

Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting minutes: Feb. 27, 2024

Park Board Meeting: 5:30

Present:

Board Members: Avis McGovern, Kristin Wiley, Jennifer Sanders, Samantha Wilder

Staff: Greg Martin, Seth Jones, Paul Gatewood

Guests: Teri Doran, Mike and Francis Walker, Chad Speer, Pat and Linda Dickerson

1. Guests or Guest Reports:

Chad Speer, NVPR Director- He was asked by his board to come talk to us about the soccer program. They got the program from the YMCA about 12 years ago. Their program has grown to around 40 teams instead of just over 30 teams. Chad is looking for space for the age groups U8 field and U6 field. They haven't looked anywhere else yet. There is a spring and fall season. The spring season starts about the beginning of March to May. It would be Monday -Thursday. Fridays are usually held for Rainouts. Greg stated that historically (10-12 years ago) that JCPR received \$3-4 per kid to help offset the extra work that went into it. Sam questioned about cross country and how it would conflict with that.

Chad stated the concerns that he has is two different locations. Greg thinks that the Sandcreek facility would be great in the long term. Sand Creek is big enough to accommodate all the age groups. Chad stated that he was not looking for an answer today. But he wants to open a dialogue with us. Avis asked when they would reach out to the School System, and Chad stated that they have a board meeting this week. Chad said there would definitely be a change in trash level

Francis Walker- She wanted to discuss the Town Hall Meeting. She thanked those that came. Sam Wilder said that the City Council got their letters last night. Francis wanted our opinions on the presentation. Avis stated that as someone who likes numbers she found it very informative. She wishes that the county council and commissioners could have seen it initially. Francis stated that the phrase that stuck with her was that our rocks are so accessible. Most places you have to walk quite a distance to get to . A member of the audience asked why it was shut down. We stated that we have been told that the insurance company will not insure us. We also suggested that ICC should be the ones that go to the commissioners and the insurance company because they have the data, the lingo, and the knowledge. We are supportive of climbing but we don't have the knowledge of climbing to give a presentation or answer questions. Avis asked if the rock is harmed by rock climbing. Greg answered that bouldering is the least harmful type of climbing. Kristin stated that she thought the presentation was very persuasive. She liked the legal cases that were included and also the comparison to other smalltowns.

Samantha asked about what the audience thought about the soccer presentation. A member of the audience said that he was worried a lot about the extra traffic and worried that a kid would run out in front of traffic, or a kid would be hit on a bike, etc. The audience agreed that Sand Creek would be a better location.

2. Approve Minutes - Sam made the motion to approve the minutes. Avis seconded. Minutes from the January meeting were approved.

3. Old Business - see directors report

4. New Business
 - o ECO Lake Grand Opening Date: Wednesday, April 17th

5. Director's Report -
ELP- The park is looking good. First reservations are next week (Thursday). There is an article in the Columbus Republic coming out soon.

There is going to be a sign put up in ECO Park Campground to prevent people from just parking in the campground. The sign will also be updated at Muscatatuck. There will be kiosks going up at ELP soon to direct people to boat ramp, camp ground, etc.

Greg got an appraisal from Otero for tree removal. He ground tree stumps along highway 7. He is going to remove two hazard trees and up to 75 stumps for \$3500. Greg wants to plant trees in Eco Lake so he is asking the board for \$4000. \$300 is the average price for a tree. Avis made a motion to let Greg go ahead with the Tree work and planting of new trees. Samantha seconded. Motion passed.

Greg said that people are asking about seasonal camping: keeping their RVs there all the time but only stay there on the weekend, and only have to pay on the weekend. Greg said his staff was generally against that but wanted to bring it to the board.

ELP has about 20 more days of work. We have another couple loads of boulders coming and some loads of dirt and stone. Greg thinks the road needs more stone too. Landscaping needs to be done. Trees need to be planted, etc.

New lights are up at the playground. The shop lights went out soon after. The water line was cut when they were fixing the lights at the shop. Bartholomew Co REMC fixed the water line.

Water heater runs on LP. Greg contacted them today. Pay station and dump station need to be done still. Fire rings are in.

Splash Park- UV wasn't working well last week. Greg called Spear Corporation to be put on the schedule mid April so that we beat the rush.

Tourism- Greg reached out to Tourism. Avis said that she would also reach out. She suggested that maybe we should also reach out to Main Street.

Computer purchase- Greg purchased a computer and it ended up being a little bit more than what we allocated.

Demonstration Garden- Megan Ayers has started the Demonstration Garden. She has tarped the ground to kill the weeds.

Mountain Bike Event- Indiana Interscholastic Cycling League. Event would be held in October. They would compensate us \$250 for the use of the park. They would also probably fill up the camp ground.

NLTG Update- All land except for 1 parcel has been acquired. That piece will likely go through the legal process to obtain. Everything else is moving along well.

6. Approve claims -
7. Next Meeting - March 26, 2024
8. Adjournment - Samantha made a motion to adjourn at 7:10. Avis seconded.

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Wayne Zamora

Avis McGovern

Samantha Wilder

Kristin Wiley

Jennifer Sanders
