

## Jennings County Parks & Recreation Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes: May 23, 2023

Present:

- Board Members: Avis McGovern, Samantha Wilder, Jennifer Sanders, Kristin Wiley, and Wayne Zamora
- Staff: Greg Martin
- Guests: Cliff Marr

### 1. Guests or Guest Reports

Cliff Marr, President of Indiana Climbing Coalition, came to share concerns about the recent decision made to stop climbing in Jennings County. He has requested a meeting with the commissioners. He said Muscatatuck is the only available option in the state of IN. He spoke of Access Fund, a non-profit group that supports climbing. Said many people have reached out to know what they can do to help. He clarified the understanding that if the commissioners opened climbing back up, the park would have climbing. The hold up right now is that climbing has been stopped by the commissioners due to insurance reasons. Wayne asked for other Indiana sites that have climbing and Cliff stated there are none. Wayne asked what challenges other parks in Indiana face and why aren't there others doing it. Cliff said 1) not as much quality rock 2) Hoosier National has some climbing allowed, but it is difficult to get there 3) some private areas that have not been pursued. ICC main strategy was to look at what went well here in Jennings County. ext steps - get a meeting with commissioners and get Access Fund involved. Wayne summarized some of the issues with the Next Level Trails Grant(NLTG) which is intended to be a trails project and the Park Board decision to support the grant regardless of the climbing. Cliff said he would like to have a conversation with the NLTG committee.

Jason Wallis, camp host, spoke as a community member about his desire to have climbing back in Jennings County. Hopeful to find a solution. Sam and Wayne shared that it has been an ongoing liability situation and not a new issue or direct reaction to someone recently getting hurt. The issue has resurfaced because it was time for the county to redo their insurance.

### 2. Approve Minutes- minutes approved

### 3. Old Business

- a. Eco Park Update regarding septic - see Director's report below
- b. Committee Meeting update from NLTG members - no update at this time
- c. Camping Rate Increase update - \*Active (camping app) - variable rates are working correctly, ready to go

- d. No Climbing - official announcement/signage
  - e. Brian Bender update on NLTG project - no update at this time
4. New Business
- a. Park Employee Evaluations - usually completed at the beginning of season. Greg will complete these soon.
  - b. Wayne discussed the communication between Teri Doran(Greg's partner) and Judge Webster Bright and that future communication regarding issues should be directed to the Park Board. Greg stated that his personnel review was inaccurate, but he wants to move on. Discussion followed. 90 day review will be at the August meeting.
5. Director's Report - see attached report
- \*see Bartholomew County REMC quote -new service, new meters - will come out of our budget for Eco Lake
  - Kristin made a motion to go forward with this. Unanimous vote.
  - \*Eco Lake - next progress meeting will be 5/25/23
    - \*Camp sites inconsistent, should be 15' minimum and range is 11-13'. Greg has discussed this with the engineer and they are going to make it right.
    - \*Presby system is likely to be delayed and not ready by July 1. This will impact when opening will be.
  - \*Spray Grounds - Spear Corp. will be coming June 8 and 9 to fix spray grounds and provide training.
  - \*Jennifer mentioned the women's restroom door in the dining hall isn't shutting properly.
  - \*Memorial Weekend completely booked.
  - \*Kristin asked if camp hosts change every year - it varies by host.
  - \*Wayne asked if there is a way to expand our campgrounds at Muscatatuck, even primitive. Greg suggested upgrading water/electric in the campground as the next big project. Electricity is an issue. Currently we do not have 50 amp sites, and he is suggesting we upgrade. He also mentioned that he would like to see primitive sites removed and changed to RV sites. Also would like Shelter 2 as another project.
6. Approve Claims
7. Next Meeting: June 27, 2023
8. Adjournment 7:05

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Wayne Zamora

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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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