

Hill County Park Board Meeting Minutes
Community Building at the Fair Grounds
Monday, May 6th, 2024, 5:30 P.M.

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

Board Members Absent: Ursula Brese, Jake Strissel

Guests: Renelle Braaten, Pete Kuhr, Lowell Alcock, Rose Cloninger, Dave Fanning, Christy Bambrough (HDN), Isreal Hale (NMBI)

Approval of Minutes: Lou Motioned to approve April Minutes. Seconded by Sheri. Motion Passed.

Approval of Agenda: Pam Motioned to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Mark. Motion Passed.

Public Comment on Agenda Item/Agenda Requests: NA

Cabin Business: NA

Old Business: *Lodge:* A&E was asked to get estimates for the Lodge. They are waiting on contractors to get their bids in. There is a Lodge meeting tomorrow. FOBCP applied for a few grants, two of the letters of intent were accepted and they were approved to move onto the next step in the process.

Finance and Rules document: Lou motioned to approve this description of how this board will function and its duties and assignments as is. Seconded by Sheri. Motion Passed.

Spring Tank Repairs: Have not been able to contact the State about the fee. Chad suggested that we go ahead with the repairs and pay for it out of the Land Management fund while continuing to work on removing the fee if the fee isn't waved it will be \$200 a year. At this time, we just need to get it fixed so there is water. It is located behind Eagle Rock, and it is split by the fence with cattle on both sides. It is one spring with two tanks split by the Park boundary fence.

Eagle Bridge: The installation went well. Bear Paw Bowmans helped assemble, Chad assisted. The BPBM to put up a railing and plaque at a later date. The Bridge turned out nice.

Employee Mileage: Still researching, Kathy O sent an email to the Commissioners explaining details for employees driving out to the Park. Sheri asked if there can be an added bonus at the end of the season, if they stay on, if they do not, they lose it. Chad said they get an increase in Step when they return.

New Business: *Potluck at the Lodge:* Danielle will make a list of supplies for a Taco Bar and each member will sign up to bring items.

Board Restructuring: Two positions have expired. Two applicants have turned in their applications and will be scheduled for interviews. There will be a Vote on Chair and Vice Chair.

Larry made a motion to nominate Jeff for Chair. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

Mark made a motion to nominate Pam as Vice Chair. Seconded by Larry.

Jeff motioned to nominate Tony as Vice Chair. No second. Tony suggested Pam take it.

Mark's Motion to nominate Pam as Vice Chair with a second from Larry. Motion Passed.

Cabin Inspections: Lou suggested that a due date for cabin inspections be set. It was decided that July 1st Cabin inspections will be due. Pictures of any changes to the lot, any corrections that need to be made, outhouses and Cabins front view and expanded view of lot are needed.

Park Budget: The budget will be submitted for approval in June Chad has some ideas that need to be reviewed and asked that the Park Board members reach out to him throughout May.

- 1988 Truck- (One of Chad's priorities for the year) Not running properly, it tows the skid steer, currently in the shop.
- New flooring in the office -wore off where the desk was sitting.
- Chapel- Looking into Grants for the Historical Buildings.
- Outhouse Roofs
- A small Generator for field work at least a 2500 Watt minimum.
- The Pavilion at the Eagles Campground has been in bad shape for 2 decades, the Eagles do not have the funds to help. There was a request put in for a quote on a new roof. Bear Paw Bowmen's uses the Eagles and have shown interest in helping out.
- New siding for the office and house- Railing in bad shape. Soffit will need to be replaced as well.

Update Haying Fees: Lou put together a handout about the Haying fees stating the last time the Park did a price increase on Haying was in 2018. Noting that market value has went up a bit since 2018 when we established that price. Lou did a survey to find out the value of the hay we are selling, and the market value is between \$100-\$150 a Ton. Most agricultural statistics cost of doing Hay are sited in terms of acre \$80-\$100 an acre, 3 Tons per acre, averaging \$27-\$33 a Ton. Lou stated that the Park has an obligation to get fair value for products we produce. The Park does not have an obligation to subsidize any industry or individual businesses. Revenue for the Park has not kept up with inflation. Chad mentioned at the last meeting that inflation since 2018 has went up about 22%. Lou looked at a couple of strategies for the board to look at and consider. If the value of Hay is \$125 a Ton, the operator has about \$40 of interest in harvest so that value has an \$85 value and paying \$17 there is a \$68 margin involved there, so who has claim on that \$68 margin? Lous' 1/3 2/3 arrangement would take the guess out of it. Lou recalled in 2018 when we raised prices it went from \$15 to \$17, what we have out in the Park is worth more than \$17. After a brief discussion, a small committee was put together to review the Haying Fees. The committee consists of Pam who will lead the committee, Lou Hagner and Leon LaSalle. They are to review and bring information to the next meeting about the Haying fees.

Committee Reports:

Grazing Committee: NA

Group Reports:

Cabin Owner's Report: Cleaned road on Saturday.

Friends of Beaver Creek Park: NA

Superintendent Report:

- Park usage picked up some, cooler weather has discouraged some.
- Grass is coming along well, moisture critical and timely 1 1/2" during snowstorm.
- Park Work- Litter clean up almost done a little at first lake and the North end, Harrowed reserve sites.
- Equipment almost completed maintenance.
- Eagles Bridge completed.
- Initial outhouse cleaning done; a few repairs are needed.
- Fixed the garbage truck.
- Tree cleanup
- Getting camp ready, working on cabin windows and blinds changes out.
- Danielle got a sit-stand desk, it is working well.
- Hired second Laborer that will start on May 28th.
- A couple of complaints about Park Fees but not many.

Claims: Mark made a motion to approve the April Claims. Seconded by Pam. Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Renelle B.- 3 weeks ago Dr. Terrie Hildebrand held a meeting on the Vegetation and Water quality in the Park. Renelle was surprised that only one of the Park Board members was present. Lou was the only one who showed up to the meeting that was set for April 17th at noon. Pam stated that she was working, and Mark stated that the commissioners had a zoom meeting set for noon that day. The Park had severe weather, so Chad was not able to make it to town. Lou stated that it was publicized and 30 people showed up. Terrie's report was a polished report from years ago and a power point is available to everyone.

A guest asked about a donation that he wanted to make. He would like to remain anonymous and would like the funds to help out with the Lodge at Camp Kiwanis.

Lowell A.- Asked about Park board members and how many meetings they are allowed to miss. Mark replied three unexcused meetings before it needs to be addressed.

Lou H.- Asked for items to be posted on the Calendar: Deadline for June Agenda, The Bear Paw Marathon, and Committee meetings.

Pam W.- Asked that correspondence be sent to Dani so she can forward it to Pam as her email is not receiving some of Lou's messages.

Rose C.- Asked what Spring tanks have been worked on and what will be worked on stating Alkali Springs is not working well. Chad said that it was working this Fall sediment may have it plugged.

Lowell A.- Asked about the per diem for employees asking if it was for all employees. Chad said yes, all employees. Lowell commented that not a lot of places do a per diem. Chad stated that we are starting employees at \$13.50 hour if the rate were higher that would be a different thing the matrix is not competing with local places. Mark stated that McDonalds is struggling to hire at a higher wage. Lowell finished by saying the people will be watching this and the "me to" may take effect. Chad said 40 mile drive a day and trying to find people to work and stay working is a struggle.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.: Tony Made a motion to adjourn.

Next meeting: Monday June 3rd, 2024, Beaver Lodge at Camp Kiwanis 5:30 pm.

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