



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
December 21, 2023 7:00 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

PRESENT: John Egli, Ardala Hepler, Paul Baker, Pery Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Emily Wolfe, Randy Merrifield, Terry Martin

MINUTES: Paul Baker moved, and Ardala Hepler seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Tetrick Property

Mary Franke traveled to Indianapolis on December 12 to give a presentation for the DNR grant application process. We were awarded the funding. We also received \$20,000 grant from LaGrange County Community Foundation towards grant match. We are still waiting for response from Cole Foundation application. Attorney office is working on paperwork.

B. Rogers Park

- Mary Franke spoke with a company who will examine and recommend a plan for repair and maintenance for a \$1,200.00 inspection fee. It is a private company from Michigan. Mary Franke has not received feedback from any other contacts.

C. ARPA Projects

There are still funds available. Mary Franke shared a revised list of three items. The list was discussed and was suggested to submit fund request as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Ranger's Report

Randy Merrifield shared a year-end status report of types of calls for 2023. Randy Merrifield also shared that grant funds have been received to help with the 2024 Delt Youth event and summer day camp.

B. Director's Report

1. Pery Miller is our new board member. He will be completing the term of Paul Yoder.
2. Park Purchase Requests: Mary Franke shared a list of items that can be purchased with remaining 2023 funds. Items include: New disc golf baskets (all funds have been raised or donated); New windows for the Dallas Lake Lodge; Azek materials for replaced the

deck on South River Pavilion; treated lumber materials to replace tractor bridge at Dallas Lake Park; and, supplies to refinish porch ceiling on Dallas Lake Lodge. Ardala Hepler moved, and Perry Miller seconded a motion to approve above purchases. Motion carried.

3. Mary Franke shared that she and George DeWald visited each park property to create a list of priorities for 2024.
4. George Dewald and maintenance staff finished the add-on room on Maple Wood Nature Center. Final inspection has been completed and passed.
5. Daniel Schelinsky has been busy meeting community members. He has been completing previously scheduled school visits. Daniel is also planning to bring back "Wilderness Bound" day camp. He will be looking into the necessary details to make that happen as well as possible funding and/or sponsors.
6. Mary Franke has been talking with REMC about getting the new broadband internet at the office and nature center. It could happen as early as January 2024.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Paul Baker asked about plans for Duff Memorial Park. Currently Blue Heron is doing restorative work there. The board discussed future possibilities.

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