

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes
Beaver Creek Perk Coffee Shop
Monday, September 9th, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

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

Board Members Absent: All Present

Guests: Renelle Braaten, Jeff and Celste Wendland, Rose Cloninger, Lowell Alcock, Christy Ulmen (HWC), Dana Springer, Cliff Springer, Brad Tummerup, John Hemminger, Chris Wendland, Haddie Wendland

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Lou to approve the August 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: NA

Cabin Business:

#2 Bear Paw Road: Motion made by Mark to approve the transfer from Jacob and Lindsey Lorang to Dana Springer. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

#12 Quarter Gulch: Motion made by Jake to approve the improvement request for Brad and John to use a dozer to fix the road to Quarter Gulch and to replace all erosion control. Seconded by Tony. Motion Passed.

#14 Alkali Springs: Motion made by Lou to approve the request to add a co-owner to the cabin lease as long as the proper paperwork is filled out. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

Old Business:

Lodge: Committee met with A&E Designs and Dan Korb. Talked about the next process and getting submittals in, they had a brief question and answers to make sure everyone is on the same page going forward. They also brainstormed ideas on how to continue getting funds for the project. A&E put a banner together that shows images of the new Lodge. The committee would like to display the banner at several of the local businesses in Havre. There will be a letter people can view as well that details where and how the funds will be used. The first place asked to display the banner was North 40 Outfitters we are waiting to hear back from corporate. To clear up some of the confusion of the process Jeff stated that at the end of this season for Lodge rentals the Lodge will be torn down. Then ground/dirt work will be done to prep the site for spring of 2025 when the new Lodge will be built and be completed in 2026.

Flood repairs and Stream Management: August 20th and 21st FWP did a walk through of the park. The main area of concern is the Lions area, it is possible they will suggest the pavilion be moved away from the creek. Cody with FWP will be at the October Park Board meeting to share the plan they have for the Park.

Grazing Fees: Lou stated that at the last meeting the Board was going to designate a team to go over the grazing fees and make a recommendation on them. Grazing fees are currently on a scale that's reflective of the State rate and we add \$3 an AUM for Land management fee on top of the State fee. Lou stated that the calves are basically eating for free because they are big calves over 100 days old living on forage not just milk. Jeff wants pros and cons about what work load it will put on Chad, raising rates or cutting allotments. Jeff is requesting information for both sides Park and Ranchers. Lou proposed we move the fee from \$3 to \$4 and

charge the salt fee instead of taking it out of the Land Management fund. After a lengthy discussion Jeff said to send the issue over to the Grazing Committee.

Cabin Inspection Findings: We need to put together an action plan for discrepancies. Suggesting a first letter listing the discrepancies that need to be addressed along with a phone call so they can't say they didn't get the letter. If nothing is done after a certain amount of time the second step would be a certified letter, stating what needs to be done by when. If nothing changes then a penalty/fine would be issued. The question was who is in charge of inspecting the cabins again to keep up with the discrepancies. Chad stated that he is willing to be the go between after the first inspection is done if anything needs to be fixed, as long as a picture is taken for him to go off of. Next, they discussed the time frame, giving the cabin owners about 30 days to fix the problems seems reasonable. If they need more than 30 days, they will need to discuss their action plan with the board. It was also recommended that the cabin owners are held accountable for getting the Board the updated information once the discrepancies are fixed in either form of pictures or a letter. The Board agreed to take a closer look at this individually and bring it to the next Park Board meeting.

New Business: NA

Committee Reports:

Grazing Committee: Did not meet.

Group Reports:

Cabin Owner's Report: Cleaned up road and getting ready for winter.

Friends of Beaver Creek Park: NA

Superintendent Report:

- Park usage- Busy this past month, Slow in August pick up at the end for Labor Day. Smooth summer
- Park conditions-Still dry, better than average.
- Cattle report- 1023 Pairs on right now and two cows were hit in one night. The kick out went smooth-lots of ranchers waiting this this year.
- Park work- Good crew this year- lots of mowing and upkeep- went smooth- flood hiccup slowed us down.
- Dave's been out fixing fences he is almost done.
- Spring Tanks are next on the list including unplugging drains
- Salt is out still more to put out.
- Repairs were made to the wash truck
- Pam has been painting signs
- Trimming brush off the roadsides
- Cattle signs are up, and batteries have been installed
- Algae Blooms are present at First Lake
- Chad has 3 vehicles he wants to sell by advertising on Facebook and taking the highest bid at the next Park Board meeting he also included a Dixie chopper mower for a total of 4 items up for bid

August Claims: Motion made by Mark to approve the August Claims. Seconded by Tony. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Lowell M.: Asking if the places that didn't get Hayed this year were approved by the Board?

Rose C.: Asked if we will be using the tables, chairs and other items from the current Lodge in the new one. She also asked if the cabin in Kiwanis or the Rec Hall will be able to be used next year while the Lodge is built?

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Next meeting: October 7th, 2024, Beaver Creek Perk Coffee Shop located at 137 2nd Street starting at 5:30 pm

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