

La Porte County Park Board Meeting

June 6, 2023 Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

- Present: Amanda Nebelung, Jim Holifield, Erin Lozano, Mike King, Mary Komenas, Ron Knickrehm, Mary Nell Murphy
- Absent: None
- Guests: ALCO TV

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- One change to the agenda: Jeremy added an item under new business-the approval of the 2024 budget request to the County Council
- Mary Nell made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Erin. Motion carried 7-0.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- No changes, corrections, or additions to the minutes from May 9, 2023 meeting.
- Mary moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Erin. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Changes on the finance report:
- Jim made a motion to accept the financial report; seconded by Amanda. Motion passed 7-0.

VII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

A. Administrative Report

- Status update on restrooms at Creek Ridge
 - ❖ Permits have been granted and are in hand for the septic and electrical for the septic system.
 - ❖ Vault toilets have been removed; the site is prepped to begin moving forward with this project!
- Jeremy also mentioned the Native Seed Library project and intern (former Park Dept. gardener, Bekah Novak) working on it, labeling plants and collecting seeds.
 - ❖ This program has potential for raising awareness, and possibly revenue for the Parks Dept. and/or the Park Foundation.
- Website overhaul update: Sera Group will be doing the web page.

- B. Maintenance & Construction Report
- C. Program Report
- D. Park Counts

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- A. Executive Committee: Ron and Jim
 - No report
- B. Budget Committee: Erin and Mary
 - 2024 budget request update
 - ❖ Mary reviewed the potential budget for 2024.
 - ❖ Jeremy will be requesting an overall increase of 12% based on our current usage, inflation, and anticipated changes.
 - ❖ Erin pointed out that all requests for increases in the 2024 budget are reasonable requests.
- C. Personnel Committee: Erin and Mary
 - No report
- D. Property Committee: Mike and Mary Nell
 - Update on possible Bluhm expansion
 - ❖ There was a meeting today; a price agreement was made.
 - ❖ Jeremy does not anticipate having to ask for any additional funding for this project at all.
 - ❖ Possible 10-year maintenance plan/budget through the DNR
- E. Planning Committee: Amanda and Mary Nell
 - No report.
- F. Rules Committee: Amanda and Mike
 - Smoking in County Parks—Continued discussion
 - ❖ Technically, the ordinance is already in place: **NO SMOKING** on county property.
 - ❖ It would be very difficult to enforce.
 - ❖ We need to decide what course of action to pursue: signage?
 - ❖ Jeremy will discuss this with Greg Coulter (Tobacco Program Coordinator) as to possible suggestions and report back at next meeting.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

- Smoking in County Parks

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Approve 2024 budget request to be submitted by Jeremy to County Council.

- ❖ Mary Nell made a motion, seconded by Amanda, to grant approval for Jeremy to submit the 2024 budget request. Motion passed 7-0.
- Request to go before County Council for additional appropriations for 2023.
 - i. \$1,000.00 in Office Supplies 1000.20001.000.0155
 - ii. \$2,500.00 in Equipment Repair 1000.30012.000.0155
 - iii. NTE \$37,000.00 for new 40 HP tractor to replace 25-year-old Kubota
 - ❖ Mary made a motion, seconded by Amanda, for Jeremy to request additional funds for 2023 budget in above accounts. Motion passed 7-0.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comments.

XII. BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS

- No additional comments.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Erin. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned.