

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes  
Timmons Room, Courthouse  
Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, 5:30 P.M.

**Board Members Present:** Jeff Jensen, Mark Peterson, Larry Kinsella, Shawn Keeley, Sheri Williams, Tony Reum, Jake Strissel Lou Hagener, Ursula Brese, and Park Superintendent Chad Edgar.

**Guests:** Lowell Alcock, Renelle Braaten, Cathy Jamruszka, Patrick Johnston, Cal Long, Pamela Long, Matt Wertheimer, Ron Maynard, Jodi Bachini, Robert Williams

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Lou to approve minutes with corrections, seconded by Ursula. Motion Passed

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Ursula to approve the agenda, seconded by Jake. Motion Passed

**Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests:** None

**Cabin Business:**

**Cabin Inspection Date:** Chad asked if it would be ok to bring in some inspection packets for the Board to review. After some discussion on consistency, it was mentioned that doing the inspections in May last year was too early and it did not give people a chance to get in and clean up after winter. Jeff agreed to the board going over the inspection packets and tabled the topic to next meeting under old business.

**Old Business:**

**Lodge Committee:** Have not met.

Jeff got a call from an architect, who has been in contact with Chad. She proposed to put something together for the Board, working with a firm out of Billings. As of the Wednesday's due date no proposals have been turned in. After discussion about the advertising issues, it was established that because it was advertised in the paper twice, we do not need to run another ad. More discussion about when and where the money will be coming from to pay for things as the Lodge planning continues. Reaching out to the local banks was brought up as a possible solution. The Board will be notified by the Commissioners when any proposals are turned in.

**Clarification on the Agenda setting process and follow up action(s):**

After reviewing the corrections made from April's meeting and a brief discussion it was decided a time limit would be set for public comment. One minute for public comment on agenda items and three minutes for public comment on non-agenda items

Motion made by Tony to approve the one minute for public comment on agenda items and three minutes for public comment on non-agenda items. Seconded by Ursula.

Motion Passed 8/1. Opposed by Lou.

**New Business:**

**Marathon:** Matt Wertheimer spoke representing the Havre Chamber of Commerce. He is asking for the Boards blessing to have their third annual marathon to be held on Saturday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023.

Motion made by Mark to approve the request for the Bear Paw Marathon set for Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Seconded by Tony. Motion Passed.

**Committee reappointments and Committee restructuring:** A notice has been put in the paper for the Grazing Committee and Park Board openings. Two letters for the Park Board have been turned in so far. There is a deadline of two weeks. Jeff then talked about combining the Finance and Planning committee with the Rules and Regulations committee. They don't ever really meet; they are having trouble with members not wanting to be on the committees. Jeff said to table until we can see who wants to stay on and go from there.

It was asked, where do you go to apply for these positions?

Submit an email telling us why you are interested, with your contact information. Your email, phone number and address are necessary. The next meeting will also address Chairman and Vice Chairman appointments.

### **Park Budget:**

A draft of the Budget is brought this month for you to review and ask questions. We still have two months to estimate these costs.

Considerations for major expenses:

- Replace the old outhouses, they are necessary items for the Park. Working with the Eagles campground and Bear Paw Bowmans on potentially funding an outhouse at the Eagles campsite.
- Chapel resealing, we had a flood in the chapel last year it needs to be sanded and treated.
- A Foreman type employee for part-time. Someone to work and supervise that will come back every year.
- AC for the house, it runs nonstop during the summer.
- Counselors Cabin- has old particle board and the inside door doesn't shut all the way, this would be a great winter project for this season.
- Gravel at First Lake to prevent erosion and provide better/safer access.
- Concrete apron for the cattle guard at Kiwanis
- Pump for the Fire Truck
- Septic pump for the office to avoid backups.

Capital Improvement Projects:

- Barn for storage, should transition into larger shop with a slab that has drainage and potentially install ground source heat.
- Outhouses
- Gravel at First Lake
- Chapel Resealing
- Truck to pull the skid steer with
- Side by side to help with fencing, spring tanks, weed spraying.
- Counselors cabin remodel

Mark said if we build the Lodge for less, we can ask the public to use those dollars to fix a few things. With Chad's list we have time to plan.

**Park Fire Truck:** There is an engine problem with the pump of the fire truck. It spent time on the fire last year. The truck belongs to the Park but no arrangement with the fire department exists. The Fire department owns the pump and engine. Josh Bebee (Fire Chief) is open and willing to help if they have resources to do so. Chad said that the Park needs something more agile.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Rules and Regulations Committee:** Not present.

**Finance and Planning Committee:** Not present.

**Grazing Committee:** Have not met. Will meet late May for Haying.

### **Group Reports:**

**Cabin Owner's Report:** Scheduled a road clean-up for their area. Jody added the new Adopt-A-HWY signs are ordered, they already have the plates once they get the signs, they will get them up.

**Friends of Beaver Creek Park:** They have purchased new stickers and have them in the Beaver Creek Park office to sell. The stickers are being sold for Five dollars and they come with a history that a previous board member wrote 4-5 years ago.

**Superintendent Report:**

- The park usage is slow this month, it has picked up in the last few weeks. Bear Paw Bowmen used the Eagles last weekend, and it was a good turn out.
- Park conditions, he is calling it very wet with one-half inch of rain recently. The Creek started raging, but it is going down and things are greening up.
- Finished three mowers and the dump truck maintenance.
- started the liter clean up.
- Washed the majority of the outhouses in bigger areas.
- The gates for the cross fences were opened.
- Getting ready to turn on the water at Kiwanis.
- Kiosk on the North end has shipped. Encroachment permits are also on the way.
- Opened a position for a Junior Laborer over the age of 16 and regular seasonal over the age of 18.
- Danielle's schedule changed. Pam was filling in during the summer but will not be able to help as much this year, so Danielle will be working 30 hours this summer. It has been hard to keep her hours under 24 as she is going through motions, minutes, and policies.

**Claims:** Motion made by Ursula to approve the April claims. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed

**Public Comment:**

A guest asked about the time limits on speaking. Stating he would like to keep in consideration that agendas are pretty vague sometimes. Maybe having a little better agenda so a person limited on time is able to know more about it like on a web site or something so they can prepare.

A question about the Board reappointments being posted on the bulletins was asked if they were up and where. With a few concerns from the public about not being able to get information, the question was asked what do you think the best source of information for you would be?" The reply was Newspaper and Radio works best. Jodi had a suggestion about the outhouses saying that FWP and the National Forest Service have prefabricated cells and that the DNRC and or BPA might sponsor funding for them.

***Motion made by Jake to adjourn. Seconded by Sherri. Motion Passed.***

***Meeting adjourned 7:15 P.M.***

**Next meeting:** June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Timmons Room at Courthouse at 5:30 pm.