.
3. Park ordinance: At last meeting, a request was made to compose a draft of a new Park Board Ordinance to reflect the State updates for County Park Boards – Richard Muntz hasn't prepared a new one for review, yet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Ranger Reserve

Randy Merrifield shared that Doug Leslie is interested in being a back-up Park Ranger. This position would be volunteer (NOT paid), would be sworn in with liability being with the Sheriff's Dept. Doug Leslie would cover when Randy Merrifield is on vacation and would accompany Randy Merrifield on occasion when circumstances require better security and safety. Doug Leslie is interested in the Ranger Position when the time comes for Randy Merrifield to retire. Paul Yoder moved and Paul Baker seconded to approve Doug Leslie for the above described position. Motion carried.

## B. Summer Staff

Summer staff positions have not been advertised yet. For lifeguards to work, a minimum of 5 are needed to offer safer working conditions and make a schedule work. With a maximum of \$11.98 /hour budgeted for lifeguard wages, it is not likely to attract enough applicants. Jim Sheffield expressed an interest in returning to be a beach attendant to provide a presence on Dallas Lake Beach on random days/times. Our spring intern, Cali Godlewski, would like to work for the park dept. this summer and is interested in becoming a lifeguard certified day camp assistant. Sam Plew, day camp director, is also interested in becoming lifeguard certified. We are still trying to find somewhere for lifeguard training. Julia Wolheter expressed an interest in advertising for swim instructors this year and try to do swim lessons again. We will advertise, will need at least 2 applicants to do lessons.

## C. Pine Knob Rental Rate

The current daily rental rate for Pine Knob is \$160.50. We have continual issues with the 50 cents – many people leave the 50 cents off and only pay \$160. The board discussed pricing to reflect an even number. After discussion, Paul Baker moved and Paul Yoder seconded to change the Pine Knob daily rental fee to \$200.00 to be effective immediately for newly scheduled rentals of Pine Knob Clubhouse. Motion carried.

## D. Events

Mary passed around a preliminary flyer sharing proposed event and asked for board approval/support. Mary will also ask for approval from the Commissioners at their next meeting.  
“LaGrange County Connecting with Youth” event with LCYC is planned for Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 10am to 2pm at Delt Church Park. This will be for kids 6<sup>th</sup> grade and older.  
A Food Vendor is committed to charging for food only and donate their time – estimate \$1000 for up to 500 people. Activities provided would be volleyball, disc golf, cornhole, etc. Those who confirmed attending: Sherriff’s Dept. with K-9 and dunk tank, Topeka Police, Topeka Fire Dept., Conservation Officer with K-9, Sam Plew with bird watching, Leslie with guided nature walks. REMC is tentative to be present with lift truck and offer bucket rides – Kathy Hopper is checking insurance/liability concerns. The Bowen Center is donating \$6000 to the event costs. We would be asking for donations and door prize items. Mary will check if the “Garage” in LaGrange was included in the event. Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Baker seconded to approve and support the “LaGrange County Connecting with Youth” event at Delt Church Park. Motion carried.

Claims – shared what a few of the claims consisted of.

1. Noble Maple – 350 gallons of syrup for Maple Syrup Days. 35 gallons used for breakfast and will be reimbursed by the South Milford Lions. The rest was bottled and sold.
2. Miracle Recreation Equipment – Slide ends, swings, and additional playground parts and hardware for repairs of playground and Delt Church Park.
3. Recreation Insites – Playground replacements for Tipi Carousel and Spica at the Delt Church Park Playground.

Paul Yoder moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve March docket claims as presented. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler

EW/ew