

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes
In the Timmons Room, of the County Courthouse
Monday, January 6th, 2025, 5:30 P.M.

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

Board Members Absent: All Board members present.

Guests: Bill Bradbury, Isreal Hale

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Lou to approve December minutes. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Pam to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests: Lou requested for the Board to arrange a planned event for public engagement. He would like it to be placed on the February Agenda.

Cabin Business: NA

Old Business:

Lodge: The Board viewed the cash flow spread sheet Lou created. The Park office is also working a spread sheet and will have it at the next meeting. Lou said that he also went around to the accountants and financial advisors in town saying it was a positive experience, he gained helpful information about some opportunities.

Cabin Inspection Action Plan: Tabled to next month's Agenda needs work on the language.

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Grazing Committee: Grazing Policies and Procedures Review: An Ad-Hoc group was established to go over the Policies and Procedures as well as the Grazing committee positions the group includes: Jeff, Chad, Lou, Dave, and Tony. The group will meet at the end of January. Once the ad hoc committee comes up with a draft it will then go to the Park Board for approval. Once approved it will go to the commissioners as a recommendation for an ordinance. They will have to complete their process before it becomes law.

Group Reports:

Cabin Owner's Report: NA

Friends of Beaver Creek Park: The FOBCP want to put together a fundraiser type event at the Lodge. Jeff suggested that we piggyback on the event and do the public engagement at the same time. The Park Board will work with the FOBCP on scheduling the event.

Chad added that Bear Paw Development applied for a grant called Thriving Communities that was due December 12th, 2024. The Thriving Communities grant is noncompetitive so it is likely we will receive the grant funding. It is uncertain at this time when we will know more information regarding the outcome of the grant. We do know it is a planning grant for \$75,000 that would help cover for the preliminary architecture report as well as the environmental study that is required to apply for the USDA's Community Facility Loan and Grant Program. The USDA's Grant Program has a lower interest rate. There is another cycle in March with the results reported in May of 2025.

Superintendent Report:

- Park usage minimal, Ice fishing mostly and weekend drivers some hiking.
- Park conditions snowy and not really deep. The ski bowl plans to open on Saturday.
- Cattle are off the Park even though the signs are still up. Waiting on a nice day to remove the signs. Everything went smoothly with the cattle the latter half of the season. The first half we had 7 hits on the Park highway. The grass looked good in most of the pastures.
- Fire skid was provided by Bear Paw fire Department. It was broken down, but Chad worked on it and got it running, it will stay at the Park shop.
- All three of the vehicles sold, now looking for truck that can pull the skid steer.
- Working on picnic table boards, sanding, and staining.
- Lots of phone calls for the lodge and potential donors.
- Big news Browning Kimball Foundation donated \$78,000 to help with the demo cost of the Lodge. Chad is talking with Tom Patrick's on the demo.
- FOBCP received \$35,000 donation from Stockman Bank.
- Carrie Aageson, who is with FOBCP, applied for a T-Mobile grant for \$50,000. Still waiting on the results.
- Chad met with Carrie and a representative from Northwestern Energy to see what they might have to offer as a donation as well.
- Flood damages still waiting for the report from the FWP study. FEMA funding should be disclosed soon. No other updates at this time.

Claims: Motion made by Tony to approve the December Claims. Seconded by Jake. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Lou H. - asked the commissioners about the inter cap loan for the lodge funding.

Motion made by Dave to give Brian, the Beaver Creek Perk owner, a hat and a mug as a thank you for letting us use their meeting room. Seconded by Sheri. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M. : Jake motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Sheri. Motion Passed.

Next meeting: February 3rd, 2025, in the Timmons Room at County Courthouse meeting starts at 5:30 P.M.

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