

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes
Beaver Creek Perk Coffee Shop
Monday, October 7th, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

Board Members Present: Dave Fanning, Tony Reum, Mark Peterson, Larry Kinsella, Sheri Williams, Lou Hagener, Jeff Jensen, Park Superintendent Chad Edgar

Board Members Absent: Jake Strissel, Pam Wilson

Guests: Ranelle Braaten, Ray Kallenberger, Isreal Hale (NMB)

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Sheri to approve the corrected November minutes. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Sheri to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests: NA

Cabin Business: NA

Old Business:

Lodge:

USDA- Community facilities Loan Program: Chad spoke about the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant & Loan Program. The grants offered are smaller, however the loans are larger with a longer payback period up to 40 years. This program was looked at last year and we were not a fit. When Chad spoke with Steve Troendle (with the USDA) recently, he was interested in working with us. Bear Paw Development could write this up for the Park and we can get moving with the Lodge next year. Chad asked the Park Board if it would be ok to pursue this avenue for funds saying it would be for a loan that we can navigate for a few years with no penalties for early payoff and interest would be around 4%. The Board members asked a few more questions about the loan and if it is a fixed interest rate. Chad said it will need to be looked into further, but he needs permission to continue. Mark said that the Mill Levy we already have would pay a lot upfront and would give the Park time to budget funds each year to help pay off the loan. Lou made a motion to further investigate this avenue for Lodge funding. Seconded by Dave. Motion passed unanimously.

Chad informed the Board that along with several smaller donations to the Lodge, the Browning Kimball Foundation awarded Friends of Beaver Creek Park \$78,000.00 to go towards the removal of the current Beaver Lodge.

Lou suggested that the Board work with the local accountants to get more donations. He wrote a letter in which he would like the local accountants to pass around to their clients reminding them of tax write-offs for Lodge donations. Board members liked this idea, Lou will email the letter to the Board members for review. Once the Board has had time to review and make any changes needed the letter will be sent out on Park stationery.

Jeff let the Board know that Hill County Printing donated another poster for the Lodge. It is currently being displayed at the Courthouse.

Cabin Inspection Action Plan: The Board went over the draft version of the inspection steps from the ad hoc meeting. Changing the wording for Step 2 to certified mail instead of a certified letter. They also spoke about the auction process and how that would work. It was suggested to look at how the State operates when it sells land as most of our language is similar to theirs. It was recommended that sites that will be auctioned get 30 to 90 days to remove personal property. It was asked if the Board needs to reach out to Maco or the County Attorney. Jeff said Maco would be who we need to contact. Once a protocol is drafted it will need to go to the County Attorney for review. The Board will look this draft over and review again at the December meeting.

Flood Repairs: Chad met with FEMA in two different meetings. The first was the mitigation team meeting. The Park has 2 or 3 mitigation projects they would like to see pursued. Meeting with the project manager moving forward with damages hoping to get more of the complicated projects done. FWP is talking more about mitigation rather than restoring it. They are going to do a study of the Lions area, which is their main concern along with the Chapel area. They have the funding to do the study at least in the Lions area, if there is enough, they will include the Chapel area as well. Chad said that FEMA will reimburse us for most of our projects, a lot of it is replacing gravel. We have to apply for the mitigation for the work by July next year. Chad also said that the Lions area is an open 124 permit (which is administered by MT FWP), we might have to resubmit other permits later on.

New Business:

Cattle: Allotment clarifications (Spouse/Daughter/Son etc.): Jeff talked about updating the ordinance on immediate family saying Spouse, Daughter or Son is considered immediate family. This was last revised on May 6th, 2019. Mark made a motion to look at the policy and procedure for immediate family Spouse, Daughter, and Son. Seconded by Tony. Motion Passed.

Cattle waiting list procedure: Jeff's thought on the cattle waiting list is that the Park can benefit from having an open bidding process. When an allotment comes open it would go up for bid and the highest bidder would get the allotment. Jeff said that it will allow the people on the waiting list to move up depending on their bid. Clearing up further confusion Jeff said that the bid is a one-time fee after they would pay regular allotment fees. The state land already has something similar that the board will look into.

Sale of vehicles: Chad opened the envelopes for bids in front of the Board. Six bidders with a total of nine bids. The Red 1981 Chevy highest bid was \$1600. The Blue 1988 Chevy highest bid was \$1600. The 1975 Fire Truck highest bid was for \$2600. No bids were placed for the Dixie Chopper mower, it will be advertised again in the Spring. Lou motioned to accept the highest bids for the vehicles. Seconded by Sheri. Motion Passed.

Committee Reports:

Grazing Committee: Did not meet.

Group Reports:

Cabin Owner's Report: NA

Friends of Beaver Creek Park: Chad informed the board of the donations received.

Superintendent Report:

- Park usage- is slow but the weather has been nice. People have been out taking drives and some campers.
- Park conditions-good no significant moisture
- Cattles numbers are 1767 on and 7 cows have been hit this year, in addition, several have been bumped receiving injuries. There has been extra patrol in the park as well.
- Lawn work finished up, started round one of leaf blowing.
- Worked on the fire pump for the skid system that we acquired, and installed a new bearing in the pump it now runs well.
- Continuing to keep salt out for the cattle.
- Spickets have been shut off at the office.
- Waiting on bids for the house siding to get done. Chad showed the board the brown siding selected saying its slightly off from Park brown, but it is close and will match.
- This month he has been working on the tile job from last year for the shower in the house.
- Chads been on the phone with FWP, FEMA working on the flood, and many others trying to get funding for the Lodge project.

October Claims: Motion made by Mark to approve the October Claims. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed.

Public Comment:

Ray K.- On your cattle policies and procedures looking back on previous minutes the grazing committee gives it to themselves. With the way the waiting list is you will never get on it the way it is structured right now. I suggest you take a long hard look at the cattle waiting list.

Motion made by Mark to adjourn. Seconded by Dave. Motion Passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:37 P.M.

Next meeting: December 2nd, 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.