



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

December 19, 2024 7:00 PM

Maple Wood Nature Center

PRESENT: John Egli, Julia Wolheter, Eric Maginn, Paul Baker, Perry Miller, Michael Holcomb

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

MINUTES: Eric Maginn moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the **November 21, 2024**, meeting. Motion carried.

CLAIMS:

Paul Baker moved, and Michael Holcomb seconded a motion to approve **December 2024** docket claims. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Tetrick Property

Mary Franke received resolution from attorney office. Paul Baker moved, and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to accept resolution. Motion carried. The next step may take up to 90 days for DNR offices to approve and sign before closing begins.

B. Trail of Lights

Mary Franke shared numbers received so far from the coffee station. Gave away 200 beverage cups on Friday, December 13 and 550 beverage cups on Saturday, December 14. Total donations for the two days was just over \$2000. The rope counters will offer total numbers on Monday.

C. Agley Property

Property on east side of Cedar Lake between lake and our Cedar Lake Fen property. Central Indiana Land Trust is trying to buy property for Indiana DNR. They will hold until DNR can get funds to buy from Land Trust. DNR then wants to give to LaGrange County Parks to manage for endangered species habitat. The board discussed the time and expense that would entail in the future. Julia Wolheter moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to table decision until more information is received regarding our potential full expectations of managing the property. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Truck Quote

Three quotes were requested, Harold's, Shepherd's, and Burnsworth. Only received one quote back, from Shephard's. New 2024 Chevy Silverado 1500 will be purchased as a result of Equinox being totaled. Park Superintendent will be assigned the new truck. Events Planner will be assigned a truck from the fleet to replace the totaled car. Mike Holcomb moved, and Paul Baker seconded a motion to approve truck quote. Motion carried

B. Park Ranger Annual Report

Randy Merrifield, Park Ranger, was present to introduce Tim Cleveland, new Assistant Park Ranger. Randy Merrifield shared his 2024 annual report of park incidents.

C. Director's Report

- Dallas Well – Permits have been received. Waiting on schedule from Sanderson's and must send notice to state at least 10 days in advance of installation date.
- Asset Plan – Mary is working on compiling a complete list of asset and life span.
- 2025 Plan – Mary is working on a list of goals/projects to set for 2025 completion
- Ardala's bench – For the moment it is placed on the trail at Delt for Trail of Lights.
- Alarm system – The county is moving to a different security company beginning in the new year. The jail will be done first, then town buildings, then park system will be switched. The current system has been challenging and frustrating at times.
- Director 2025 Salary – Paul Baker moved, and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the Park Director's raise for 2025. Motion carried.

Merry Christmas

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Wolfe
EW/ew