

Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting minutes: May 28, 2024

Park Board Meeting: 5:30

Present:

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

Staff: Greg Martin

Guests: Francis Walker, Teri Doran, Megan Ayers, Pat Dickerson, Linda Dickerson

1. Approve Minutes - Minutes were approved.
2. Megan Ayers was a guest speaker concerning the Demonstration community garden. She is employed by Urban Soil Health A partnership between the SWCD, IASWCD, and the parks. Her positive bridges the gap between large scale and small scale growers. They started in 2020 but didn't really get out in front to the public until 2022. Jennings County has a pretty limited Defer. Go soil testing group. The working group, which is at least 3 people, would be able to be paid to do this through this program. Raspberries, blueberries, strawberries, peppers, tomatoes, radishes, spinach, potatoes, lettuce is all growing there. She is wanting to put up informational signage at the garden.
3. Old Business -
 - o Eco Lake Park Electricity: Lot 13 doesn't work. Some others are tripping, including the Park Host, when being used. Avis reached out to Wes Bradshaw and Greg reached out to Trent. Avis asked Greg to email Trent and CC her about it.
 - o Seth's evaluation is complete, and Seth is doing the other two. Greg suggested that they start doing evaluations in February.
 - o Credit Card: Avis said that she was getting push back from Sarah Able about getting the Park a credit card. The commissioners said that he should have a credit card. Sarah said that she would be fine with that, but then when Avis got down there Sarah was hesitant. Avis will continue to talk with Sarah.
 - o Splash Pad Update: The park does the winterization. Seth and Greg fished out about 15 gallons of sand out of the container. The Spear Co. does the start up. We have 2 (chemical and UV) filters. The UV element is working because the tube is essentially sandblasted. It is under warranty so they should fix it. There is a crack in the UV casing and that should be under warranty too. Tests are done every Monday. Avis asked when Matt or Cole would be able to come back out (Matt was here on 5/23). Greg is hopeful that next week. Avis stated her issue is all the maintenance that the staff has to do on top of everything they have to do with both parks.

4. New Business

- Annual Budget Discussion: Budget usually needs to be turned in the beginning of July. Increase in Gas, utilities. In some years, Greg asked for a raise for his staff. Kristin asked if Greg has any interest in getting any more personnel. Avis said that she supports him asking for more personnel. Avis encouraged Greg to ask for a wage increase and more personnel. Avis said that Greg has the board's permission to ask for these things.

5. Director's Report -

- Email: Greg will send Rodney a message to get the email on the website.
- Join us in Jennings: Tourism Board (There is a board but nobody is doing it)
- ELP: Hooks in the bathroom, shampoo holder, little things like that are being done. But for the most part it is up and running smoothly. Sold out for Memorial Day. We have a couple long term campers too.
- Vinegar Mill: They are starting work on the landscape around vinegar mill. Lots of Poison Ivy. Sewer pump needs replaced. Steps will need redone next year.
- E1 went out at the dining hall (sewer pump) over the weekend.
- Dino will be here July 5-7.

6. Avis made a motion to approve the purchase of E1 pump and work to repair alarm system. Sam seconded. Everyone approved.

7. Guest comments:

- Francis Walker asked if Sarah Able was coming to the meeting to apologize to Greg. Francis reported that Sarah said at the commissioner meeting that the signs were never installed. Greg commented that the signs were at the bottom of the stairs and have been vandalized and replaced.

8. Next Meeting -June 25, 2024

9. Adjournment - Avis made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16.

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