

## **La Pore County Park Board Meeting**

**June 3, 2025 Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Ron at 5:00.

**ROLL CALL:**

- Present: Jesi Davenport, Jim Holifield, Mike King, Ron Knickrehm, Nick Landers, Mary Nell Murphy
- Absent: Michelle Braddy
- Guests: ALCO TV, Jill Landers
- Jeremy Sobecki, Cathy Fuller

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

- Mike made a motion to approve the agenda; seconded by Nick.
- Agenda approved, 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- No corrections or additions suggested.
- Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as written; seconded by Mary Nell.
- Minutes approved, 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No public comments.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

- Jeremy called attention to the fact that quite a few of the accounts have been spent way down, with several of them at zero already. This is not altogether unusual. Our budget has not increased at all. Thankfully, we still have non-reverting to fall back on.
- Mike made a motion to approve the financial reports; seconded by Mary Nell.
- Motion carried, 6-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

**1. Administrative Report:**

- **Electric vehicle grant update**
  - The trucks are in our possession and we have been using them for about a month now. There is a learning curve involved, for sure!
  - The fleet charging stations have been installed.
  - Public charger is to be installed soon, hopefully completed in a couple of weeks.
- **Trails master plan update**
  - We hope to have a draft to share with the Board by the August meeting.
- **Canada Lodge generator update**
  - Generator is installed and ready for action!

- **Rolling Prairie property master plan update**
    - Public meeting was successful, with approximately 40 people in attendance.
    - There were a few people that were concerned about having a park near their home, but Jeremy thinks that the meeting helped to put their fears to rest.
  - **Possible Nature Center addition update**
    - After meeting with the County lawyer, commissioner, and our park liaison, we have been told that we can do all parts of the project in-house except for 220V electrical.
    - We are now moving forward with the idea and design phase to present to the Park Foundation.
  - **Reindeer event at Luhr**
    - This was such a successful event last year (over 500 guests on a weeknight!), but due to budget cuts for the library, whom we partnered with and split the cost with, we are having to look elsewhere for funding if we want to be able to have this event again this year.
    - Jeremy has secured one donation from Antero Group for \$1500 and two other promised donations of unspecified amounts.
    - The Park Foundation has generously fronted the money to get the reindeer reserved.
  - **Jeremy also updated the Board on the Caretaker situation.**
    - The Blairs have moved out of the caretaker's house.
    - Don has had to adjust the seasonal schedules to accommodate the cleaning of Smith Hall on the weekends.
    - Bob Blair has been hired as a paid seasonal as well.
2. **Maintenance & Construction Report:** In packet
  3. **Program Report:** In packet
  4. **Park Counts:** In packet.
    - It appears that there is an issue with the counter at Sebert Woods! It is *highly unlikely* that there were that many visitors to Sebert in the last month. Jeremy is going to look into it.

## REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. **Executive Committee: Ron and Jim**
  - No report
2. **Budget Committee: Nick and Jesi**
  - Jeremy requested that, in the future, we add a July meeting due to the fact that July is the deadline for upcoming budgets to be submitted to the County.
  - He also would like to consult with Nick and Jesi prior to having to submit the 2026 budget.
3. **Personnel Committee: Nick and Jesi**
  - **New board member Jestine (Jesi) Orlando Davenport**
    - The Park Board welcomes Jesi to the board to fill the place of Mary Komenas, who has taken a new job in Arizona.

- Jesi is the Ag and Natural Resources Educator for Purdue Extension.
- Jesi will be on the budget and personnel committees, in place of Mary.

**4. Property Committee: Mike and Mary Nell**

- No report

**5. Planning Committee: Michelle and Mary Nell**

- No report

**6. Rules Committee: Michelle and Mike**

- No report

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Review of committee duties**

- Jeremy thought it was a good time to review the duties of each committee, since we have several new people on the Park Board. He passed out sheets for each committee.
- Jeremy suggested that this be assigned to the Rules Committee to evaluate and approve or amend as they see necessary.
- Mary Nell made a motion to address the duties and responsibilities of the committees at our next meeting; seconded by Nick.
- Motion carried, 6-0.
- Jeremy also passed out a sheet with meeting operations and procedures.
- Jim made a motion for Rules Committee to review these meeting operations/procedures guidelines; seconded by Mike.
- Motion passed, 6-0.

**BOARD & STAFF COMMENTS:**

- Ron welcomed Jesi to the Board.
- Jeremy said a special thank you to the Programs staff for their excellent programs, and maintenance staff for their hard work rebuilding the boardwalks for Luhr.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Jim.
- Motion passed, 6-0.
- Meeting adjourned.