



LAGRANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES
January 23, 2020
7:00PM

PRESENT: Julia Wolheter, Mark Thompson, Paul Yoder, Bob Arnold, & Ardala Hepler

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Metz, Thom Miller, George DeWald, Leslie Arnold, Richard Muntz, Bill Connelly

MINUTES: Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Bob Arnold called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS:

USFWS Fen Project- The board is to appoint appraisers. James Larimer own 3.5 acres. John Larimer/Lord's seed is to do a survey on their tract.

Appraisers are Jerry Stanner (Stanner Appraisal Service) and Steph Young (Caldwell Appraisals).

Mark Thompson moved and Julia Wolheter seconded motion to accept the two above appraisers. Motion carried. County council must approve also.

Duff Lake LWCF approved by the state. We are still waiting on federal approval.

Park Director: A letter of formal resignation was presented by Mike Metz. He served 36 years. The new director, Thom Miller is to start next week.

Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to regretfully accept Mike Metz's resignation as of 1/31/20. Motion carried.

Rogers' fence: Melvin Troyer spent \$5,518 on a fence and asked us to pay half. Per Richard Muntz, he will be checking this out. George DeWald is to check the price on what type of fence we would have approved of.

Atwood Lake Beach: Decks are going bad. An old tree fell and destroyed all of the deck.

Options are:

1. Replace decks and stairs (\$4,500-\$5,500)
2. Plastic ramps and piers to make it accessible (\$50,000)
3. Receive a small grant to remove permanently and clean up area.

Ardala Hepler moved and Mark Thompson seconded a motion to adopt option 3. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The same officers will be kept.

Mark Thompson moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to this. Motion carried.

Annual report: Mike gave report on various developments for 2019. Leslie Arnold also described various programs she organized for the year. The year 2020 sounds so promising. An Annual Report folder was presented to each board member and all those present.

Bob Arnold moved and Julia Wolheter seconded a motion to accept the 2019 Annual Report. Motion carried.

A SOGL grant for \$270,000 has been applied for. We need to supply a match to receive this.

Archery target quote: Rinehart Targets -\$4,501.98

Mark Thompson moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to accept the above quote. Motion carried.

Other: Blue Heron is to do various jobs.

\$3,000 to burn

\$6,000 for invasive work.

Julia Wolheter moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to pay Blue Heron as per above. Motion carried.

Board meeting dates: Mr. Muntz is to check to see if claims could be approved electronically before our fourth Thursday meeting dates.

The next meeting is February 13, 2020. Following months will be determined later.

Other: The final check for the \$108,000, plus a little extra, from The Conservation Fund Grant, has been received and spent.

Bob Arnold moved and Paul Yoder seconded a motion to change the name of Duff Lake Fen to Mike Metz Fen. Motion carried!!!

Claims-Paul Yoder moved and Mark Thompson seconded motion to approve the claims as presented, except for the one to Melvin Troyer for the cost of the fence. Motion carried.

The next meeting is February 13, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ardala Hepler

AH/mf