



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES

January 26, 2023 7:00 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Bob Arnold

Public Input Meeting: Master Plan Presentation

Park Director Mary Franke presented the draft of the 2023-2027 Park Master Plan. One person, Bob Arnold, attended as the public forum. Mr. Arnold's feedback was positive.

Regular Board Meeting:

MINUTES: Eric Maginn moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

Election of 2023 Board Officers:

Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to retain the current officers. Motion carried. President: John Egli; Vice-President: Eric Maginn; Secretary: Ardala Hepler.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Delt Pavilion Project

Mary Franke shared the current list of change orders sent from Shetler Construction totaling \$7,277.00. This included the addition of buildouts for the roll down panels and moving the restroom building further away which increased concrete price. Jonathon Shetler will have another list to share deductions made as some items were reduced. Mary Franke shared photos of progress. Paul Yoder moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to accept change orders. Motion carried.

B. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project

The trail is complete and was opened to the public on December 19. The pavilion kit is coming next week and will be installed after Maple Syrup Days. Chris Sluyter is planning a trail opening ribbon cutting for April 22 which will include a 5k fun run/walk.

C. Master plan

The Master Plan draft is now available to the public for comment for 2 weeks.

D. 2023 Board Meeting Schedule

Paul Baker moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to move the park board meeting to the third Thursday of each month. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Dallas Lake Annual Pass

The board discussed options for the money post at Dallas Lake Park and the possibility of installing a donation box(es) at Delt Church Park for firewood and/or disc golf baskets.

B. Seasonal positions

Sam Plew will only lead Adventure Bound this summer. Park Naturalist, Leslie Arnold, will lead By Gone Days and Nature Bound and assist LCYC with a Conservation Camp.

A seasonal naturalist will be added to be available at Maple Wood and lead programs while Leslie Arnold is at day camp. The Swim Instructor position was modified to include lifeguard training to be day camp lifeguard. Julia Wolhete moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the 2 new job descriptions. Motion carried.

C. Alarm System Quote

Mary Franke presented a quote from Tech Solutions, who carries the county contract.

Quote is \$14,776.65. Julia Wolhete moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve quote. Motion carried.

D. 2022 Annual report

A copy of the annual report was given to each board meeting to view.

E. Maple Syrup Days

Will be installing 20 taps on a hose system this year to try process.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Memorial Bench Application: an application for a memorial bench was received.

B. Received a grant from National Wild Turkey Federation to purchase fire safety equipment for maintenance staff to wear during controlled burns. \$2,341.00

C. Archery target auctions: target supplier hasn't had any auctions yet.

D. Pine Knob: scattered some limestone on old boardwalk surfaces – can be slippery in winter.

E. Maple Wood Trail: discussed what trail portions would be compatible for bicycles. Bicycles would not be allowed on Acres property.

F. Mary Franke will follow up with attorneys for motorized/ebike trail policy and progress on new park ordinance.

CLAIMS:

Paul Yoder moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve January 26, 2023 docket claims. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler

EW/ew