



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
June 24, 2021
7:00PM
Maple Wood Nature Center

PRESENT: Bob Arnold, John Egli, Paul Yoder, Julia Wolheter, Eric Maginn

ALSO PRESENT: Mary Franke, Richard Muntz, Emily Wolfe, Terry Martin, Steve Engleking

MINUTES: Paul Yoder moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the May 27, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mike Metz Fen LWCF Project - Boardwalk installation has started. There is over 600' built already. Some days, the crew have put down 100'. Summer crew is doing great. We are pleased with how hard this young summer crew is working.
2. ADA Projects – Kitchens in Dallas Lodge and Pine Knob Learning Center are complete. Concrete pad is complete at Maple Wood. ADA tactile mats are installed at Delt Church Park. Pit Toilet at Rogers Park is started. We are still waiting on material to complete the railing at Dallas Lodge
3. 2022 Budget – Reviewed printed proposed budget for 2022. This reflects a 3% increase for most lines in funds 1219 and 1179. Some lines reflect a higher increase such as the repair fund since more playground repairs are becoming necessary. The gas fund for trucks was discussed due to increased gas prices, and agreed with the increase reflected in the proposed budget. Eric Maginn moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve the proposed 2022 budget as printed and submit to county for approval. Motion carried.
4. Track Steer – Quote so far is \$70,000 without a grapple hook. Discussed different options to find funding for this piece of needed equipment.
5. Dallas Beach – As shared in the last meeting, Randy and area officers made several arrests and issued tickets at Dallas Beach last month. This month, 2 no trespassing bans were issued at Dallas Lake Park. This ban applies to all LaGrange County Parks. Jim Sheffield was hired as our waterfront director to monitor Dallas Lake Park Beach this summer. Clarification was given that this is not an authorized security position. Jim requested permission to carry a handgun while working on the beach – he will need to take a LaGrange County approved handgun training course.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Delt Driveway – Several complaints from users at Delt Church Park about dust from traffic. Paving is estimated to be \$75,000. Dust Control with calcium chloride treatment is estimated to be \$3500. Discussed using dust control method this year and look for funding to pave the drive at Delt Church Park in the future. Julia Wolheter moved and Eric Maginn seconded a motion to approve the dust control method this summer at Delt Church Park. Motion carried.

2. Music in the Park – We have a concert scheduled for July 19th at Dallas Lake Park Sweetgum Pavilion. We would like to find a food truck to be present at the same time. Discussed waiving the Special Events Food Truck fees for Park Sponsored Events. Discussed the option of matching what other organizations do in LaGrange County and charge a flat 15% of gross income for food trucks if we waive the Special Events fees. Our goal going forward for the rest of this year and the future is to schedule a band and food truck for one night a month in the summers. Bob Arnold moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to charge food trucks a flat fee, 15% of gross income, and waive the Special Events Food Truck fees for Park Sponsored Events. We will need to revise the Special Events form to include this payment fee option.
3. Food Truck Wars - After discussion, it was decided to focus on the Music in the Park events.
4. Halloween – Beginning to discuss ideas for a fall event at Maple Wood around Halloween. Possibly a horse drawn hay ride, maybe some haunted areas, campfires, costume contest, trick or treating, simple food. Will further discuss an event name and dates and contact vendors to check for availability.
5. Other – Dekko Grant – Working on a Dekko Grant application for funding the new Logan Field Pavilion Project at Delt Church Park. Will also apply for grant moneys from REMC and LCCF in the fall for additional funding for the pavilion project. Discussed options of county funds that may be available to help fund this project, too.
6. Other – First Aid Training – Many of the staff attended First Aid / CPR Training. During the inspection of our First Aid Training Box, it was discovered that our AED device does not operate properly. Parkview Health has a program that will pay for a new one for us. Mary Franke is filling out the request form for 2 AED devices. If there are funds left at the end of the year, we could receive the second one that we would like to keep at Maple Wood Nature Center.
7. Other -- Day Camp Director – First choice Melinda Renfrow accepted and later declined. Second choice Autumn Wolfe accepted and declined just last week. Mary Franke asked Kyle Burchett and Casie Shoemaker to be Co-Directors of this year’s summer day camp. They both accepted the opportunity and are excited. Sam Plew is prepping them. We are confident they will do a great job.
8. Other -- DNR Flood Map – Julia Wolheter presented information about the DNR changing flood maps. There was discussion on how or if that would affect the Park’s ongoing and upcoming projects.

CLAIMS:

Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to accept June claims as presented. Motion carried. Signatures were collected on the bottom of the two page claim docket.

Respectfully Submitted,
Emily Wolfe, sitting in for Ardala Hepler
EW/ew