

Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting minutes for March 25, 2025

Park Board Meeting at Jennings County Government Center

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Present:

Board Members: Samantha Wilder, Avis McGovern, Bill Ertel, Kristin Wiley

Staff: Seth Jones

Guests: Pat Dickerson, Linda Dickerson

1. Approve Minutes - Samantha made a motion to approve the minutes. Bill seconded.
2. Old Business -
 - Regarding getting the balance of funds from the former director's salary to be bonuses for the current employees, Samantha and Avis have been on an email thread with Mike Gerth and Sarah Able. This has been brought up in the Oct 2024, January 2025 meeting and the January 2025 County Council meeting. Samantha has sent three emails to the auditor. Now Mike Gerth is in on the issue as well. It has to be appropriated from the county now because of the length of time since all that happened. Avis had assumed that they were cutting the check after the meeting.
 - Remaining balance for the director is \$1924.60 Assistant director balance was \$5691.81. \$7616.41 is the total. Kristin made a motion to ask for that money to be reappropriated and Samantha seconded. We will ask for reappropriation for that money. Probably start with the commissioners and then go to county council.
 - They have done away with liaisons from the County Council. Mike Gerth said to talk to whoever we felt comfortable with but he would be fine with doing that.
 - Seth found a truck in Westport. It has 80,000 miles. They are holding it for us. It is \$18,625.00. Seth said that they have magnets to put on the side of the truck. They would take it off the explorer and put it on the truck.
 - Mileage: Seth started to do it, but he stopped. Seth is probably the only director that doesn't have a take home vehicle. We need to think about this at budget time.
 - Alex Wallace, is the new assistant and he started yesterday. He has worked here before and then went to work for a christian camp and wanting to come back.
 - \$600.00 for uniforms for the employees all together. They each have \$150-160 dollars to spend on t shirts and hoodies, etc.
 - Kristin talked with Wayne and Brad regarding the trail. She reported that she asked them about getting other entities to help with maintaining the trail. They

are open to finding other help to maintain the trail. Brad said that Vernon is starting a new Park Board for Vernon and to come back and ask again once they are settled and see what they can do.

- Daryl McGuire will be the Camp host for 2 months. Then the former camp host will take over June 1.

3. New Business

- Avis brought up celebrating the 1 year anniversary of ECO Park. Seth said he thinks the 1st year was quite a success. Seth said he thinks that they are still getting used to running two parks. Avis suggested a celebration involving maybe a walk through of the park. Maybe invite the county council, and other members of the community. Push it back to May so that there is maybe nicer weather. Maybe have light refreshments. Possibly have a luncheon for the staff. This was decided that maybe we should wait until May so that the weather could be more dependable, and we would have more time to think about it.
- Sam suggested that we start thinking about another vehicle during budget time. Seth also suggested getting a bobcat. That way we can have one out at ECO and one at Muscatatuck.
- Avis wanted to know if Seth knows anything about grants. The county has a worker that is solely paid to get grants. We should use that person. Avis said that she will see if she can figure out who is and what we need to do to get that person to work on grants for us.
- Seth asked about Master Plan. Seth said that he thought we would need that for grants. Sam said that the City Park just did it. Seth said that he would contact Bobby Willis or Bobby Ertel.

4. Director's Report -

- Long Term Camping agreement- no refunds. Seth says he thinks this is the right call.
- Community garden- haven't heard anything there yet.
- Splash pad- Spear will be out on April 14 and May 15
- Mulch- plan to buy a semi load
- Sewage Pumps- Seth is just waiting to turn the water on to see if everything works.
- Quotes on No Climbing signs. All three signs were quoted \$560. The board decided that we needed to just go ahead and do that. Take that out of Non Reverting Fund. Bill made a motion that we spend 560 out of non reverting. Sam seconded.
- Vinegar Mill- Seth has reached out Harmon, Estes, Gosman, and Bradshaw. Bradshaw should be getting back with us. Sam Wilder said that she would ask Harmon if that is something they would be interested.

- Jack's Johns- \$200 per month May- Oct.
- Culverts at ECO- Seth wants to replace the culverts to hope to increase flow and reduce blockage. Will want to pay from non reverting (1178).
- Seth said he hasn't done anything with Aquatic Control yet.
- New Events: Flat Rock Hawcreek Replay (501c3) Catch and release fishing tournament. They should stay on the public side. Do kids need a licence? Not if you are under 18. Is the lake well stocked? A guest said that they know someone who says the lake is stocked very well.
- Explorer- no bids. Seth reached out to Ebbing. Then someone suggested K of C auction. That doesn't seem like it will work out.
- New Truck: \$18,625 for the new truck out of non reverting. Sam makes a motion. Bill seconded. The motion passes by the board.

5. Events: April 25-27: Sassafras Festival

- June 21: Barbers Bikes
- July 11-13: DINO
- Aug/ Sept: Cross Country
- Sept 25-28: BMW Hoosier Beemers
- Oct. 3-4: NICA

6. Next Meeting - April 22, 2025 at the government center

7. Adjournment - Avis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:43. Sam seconded.

Jennings County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
April 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Bill Ertel

Avis McGovern

Samantha Wilder

Kristin Wiley

Jennifer Sanders
