

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes  
Timmons Room, Courthouse  
Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 5:30 P.M.

**Board Members Present:** Larry Kinsella, Lou Hagener, Pam Wilson, Mark Peterson, Jake Strissel, Sheri Williams, Jeff Jensen, Park Superintendent Chad Edgar

**Board Members Absent:** Ursula Brese, Tony Reum

**Guests:** Ranell Bratten, Bob Doney, Patrick Johnston with HDN

**Approval of Minutes:** Larry made a motion to approve the November minutes. Seconded by Lou. Motion Passed.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mark made a motion to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests:** Bob Doney spoke on the Chad Doney memorial campground. Stating that the roof of the outhouse is deteriorating, and the sides are starting to break apart. He was out in July and noticed the aggregate kit was breaking apart. When he went out 4.5 months later, he took pictures of the outhouse, which he passed around for the board members to look at. The pictures showed that the rebar is now exposed, and the walls are starting to break loose as well. He found an oil-based sealer at Sherwin-Williams, a natural solvent type that can be sprayed on for a temporary fix. He would like it on the January agenda so it can get it repaired by the Park. The Park will look into bids and quotes to get it fixed; it will be discussed at the January meeting.

**Cabin Business:** Not Present.

**Old Business:**

***Finance and Rules Committee Draft/Composition:*** The board members had a discussion on how the committee will be set up, what it will be named, as well as how it will operate. It was a discussion only no final decisions have been made. They also talked about the new committees meeting arrangements, needing to decide if it is only directed by the board or if they will have a set schedule to meet. They talked about keeping the committee small and keeping it at an odd number for votes using the Superintendent as the tie breaker. The openings need to be advertised for the community members in the paper, so the Board can see how many people are interested in joining the combo committee. They decided it will be advertised for two months with the goal of a decision in February.

Noted that the Rules and Regulations as well as the Finance and Planning committees have been disbanded as of October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.

***Lodge:*** Current cost of design is \$509 a Sq Ft. We need to continue to look for donations to get where we want to be. Carrie Aageson is trying to help out with funds through a program called pitch fest. She started a "Pitch Dec" that will help with presentations to set us up for future possibilities. We almost need another Million dollars to do what we need to get done. A lot of foundations won't give to government entities. Friends can step in and apply when we can't. A&E sent the first bill for design, it's \$25,588.25. Lou made a motion to pay A&E the invoiced amount. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

**Barn Slab Bids:** There were three contractors that placed bids. The cheapest was \$43,914 which is just under what was budgeted. There will need to be a tank installed underground for drainage as well as tubing in the slab for floor heat to be added later on. The work is to be done depending on the weather, preferably before May. Sheri motioned to accept the bid. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

**Apparel:** Mark thanked Paulette with Soulstar Designs for all the work she put in. Mark made a motion to approve working with Soulstar Designs and marketing to be sold on behalf of the Park. Seconded by Larry. Motion Passed.

**Park Fees:** The short-term committee met in November and drafted fees. Pam stated it would be best to vote on each piece of the fees separately. There was some discussion on who uses the park and how often. It was stated that we need to keep it so people will buy a permit, but not only when they are caught without one as prices haven't been changed in five years.

Lou made the first motion to have the annual permits be \$80. Seconded by Mark. After further discussion Sheri asked if it is per person or per household. Chad stated its per household and Sheri said that changes things for her decision. It went to a vote 2/4 motion failed.

Pam made a motion that regular annual park permits be \$95. Seconded by Mark. Mark stated that he is looking at the \$40 in inflation, next time it is raised what is the inflation going forward. We are setting ourselves up to cover past and present inflation. Lou stated that \$95 for a camping season is cheap, for non-campers it's a lot. A vote took place 5/1 Motion Passed.

Lou motioned to approve the proposed fees for the reserved rates as follows: \$130 per day, \$400 for regular weekends and \$600 for Holiday weekends with bed tax to be paid by purchaser for all. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

Lou motioned to approve the daily use camping permits as in the draft at \$15 a day this includes bed tax. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

Lou motioned to approve the Golden age price of \$60 per year with bed tax included. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

**Renewable Resource Grant:** Have not met.

**New Business:** NA

### **Committee Reports:**

**Grazing Committee:** Did not meet. County Commissioners will be interviewing all applicants for the Grazing Committee. Lou asked about an email he has sent with questions for the applicants. Lou's questions he sent in were reviewed and Larry made a motion to strike the #7 question about the Fox in a hen house. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed. One opposed. The commissioners may see fit to add one or two more questions to the list. Lou asked at what stage do we get to hear the interviews? Sheri replied saying you can sit in and listen, but no interjections are allowed.

### **Group Reports:**

**Cabin Owner's Report:** Not present

**Friends of Beaver Creek Park:** Not present

**Superintendent Report:**

- Usage is slow with a few weekend drivers and fisherman.
- The weather is nice, the Boy Scouts camped out in November.
- Conditions are dry as there was no snow just a little last month.
- Cattle numbers are 1914, most are singles and 34 calves.
- 1 vehicle/ cow incident in the last month 2 for the year
- Deer was poached on the park they received hunting and shooting violations. Thanks to Travis Reum for reporting.
- Worked on picnic tables with lots to go with sanding and staining.
- The funds budgeted for the counselor's cabin was not enough at \$3,500 Chad attended the Friends of Beaver Creek Park meeting and they will be giving the project \$2000.00.
- Chad has spent a lot of time looking at sources and foundations for the Lodge funding.
- Two trappers working in the park currently have 5 beavers harvested so far.
- A memorial picnic table was added at the Lions campground and a memorial bench will be added in the Rotary area once the location is decided. Donated by Lee Morse in memory of Jackie Morse.

Lou asked Chad about the Feral dogs. Asking if it has affected cattle grazing and if the landowners are taking care of it or if the County will be taking action. Chad did report it to the Sheriff's office.

**Claims:** Pam made a motion to approve the November Claims. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

**Lodge Claims:** Lou made a motion to pay A&E the invoiced amount of \$25,588.25. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

**Public Comment:** NA

***The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.:*** Mark made a motion to Adjourn. Seconded by Lou. Meeting Adjourned

**Next meeting:** January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Timmons Room at Courthouse at 5:30 pm.