LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES
September 19, 2024 7:00 PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

PRESENT: John Egli, Eric Maginn, Julia Wolheter, Paul Baker

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Terry Martin, Emily Wolfe

MINUTES: Paul Baker moved, and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2024, meeting. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:
Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve September 2024 docket claims. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. 2025 Budget:
Mary Franke shared that the County Council will approve the 2025 Budget at the next council meeting. Board discussed employee wage changes.

B. Delt Drive Project:
Mary Franke shared that the county attorney learned that the state has new requirements for insurance coverage for public works projects. Hostetler Concrete met those requirements and was awarded the project.

C. Maple Wood Siding Quotes
Mary Franke shared materials estimate for new siding for the Maple Wood Nature Center totaling $7,195.61. Will use remaining ARPA park funds to finance. Paul Baker moved, and Eric Maginn seconded amotion to approve purchase. Motion carried.

D. Tetrick Property
Mary Franke has received paperwork from DNR for purchase. The County Attorney office is reviewing. Once accepted, they will be ready to sign. Paul Yoder moved, and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to accept forms subject to attorney approval and to approve permission for Park Board President, John Egli, to sign needed forms outside of a scheduled board meeting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Truck Quotes
Daniel Schelinski hit a deer with park vehicle resulted in total loss of vehicle. Mary Franke has received insurance money and will wait until end of year to see what funds are left to add to it for a new vehicle purchase.

B. Christmas Light Display
Park staff is exploring the idea of a Christmas Light Display for Delt Church Park. Dan Schelinski will meet with the Visitors Bureau to discuss how they can help.

C. Director's Report
1. Hawpatch Trail – Board discussed possible future maintenance responsibilities. Terry Martin shared the maintenance schedule and equipment used on the LaGrange County portion of the Pumpkinvine Trail.
2. Youth Event – this Saturday at Dallas Lake Park from 10-1
3. Art in the Park – next Saturday at Dallas Lake Park.
4. Mindfulness Trail – 8 signs were installed along Maple Wood trail. Ribbon-cutting is October 5 at 9am.
5. Mary Franke applied for a grant from the Department of Health to offer free swim lessons in 2025. Decision will be made later this year.
6. Mary Franke applied for a grant from the Native Plant Society for native plant seed to restore a portion at David Rogers Memorial Park. Waiting for decision.
7. Pickleball Court at David Rogers Park - Randy Merrifield has watched a group of Amish boys playing tournaments. We are glad the court is used and enjoyed.
8. Delt Church Park Playground Equipment – More equipment needs replaced totaling nearly $7000. Mary Franke is looking at available grants to help cover costs.
9. Dallas Lake Park Well – Still waiting for permit from the State. May not get done before it freezes and water would need to be turned off for winter.

ANY AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS:

A. Go Foundation Event – Go Foundation representatives shared how this year's event went with over 170 registrants for the fun run and nearly 120 walking the luminary walk. Go Foundation asked the park board for approval to hold the event next year on September 13, 2025. Julia Wolheter moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve the Go Foundation Event Application for 9.13.2025. Motion carried. Board signed application.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Wolfe
EW/ew