



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES

May 26, 2022 7:00PM  
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

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

**MINUTES:** Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project

No new progress this past month. The summer staff will be starting next week. Trail work will continue after summer staff begins.

B. Delt Pavilion Project

We are still waiting for revised complete plans from the architect. Hope to receive estimate next week.

C. Drinking Fountains

Have not collected quotes yet. Discussed the option of one that is a bi-level fountain with bottle filler and pet water.

NOTE: No water source available at Delt Church Park as we wait for Sanderson Well Drilling and permits from IDEM to install the new well. Have not received a response back from Sanderson Well Drilling for a progress report.

D. Summer Employment -- Ranger Reserve

The Assistant Ranger position is becoming a bit more complicated than we thought. Doug Leslie cannot volunteer since he is a full-time employee of the Sheriff's Dept. He already works overtime for the Sheriff's Dept which would result in an hourly wage of \$16.80/hour for us to pay him when he works for the Parks Dept. This would allow him to work a max of 10 hours per week / 150 hours per year.

E. Summer Youth Program at Delt

There was a meeting yesterday afternoon. The event is getting larger – now we are having fly-over airplanes and parachutes landing in the park. Randy passed out event flyers to Amish kids at Delt Church Park today while they were there for Ascension Day.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. 2023 Budget

Fund 1219 – Wages are prefilled with a “standard” 3% increase. Cost of living has increased 8.5%. Increased budget lines for gas – Board discussed a higher increase, maybe up to \$30,000.

Increased budget lines for water testing, security systems, hardware & tools, utilities, truck repairs, and building repairs. Prices for materials are rising.

Vehicles & Capital Purchases are no longer in our budget. Those purchases will come out of the Commissioner's Budget – entered requests for new vehicle, salt spreader, and track steer working platform. Board suggested increasing vehicle amount due to quickly increasing prices.

Fund 1179 Non-Reverting – Not many changes. Increased budget lines for Maple Syrup Festival, archery targets, and picnic tables. We have several aging picnic tables to replace. Added a budget line for new alarm systems.

Fund 4906 – This is mainly for Day Camp expenses. Increased budget lines for supplies.

Statement of Salaries – These come prefilled (1179, 1219, and 4906) with the standard 3% increase. Did request a new, third full-time Maintenance Tech position. This request is based on receiving less help from the county juvenile community service program.

The 2023 budget needs to be submitted to the Auditor by June 10, 2022 in time for the Council Meeting the following week. Paul Baker moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to present the budget with the above suggested changes. Motion carried.

B. Delt Church Park Driveway

Mary Franke received a quote of 80 cents per gallon, which estimates nearly \$1500.00 to spray the circle portion of the driveway. It would be more to spray the entrance drive.

C. Programs

Leslie Arnold set up a table at Delt Church Park for Ascension Day. She had a matching game with animal furs with skulls.

D. Other

1. Delt Disc Golf Course – The tee pads and baskets are set. We have had positive response from players. We are working on completing the signs to order soon.
2. Power Wagon – received replacement already. Will be well used when trail work begins.
3. Naturalist Car – Accident repairs are complete and car is returned. We paid \$2000.00 deductible from our budget.
4. Park Entrance Signs – Visitors Bureau has set aside \$2500.00 in their budget for the Parks Dept. It was originally set up to help with Maple Syrup Days. (We didn't know) But, it can be used for signage. Mary Franke showed some examples for entrance sign options. They are recycled plastic. We would replace entrance signs at Delt and Dallas Parks. We will get some color samples from Clearview Routing before making a choice.
5. Park Attorney – Board discussed the decision to move forward with discontinuing services provided by Richard Muntz, and to consolidate legal services under the umbrella of the LaGrange County Attorney. This is in an effort to streamline finances and to begin the process of restructuring the Park Board. John Egli will draft a letter to notify Richard Muntz of the Board's decision. We are grateful to Richard Muntz for legal service provided while he served as Park Board Attorney, since 2015. Eric Maginn moved and Julia Wolhete seconded a motion to discontinue services with Attorney Richard Muntz and consolidate and seek legal services, when needed, with the Attorney of LaGrange County. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler

EW/ew