

La Porte County Park Board Meeting

March 5, 2024 at 5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Ron called the meeting to order at 5:00

ROLL CALL:

- Present: Amanda Nebelung, Mike King, Mary Nell Murphy, Jim Holifield, Ron Knickrehm, Mary Komenas
- Absent: Nick Landers
- Guests: ALCO TV, April Messacar, Joe Haney, Dawson Berry, Shawn Snyder, and Shawn's mom
- No ZOOM attendees

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- Mary made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Amanda. Motion carried 6-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting; seconded by Mike; motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- No public comment

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Jeremy pointed out that our **Building Repair & Maintenance** account is already depleted due to the fact that we purchased electric hand dryers for all park restrooms. This was a big expense, but will end up paying for itself in savings on paper towel purchases which is also a big expense, but recurs every year; whereas this purchase of hand dryers will eliminate that yearly expense.
- Jeremy also pointed out that several account numbers have been changed by the Auditor's Office.
- Mary Nell made a motion to accept the financial reports; seconded by Mary; motion carried 6-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

1. Administrative Report

- Jeremy handed out copies of the 2023 Annual Report
- 2023 Annual Park Service Award presentation
 - Organization of the Year presented to Pet Supplies Plus, Shawn Snyder
 - Volunteer of the Year presented to Dawson Berry

- Outstanding Park Service Award presented to Don Fuller
- Bluhm DNR project update
 - This project is still in motion. Jeremy has a meeting on Thursday (3/7/24) with the DNR and the Landowner to iron out some last details.
 - Jeremy has full confidence that both sides really want to see this happen, but want to make sure all parties are satisfied with the final result.

2. Maintenance & Construction Report

- No questions or comments

3. Program Report

- Ron commented that he “really” enjoyed the night hikes that he has participated in. He thinks everyone should go to one of those.
- He also added that April and Cara are doing an outstanding job.
- Jeremy told everyone to check out our latest Naturally Speaking newsletter, which shows all our upcoming programs.

4. Park Counts

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Executive Committee: Ron and Jim

- No report

2. Budget Committee: Nick and Mary

- No report

3. Personnel Committee: Nick and Mary

- No report

4. Property Committee: Mike and Mary Nell

- Hunt Lake property update (Rolling Prairie Highway Dept. base)
 - County Commissioners are working on making this property transfer happen. The paperwork process is underway.

5. Planning Committee: Amanda and Mary Nell

- Dept. of Health Trail-Planning Grant update
 - We did receive the grant!
 - Jeremy will be meeting with Mitch Bishop this week to talk about what is required by the Dept. of Health in regards to their grant procedure.
 - The State process is different from the La Porte County process.
 - Jeremy also applied for the HFL grant

6. Rules Committee: Amanda and Mike

- No report

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Joe Haney assured the Park Board and Jeremy that the commissioners were working toward getting the Hunt Lake property turned over to the Park Dept.
- He met with the Records Office and forwarded paperwork to the attorneys today.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- None

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS- None

ADJOURNMENT

- Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Amanda. Motion carried 6-0.