

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes
Timmons Room, Courthouse
Monday, April 1st, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Board Members Present: Larry Kinsella, Mark Peterson, Lou Hagener, Tony Reum (Acting Chair), Chad Edgar Park Superintendent, Pam Wilson

Board Members Absent: Sheri Williams, Jake Strissel, Ursula Brese, Jeff Jensen

Guests: Ranelle Braaten, Emma Korntheuer, Jody Bachini, Ron Maynard, Chris Manaras, Cathy Jamruszka, Isreal Hale NMB, Patrick Johnston HDN

Approval of Minutes: Lou made a motion to approve the March minutes. Seconded by Mark. Motioned Passed.

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

Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests: None

Cabin Business:

#12 Sawmill Gulch Lane: Chris Manaras would like to buy the cabin from John but needs the wife's signature. Chris was given a cabin packet and told to speak with the attorney about contacting John's wife. Once she signs, he can get back on the agenda to continue the process.

Old Business:

Lodge: The committee is still waiting for estimates from Clausen's and Korb. Still looking into extra funds and also looking into bonding for the Mil Levy. Spoke to an attorney at Dorsey Whitney out of Missoula. The Friends of Beaver Creek Park are also looking into funding options.

Finance and Rules Committee draft: The board members went through the drafted form and a couple changes to the wording were made. A brief discussion on how the terms will be decided for the starting members. It was decided that as the Chair appoints a committee member, a number will be drawn to decide how long of a term they will serve. With the changes made Lou was asked to put the draft into final form to be reviewed at the next Park Board meeting.

Spring Tank Repair Issue: Mark has been in contact with Matt Miles who is a Water Resource Specialist with DNRC. He is doing research on the paperwork for the spring tank.

New Business:

Chapel Repairs: Damaged in high flow event. Estimate of \$16,300 for repairs of two feet of damage around the lower perimeter. Chad proposes to put it off for one year. There might be a grant through the Montana History Foundation called the Historic Preservation Grant.

Eagles Campground Bridge: Bear Paw Bowmen use the Eagles campground in April. The bridge started to sag into the water, and last year pallets were placed to be able to walk on it. Permit 124 for the project, 404 or section 10 with the Army Corp. Engineers have been filed. Using bridge abutments left over from the Fireman's campground will be placed in the creek. Bear Paw Bowmen will be helping with this project. Approval from the FWP has been granted. Motion made by Mark to allow the repairs to the Bridge. Seconded by Lou. Motion Passed.

Employee Mileage: Chad talked about the everyday or seasonal workers at the park being on the same matrix as the County Courthouse. Stating the clock does not start until they arrive at the Park office, they are not compensated for the drive-out. He asked the Park Board for mileage compensation, reimbursement, or a step up in the matrix. Chad said, “to be honest, it’s hard to compete with other businesses in town.” Mark did a quick calculation and stated that: 15 miles to the gallon, 3 gallons a day, 12 gallons a week at \$3.50 equals \$2,100 a year in fuel. The question being asked is what is the best way to do this and is it doable? Lou suggested that the employees use a County vehicle which should be \$3 a day to use. Park the vehicle in town and use it when working. Chad said it is a creative thought however not everyone has the same schedule. Lou stated it would be hard to give a raise for the purpose alone and asked if we can provide the fuel or put a meter on the gas pump. Fuel cards get abused and it is impossible to measure when putting a meter on the pump. Mark stated that if they get a raise, they will be taxed on it. Chad asked if a per diem would be taxed? It was unknown. Chad will do research and bring the subject back at the May meeting.

Committee Reports:

Grazing Committee: None

Group Reports:

Cabin Owner’s Report: None

Friends of Beaver Creek Park: None

Superintendent Report:

- Park is slow with just a few campers and lots of people fishing.
- The weather is cooler, and conditions are still dry.
- Maintenance of the equipment has been done.
- Some litter clean-up around First Lake. The snow is limiting what can be done.
- Kiwanis Camp was graded.
- Sharpened the blades on the blowers.
- IGA is up and running with selling permits.
- Chad went to the BPBM meeting, and they will cover the cost to fix the Eagles campground Bridge.
- Put the drag on the 4wheeler.
- Working in the cabins fixing blinds

Claims: Lou made a motion to approve the March Claims. Seconded by Mark. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Lou commented about the public notices in the paper saying a job well done and the added calendar to the Parks webpage looks great. He also asked that: April 17th from Noon - 1pm in the Hensler Auditorium MSU – Northern, Dr. Hildebrand presents her work on park vegetation and water quality be placed on the calendar.

Mark motioned that the meeting adjourns. Adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Next meeting: May 6th, 2024, in the **Community Building at the Fairgrounds** at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Danielle Eldridge Administrative Assistant to the Park Superintendent