

La Porte County Park Board Meeting August 6, 2024 Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Ron

ROLL CALL:

- Present: Mike King, Mary Nell Murphy, Nick Landers, Jim Holifield, Ron Knickrehm, Mary Komenas
- Absent: Amanda Nebelung
- Guests: ALCO TV, Rich Mrozinski, Lacie Baker, Demetrius Clark

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Mike made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Nick.
- Motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Rich Mrozinski gave a report regarding the Rolling Prairie property
- The Council is set to approve a new roof for the existing building there.
- NPHS students are scheduled to go out to the property and give their ideas/suggestions for the development of the property

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Jeremy informed the Board that there was an oversight on the acceptance of the bid for the new roof.
- The initial bid did not include tear-off of the old roof, which he definitely wants done.
- This adds \$10,852.70 to the total. This is still lower than the next lowest bid!
- Jeremy requested permission to take this out of non-reverting.
- This will be voted on under Old Business.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

1. Administrative Report:

- Jeremy started out his Administrative report by introducing our new Rec & Ed Programmer, Lacie Baker.
- Lacie is excited to share the Parks experience with people and thanked everyone for the opportunity to do so!
- **Bluhm Project update**
 - Conservation easement is now in place with the DNR.
 - This will allow for the payment and transfer to be taken care of in one transaction.
- **Seasonal Worker status:**

- We have already had several of our seasonals move on leaving us short staffed for remainder of summer and for Pioneer Days.
- **IPRA Annual Conference for staff**
 - First time in nine years that we will be sending more than two people!
 - Jeremy looks forward to this being a good team-building opportunity as well as avenue for connecting with staff from other Parks around the state.
- 2. Maintenance & Construction Report**
 - No questions or comments
- 3. Program Report**
 - No questions or comments
- 4. Park Counts**
 - Numbers continue to rise consistently.
 - Improvements at the parks and new programs are factors in attracting new visitors.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- 1. Executive Committee: Ron and Jim**
 - No report
- 2. Budget Committee: Nick and Mary**
 - **Results from 2025 budget request:**
 - Budget requests have been approved
 - The only account to be increased is the Consultant account in keeping with the need to create an extensive plan for the new Rolling Prairie property development.
- 3. Personnel Committee: Nick and Mary**
 - No report
- 4. Property Committee: Mike and Mary Nell**
 - **Rolling Prairie Property update**
 - Mary Nell added to Rich Mrozinski's earlier update that she is appreciative for the support of the Council and thankful, also, for the increase in the budget for Consultant fees in order to make the new property into a spectacular park.
- 5. Planning Committee: Amanda and Mary Nell**
 - **Future of Health Cabin at Red Mill:**
 - No decision has been made at this point.
 - Any suggestions will be appreciated and considered.
 - **Bike Master Plan grant update**
 - This is part of the county-wide trails master plan connecting parks and trails to each other.
 - Jeremy will be meeting with the selected engineering firm on 8/7/24.
 - We have until the end of May 2025 to develop a plan.
 - The need for this is becoming more apparent, as the amount of bicycle activity has definitely increased at Bluhm.
- 6. Rules Committee: Amanda and Mike**
 - No report

OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Canada Lodge building roof at Red Mill**

- We have already received approval from the Council for \$53,984.64 to get a new standing-seam metal roof on the Canada Lodge.
- Jeremy is requesting permission to spend \$10,852.70 out of our Non-reverting account for the tear-off of old roof (not included on original quote).
- We also need Council and Commission approval to pay half down *in advance* of the work being completed. This is on the agenda for the meeting tomorrow (Commission) and later in the month (Council). We will then expedite the payment.
- Mary Nell made a motion to approve the request to spend the \$10,852.70 out of Non-reverting; seconded by Jim.
- Motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Westville High School Cross Country Meet request for Bluhm

- Demetrius Clark, Head Coach for Track and Cross Country at Westville High School, requested permission to hold a meet at Bluhm County Park.
- Jeremy would like to meet with Demetrius to map out the course.
- We have already obtained an amended liability waiver from our insurance carrier.
- Mike made a motion to move forward with this event; seconded by Nick.
- Motion carried 6-0.
- Tentative date is Aug. 27, 2024.

BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS

- No staff or Board comments

ADJOURNMENT

- Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mike.
- Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting: September 3, 2024 at 5:00 pm
Red Mill County Park, EEC
0851 S. Holmesville Rd. La Porte, Indiana**