



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES

February 16, 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, Steve McKowen

MINUTES: Paul Yoder moved and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Delt Pavilion Project
Shetler Construction is still on schedule. The pavilion is almost done and restrooms are being started.
- B. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project
Pavilion supplies have been received. Romtec materials are on the way. The maintenance staff will begin installation after Maple Syrup Days.
- C. Master plan
Mary sent draft to DNR for review. May be a month before a response is received.
- D. Alarm System
The system was ordered from Tech Solutions, who is contracted for the county service plan. Installation is delayed while waiting for electronic parts.
- E. Maple Syrup Days
So far, 4825 gallons of sap has been collected, 63.25 gallons of syrup made. Syrup have been golden and amber finishes. New this year, 50 taps have been connected to a hose/pump system. This system has yielded 30% more syrup than typical drip.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Soarin hawk raptors
Leslie Arnold is working on the possibility of housing a screech owl for public programs. Will work on budget needed for food, vet bills, & housing needs. Earliest would be spring 2024.
- B. Fun time kayak rentals
Mary Franke presented an idea for provided another recreational activity to the public. A kayak vending machine – self operating with QR code, credit card, charged from time kayak removed and returned. Can set rental charge. Start up cost is \$3500/kayak, minimum of 4 kayaks for total of \$14,500 start up costs. Covers 5 years service. Profits are split 50-50. Kayak company carries all liability and insurance, provides installation, and all repairs/replacements. Questions included: power source need? Where to install? Concrete pad install/cost? Board discussed. No decision made at this time.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Board and Director discussed procedures of purchasing property in the future.

CLAIMS:

Paul Baker moved and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve February 16, 2023 docket claims. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Wolfe, for Ardala Hepler
EW/ew