

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes  
Beaver Creek Perk Coffee Shop  
Monday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

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

**Board Members Absent:** All members present.

**Guests:** Renelle Braaten, Rose Cloninger, Cody Nagel (FWP), DJ Baker, Cathy Jamruszka, Christy Ulmen (HWC) Isreal Hale (NMB)

**Approval of Minutes:** Pam motioned to approve the July minutes. Seconded by Mark. Motion Passed.

**Approval of Agenda:** Mark motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests: Lou-** We have revised the recreation fees, haying fees and have a scheduled adjustment for cabin fees this year. In December of 2022 we started the discussion about the grazing fees. At the July Park Board meeting we tabled this matter with the yet to be formed Finance and Rules Committee. For three fee areas we have adjusted without a current Finance and Rules Committee working. There is a conspicuous appearance that we are dragging our feet when it comes to the Grazing fees. Lou proposed that we bring this forward and handle it in an Adhoc committee or handle it within the Board itself.

**Mark-** Where are we at with on applications for the Committee? This is something we have been dealing with for the last couple of years. We keep hearing about people who want to serve on these Committees, and we put it out there for people to apply and they are not responding. It's getting to the point that a lot of our business that needs to get done is not getting done, because we can't fulfill the committees. Mark suggested that at this point we forget the Finance and Rules Committee right now and move forward with the Board taking on this business.

Jeff will speak with the Commissioners tomorrow to see if there are any applicants, and we will go from there.

**Cabin Business:**

**#12 Sawmill Gulch Lane (Cabin Transfer):** Cabin lease transfer from Lenora Holmes to DJ Baker. Motion made by Mark to approve the transfer. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

**Old Business:**

**Lodge:** Jeff spoke with the architects about doing an asbestos inspection at the Lodge. it will cost \$4,300.00. Contractors Korb, Sletten and Clausen and Sons all placed bids and were interviewed by the Lodge Committee. After the interviews the Committee met again and selected Korb Construction for the one-year contract. Letters will be sent out to Korb Construction to let them know they got the bid, and a letter will be sent to A&E designs to update them on the decision. Motion made by Mark to approve Korb Constructions as the contractor for the Lodge. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

## **New Business:**

***Cabin Inspection Findings:*** Pam suggested that inspections are done the first two weeks of June then reinspected within a few weeks if the site needed to address any issues. Currently cabins that are rated Neglected and Poor are reinspected the following year. Pam asked what is done with cabins that show no improvements, saying why keep inspecting if we don't do anything about it. The Board continued the discussion of cabin sites as well as sites with no cabins and what is considered neat and clean? The Board agreed that neat and clean needs to be defined as everyone has a different view of what that looks like. A protocol needs to be set keeping in mind it should have a timeline with clarification, penalties as allowed for the ordinance and a policy that is enforced. Jeff gave an example saying that currently the city has 8" for lawns in town, something similar might be needed for the cabin sites. Lou presented a spread sheet he has been working on, it will help with the process of setting up protocols. The Board will have to look at the neglected cabins again and send out a stern letter with repercussions to get a handle on things. Then the Board will work on the policy and protocols setting a priority list and penalties of some sort. The topic of RVs outside of cabin fences needing their own Park permit was brought up. To clarify Yes, any RV/Camper outside of the cabin site needs to have its own Park permit. Furthermore, they also need to follow the Park rules of moving every 14 days and not leaving the RV/Camper unattended for more than 48 hours at a time.

***Stream Management: Lou-*** We were called out on actions we took to remediate effects of the flood. Even though some of the actions were an emergency action to protect infrastructures, some were to fix effects of the flood, and some were contrary to State law, as well as not being consistent with best management practices. Chad worked with FWP back in May, and they met again on July 18<sup>th</sup> with Lou and the MT FWP look at the fixes and recovery cost of the stream. We have a reoccurring cost when it comes to fixing the flooding, other than our mission statement we do not have a stream or water management policy. On August 21<sup>st</sup> FWP is going to bring up two people to help, one of them knows about stream management and development they will help us find better ways to manage our stream, the other is knowledgeable with the permitting side of things.

## **Committee Reports:**

***Grazing Committee:*** Met August 1<sup>st</sup> and spoke about stock tanks being fixed and repaired in the Park. Lou showed the Park Board pictures of some spring tanks he wanted to show the Grazing Committee. Lou brought up possibly adding bird ramps to the tanks so trapped wildlife can get out with ease. Animals that are trapped swim around the edge so the ladder in the middle doesn't help sufficiently. The Committee also sent their grazing allotment recommendation to the board. They recommend using the 3-year average for the allocations. Tony made a motion to approve the 3-year averages for allocations. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

## **Group Reports:**

***Cabin Owner's Report:*** N/A

***Friends of Beaver Creek Park:*** N/A

**Superintendent Report:**

- Park usage- busy most of the summer and ran smoothly. We sold quite a few permits this year.
- Park conditions- Dry lately but better than normal. This week's weather should help out with campfires still being allowed in the fire rings. No burn ban yet.
- Park work- moving slowly down the list. Recently hedged the Kiwanis camp something we do once a year.
- We had a problem with the sprinkler system and got that fixed.
- Repainted the Rec-Hall with the help of 150 LDS girls. It took them only about 2 hours they painted in two shifts. The bathhouse also got painted and Pam helped paint the trim.
- Trimmed and took care of the weeds around the Park signs and garbage posts also trimmed trees near the roads throughout the Park.
- Had a budget meeting with the commissioners and it went well.
- Met with FEMA about the flood.
- Chad has 3 vehicles that he needs to sell. 1975 Fire truck that is past its prime, 1988 Chevy with a leaking cylinder and a 1980 Chevy that was used until this year.
- Chad also asked for permission to hire a tree trimming guy to take down 6 big trees by the Chapel and do some extra trimming around the house. The estimate he received was for taking down the trees only the cost is \$1,500.00.

Lou made a motion to approve the hiring to remove the trees. Seconded by Mark. Motion Passed.

**Claims:** Mark motioned to approve the July claims. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

**Public Comment:**

**Pam W.-** Can we get a big splash in the paper with a picture to show what the Lodge will look like? It might help with getting donations if people can see it.

**Renelle B.-** Lou, does the Algae affect the cows or wildlife?

**Cody N. (FWP)-** He has been a biologist in the area since 2008 and wanted to speak on stream management. August 21<sup>st</sup> he is bringing help to set some goals for the Park. His supervisor from Glassgow will be here to see if he is able to bring some funding help to the 4 to 6 spots in the stream that need it. Cody stated that we need to be partners on this, and we need to look at the stream above the East Fork Reservoir that feeds the stream.

***The meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.: Motion made by Tony to adjourn. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.***

**Next meeting:** September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Beaver Creek Perk Coffee Shop located 137 2nd Street at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Danielle Eldridge Administrative Assistant to the Park Superintendent.