



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
October 28, 2021
7:00PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

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

MINUTES: Bob Arnold moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project – The crew has been working on the bridge beams this week. Next week, they plan to work on the decking and railing for the bridge. It doesn't look like the entire trail will be done this fall as we were hoping. The crew will continue to work on as weather permits. The next bid packet for the project will be put together soon, which will include the pavilion and restroom.
- B. Delt Well – Mary Franke shared that she will be getting 3 quotes for a new well at Delt Church Park. The current well is 34' deep and was installed in 1993; and, has received positive results for E.Coli during August and September this year, even after 2 chlorine treatments. Requirements for a new well will be confirmed before asking for quotes. It was recommended during discussion that we ask for at least a 100' deep well and to check the minimum diameter size. It was suggested that Sanderson and Graber be asked for quotes during the process. Board agrees a new well is necessary.
- C. Delt Pavilion – The heir of the previous property owners sounds promising for releasing the property to be sold. Once formally approved, the property will be appraised and sold at auction. The money will be given to the Parks Department to be used for construction of new Delt pavilion and be named "Greenwood Pavilion" in honor of the family. The process will take a while. Terry Martin offered possibilities to find funds to allow the project to begin before the property sale is final. Mary Franke is meeting with Jason Boggs on Monday to review the bid/quoting process for the new pavilion. The board asked when demo would begin on the old pavilion. Plans are to remove it yet this year, before snow collects. The Park Dept. plans to disassemble/cut down and drag material to a spot in the park where it can be burned without damage to surroundings.
- D. Other – Mary Franke updated the board on the status of equipment orders made earlier this year. The archery targets and slide parts are still not here. Both companies anticipate delivery before the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Electronic Meeting Ordinance – Mary Franke presented a draft to the board, of a resolution that could be edited and adopted for park board meetings. Richard Muntz suggested a couple changes in verbage and limits on electronic meeting attendance. Needs to be confirmation on whether there needs to be a video presence or just by phone. Bob Arnold suggested tabling until more information is gathered and confirmed. Richard Muntz will look into details.
- B. 2023-2027 Master Plan – It’s time for a new Master Plan. The county is doing theirs now, so we can use some of the information for a portion of ours. Region 3 did the last Master Plan for \$15,000 and the time before, a separate company charged \$30,000. The board was not impressed with the results in relation to the fees. Discussion about the Park Department writing the Master Plan this time. The board suggested getting quotes to know what the rates would be. Bob Arnold offered to meet with Mary Franke and talk about what is needed for a Master Plan. They will schedule a time.
- C. Donations – Randy Merrifield (Ranger) has asked for pavilion rental at Delt to use as a door prize at the Cove for an Amish gathering of about 400 kids. Mary Franke has checked with Kathy Hopper (Auditor) for possibility. Kathy Hopper is checking with the State Board of Accounts and hasn’t heard a response yet. Discussion led to waiting for Kathy Hopper’s response before exploring other options.
- D. Pickle Ball Courts – Mary Franke shared a public inquiry about installing pickleball courts within the county park system. After board discussion, the decision is no at this time.
- E. Events/Programs – Not So Scary Trail: Event was successful and had positive response. Thursday brought around 50 people and Friday brought about 90 people. The Park Dept. plans to do this event next year, but will need to look for sponsors and donations to keep the event free and still cover expenses. The horseman cost \$600 for the time they were there. Donation buckets were set out without much response.
- F. November/December Meeting – After discussion, the next meeting will be December 2, 2021. We will also do an end of year claim docket, without a meeting, so vendors don’t have to wait until end of January for payment. Decision was to cancel the Christmas Party this year.
- G. Other – Mary Franke is attending the IPRA conference next week in Muncie.

CLAIMS:

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler

EW/ew