

## Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting minutes: March 26, 2024

Park Board Meeting: 5:30

Present:

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

Staff: Greg Martin

Guests: Teri Doran, Mike and Francis Walker

1. Guests or Guest Reports:

- Francis Walker- Francis Walker asked for an open discussion and wants some closure for the last 12 months from the park board. She wants a little clarification on what has happened. The climbing was closed, his job was put on probation, the trail was changed. Teri also spoke that it has been a very hard year for Greg and she just wanted the board to talk about how this happened. Why was Greg never supported by the board? A discussion was held about what has been happening. Avis answered and asked that if Greg feels something and wants something from the board, he needs to come to the board himself. Samantha stated that she thought the forefront of the grant was connecting the town of Vernon to the Park.

2. Approve Minutes - Minutes were approved.

3. Old Business - see directors report

4. New Business

- ECO Lake Grand Opening Date: Wednesday, April 17th: Samantha has digital invitations for the county council. Samantha reached out to Tina Ellis to see if anybody on county council would like to speak. Avis also volunteered to speak. Greg and Samantha are working on a guest list. Event will be 5:30-7:00. Greg will supply 2 tables. Avis will get the itinerary to Greg. Avis will also be keeping us updated if there are any other things that need updated.
- Bill Ertel was welcomed to the board.

5. Director's Report -

- Greg said that he uses his personal credit card. The board or the Director needs to go to the county council and county commissioners to apply for a credit card for the park.
- ECO Lake Park is making good progress. The Columbus Republic had a good article about ECO lake park and County Park upgrades. Dave Shaw is getting ready to do signs for ECO Lake. Greg is getting some informational signs and will fund it out of General budget. INDOT right ways have been decreased. Greg checked to make sure that we are planting trees in correct areas. The trees arrived today so they will be put in in the near future. Aquatic control needs to be done in April, May, June. This will cost roughly \$10,000. Avis made a motion for aquatic control from the general fund. Samantha seconded. All voted in favor. Boulders and road grating is ongoing at Eco. County will deliver rock, etc. to help cut down on costs. Mulch is being ordered tomorrow for both Muscatatuck and ECO Lake. Greg is watching the otters to make sure they don't take over the lake. LP is turned on, dumpsters are ready to go. The first campers have already been there!
- Tourism- Greg connected with Indiana Tourism. \$28,000 for a full page ad in the state tourism magazine. Jennings County tourism is not functioning currently. Greg wants to do an ad for ECO Lake.
- Demonstration Garden– Megan is doing an earth day event at the park.
- Muscatatuck Park campground updates are on hold until fall.
- Greg wants to check with the Community Foundation to see if there is a planning grant coming up. Greg wants to make sure we were represented.
- Newly purchased Auger is working very well and is very helpful.
- Anderson in Madison is going to be who the park uses for mower maintenance.
- JR High/ High school Bike Race is in October. They were down to view the trails.
- Budgeting will be a learning curve since it is the first year for ECO Lake.
- Transitioning into maintenance mode for the summer.

6. Approve claims -

7. Next Meeting -April 23, 2024

8. Adjournment - Samantha made a motion to adjourn at 7:11. Jennifer seconded.

Jennings County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting  
Feb. 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Bill Ertel

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Avis McGovern

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Samantha Wilder

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Kristin Wiley

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Jennifer Sanders

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