



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

November 21, 2023 7:00 PM

Maple Wood Nature Center

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

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

**MINUTES:** Paul Baker moved, and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

**CLAIMS:**

Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve November 2023 docket claims. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Tetrick Property

Mary Franke will travel to Indianapolis on December 12 to give a presentation for the grant application process.

B. 2024 Fee schedule

Fee changes included some rental increases and offering an educational rental option with restrictions. The existing Dallas Lake Park gate entry fee has been eliminated and a new Dallas Lake Park Beach fee is added. Paul Baker moved, and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the proposed fee changes. Motion carried. Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-11-21 to amend fees for parks and park facilities to be effective on January 1, 2024. Motion carried.

C. Rogers Park

- Mary Franke spoke with someone interested in the cabin repairs. He will call back to discuss rates. Fort Wayne Parks did receive Mary's request and will share with their resource.

- Paul Baker shared that the pavilion at David Rogers Park has been removed. In the spring, Paul Baker will prepare the remaining concrete surface to use as a pickleball court. We will need to get a net.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. ARPA Projects

There are still funds available. Mary Franke shared a list of possible projects to be presented as options. The Board discussed options of priority for Mary Franke to pursue.

B. Director's Report

1. The maintenance staff has worked to rebuild and replace materials for the syrup evaporator. New syrup pan, firebox, firebrick, and gaskets.
2. Mary Franke attended the IPRA conference last week in Fort Wayne.
3. The new Event Planner/Nature Interpreter, Daniel Schelinski, starts next Wednesday.

C. Window Quotes

George DeWald received quotes to replace windows in the park office. Julia Wolheter moved, and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve an allowance of up to \$4000 to purchase replacement windows. Motion carried.

D. Barn Quilts

The LaGrange County Convention and Visitor's Bureau is expanding the barn quilt trail as a tourist attraction. Emily Wolfe submitted 5 applications for our 5 larger county parks. So far, they have been approved.

E. Next Year's meeting Dates/December meeting

The Board agreed to keep 2024 monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The Board planned this year's December meeting for December 21, 2023.

F. Director Salary Approval

John Egli, Park Board President, approved and signed the proposed 2024 Director Salary.

G. Action Plan

Mary Franke included a copy of the new Action Plan from the new 5-year master plan. The Board used the list to help prioritize projects to present for ARPA funds.

**ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:**

- A. Mary Franke shared the status of year end funds and offered options and a wish list item for discussion. Will be discussed further next month.

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