

Approved_____

MINUTES – PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting – January 23, 2017; 6:30 p.m.; Prairieville Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Hoek called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Scott Kuebler, Kevin Loudon, Kathy Mutschler, John Hoek

Members absent: Deb Young

Twenty (20) members of the public were present.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Hoek, seconded by Kuebler, to suspend Article VI, Section 4 "Order of Business" and move "Pine Lake Recreation Area--Closure: Review of Process and Sale of Parcel: Status Report", the first "Public Comment" section and "Correspondence" to immediately follow the "Review/Approval of Agenda" section to accommodate those attending who wish to discuss the temporary closing of the Pine Lake Recreation Area; all "ayes", motion carried.

Motion by Hoek, seconded by Loudon to approve the January 23, 2017, meeting agenda as revised; all "ayes", motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE/PUBLIC COMMENT

Pine Lake Recreation Area--Closure: Review of Process

Hoek reviewed the seventeen (17) month process that preceded the decision to temporarily close the Pine Lake Recreation Area and provided the audience members with documentation regarding the transparent manner in which all steps were taken. (ie meeting notices, survey forms, survey results, requests for public input, etc.)

Pine Lake Recreation Area--Sale of Parcel

Hoek reported that "the sale of approximately one acre immediately behind the existing Pine Lake Storage building has been recommended by the Commission." He also stated that: "No selling price has been determined. And, if sold, all proceeds (after expenses) will go directly to the Parks Commission." A question was raised about whether or not the parcel must be sold using a bidding process. Hoek indicated he would obtain an answer to this question.

CORRESPONDENCE: Hoek read an email from Shawn Diebold opposing the closing of the Pine Lake Recreation Area, opposing the sale of a parcel of land within this area, recommending the installation of a dog park and recommending the recapture of cell tower income.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Lori Harris: Thanked the Commission for communicating about this issue. Indicated that many had no knowledge of this survey. She did reply to survey, but did not see her comments in the report.

Suggested skate board areas and bike trails.

Nancy Whitney: Had previously requested resurfacing of the tennis courts, but her request was tabled. Inquired about the \$13,000.00 generated by the Pine Lake park and indicated that this money was taken away and placed in the general fund, but should be available to be used by the Parks Board. Asked if a bidding process would be used to sell the parcel.

Wayne Steed: Commented that even though the Commission went through a process before a decision was made problems arose because the policies and procedures are obsolete, ineffective and inefficient. If email had been used, there would have been more responses. Recommended that the process be modified to engage with the demographics and to better communicate with concerned residents. Asked if a bidding process would be used to sell the parcel. Inquired about the expenses incurred to maintain the park.

Casey Craft: Stated that lack of a police presence results in the littering and stuff going on.

Inquired about the parcel and its zoning designation.

Brooks Craft: Stated that garbage can be found in all parks and that there should be not delay in removing it. Made the Commission aware that the launch ramp at the Center Street site needs to be repaired.

Chet Berkimer: Asked if closing the park permanently would save money. Park is used even in its current condition and used often. Requested it not be closed.

Steve Corbin: Stated that the park is in disarray because the Commission does not pay attention to it and that is why garbage is everywhere. Questioned if park was being closed to save money or closed to escape these problems.

Sue Boehm: Shared that her father was on the Commission and constructed all of the buildings and equipment at the park including a trailer for a caretaker.

Dan Weston: Asked: "What is the people's passion?" Concluded that it was not to close the park.

Acknowledged that maintaining is expensive and the fundraising would help. Felt survey returns do not reflect how much the park is actually used. Suggested that a traffic counter be used to count traffic entering and exiting for one year which would show seasonal use patterns. Wished to ask additional questions about finances such as cost to maintain Pine Lake Recreation Area versus other parks.

Todd McGregor: Stated his opposition to installing the cell tower in the park because it used land needed by softball teams. Indicated that it was his understanding that the cell tower would pay for park maintenance. Hoped that there will be no sale of the land or closing of the park.

Mike Whitney: A Pine Lake Association committee has been created to work on developing biking/hiking trails around the Pine Lake. Stated he hoped park would not be closed and felt that the right thing to do is put monies generated by the park back into the park.

Asked who made the motion to close the park.

Dick VanNiman: Commented on annual well water testing.

NOTE: Hoek proposed that a special committee be formed to specifically address the components of the Pine Lake Recreation Area annual goal. Prior to passing out a sign up sheet, he reviewed the Commission's bylaws regarding the parameters within which committees function. Seven (7) persons signed the sheet and Wayne Steed volunteered to chair the committee.

Motion by Hoek, seconded by Kuebler, to temporarily rescind the decision to close the Pine Lake Recreation Area on February 1, 2017; all "ayes", motion carried.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Hoek, seconded by Mutschler to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 19, 2016, as presented; all "ayes", motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of Treasurer Young, Hoek reported that as of December 29, 2016, the balance in the PNC account is \$102,095.39. Of that amount, \$12,753.94 is available to pay bills. The Chemical Bank Merchant Account balance is \$54,351.47 as of December 31, 2016. To date, our net revenues over expenditures is \$34,594.29.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Motion by Hoek, seconded by Loudon to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$2,667.50; All "ayes", motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE Note: Moved as per motion passed above.

PARKS REPORT (Jim Timmons, Assistant Parks Manager)

Furnace Replacement Quotes Copies of two (2) quotes for the replacement of the furnace at our Gull Lake Park were distributed and discussed. These will again be reviewed at our next meeting.

Upper Crooked Lake Ramp Repair A quote from Peterman for the purchase of larger sized grit was discussed. Second estimate will be requested from Mead Brothers. Since it was brought to the Commission's attention that the ramp at the Center Street site also needs grit, it was suggested ordering enough material for both sites might result in reducing the cost.

Gull Lake Ramp Repair Information is still being collected. It was suggested that either Barry County or Hope Township be contacted regarding what company installed the new ramp at Cloverdale Lake.

LED Light Upgrade at Gull Lake Site Two bids will be presented at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT Note: Moved as per motion passed above.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Annual Performance Evaluation A written report of the Parks Manager's annual evaluation was reviewed. Consensus was to send report to Bishop for signature.

Annual Goal – Lower Crooked Lake As requested, Kuebler presented a second estimate regarding the reconfiguration of the Lower Crooked Lake Park to increase the number of parking spaces.

Pay Station – Upper Crooked Lake Park Hoek distributed copies of the final bid for the purchase of a pay station from Traffic and Safety Control Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$29,700.00. It was the consensus of Commission members present that this amount was "acceptable" and authorized Hoek to request that the Township Board move \$10,926.00 from our Chemical Bank Merchant Account into our current budget to supplement existing purchase funds.

Pine Lake Recreation Area Note: Moved as per motion passed above.

*Closure--Review of Process

*Sale of Parcel--Status Report

Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Annual Budget Committee members thanked Clerk DeVries and Hoek for all their preliminary budget work and agreed that the review went very well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Snow Removal Bid A revised snow removal bid was reviewed to replace the current contract which will lapse on March 31, 2017. It was the consensus of the Commission members present to submit it to the Township Board at their next meeting.

3rd Annual Bass Summit A list of suggested agenda items to be discussed at the 3rd Annual Bass Summit were reviewed. This list will be finalized at our February 27, 2017 meeting. Kuebler will invite bass tournament clubs to this summit which will be held during our regular March meeting.

Annual Gull Lake Report A copy of the Gull Lake annual Department of Natural Resources report was reviewed. It was the consensus of the Commission members present to forward this report to Supervisor Stoneburner for signature and submission.

Promoting our Parks Tabled

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Casey Craft reported that the boat launch ramp at the Center Street Park is in need of repair.

Dan Weston asked a number of questions about the budget process and ownership of the Parks truck.

Richard VanNiman commented about the Gull Lake lease and the refusal of the Department of Natural Resources to wash their boats. He also questioned why Pine Lake doesn't have a wash station.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS:

Chairperson--Thanked audience members for attending and encouraged them to continue attending meetings.

Vice-Chairperson--Thanked everyone for their attendance.

Treasurer--Not in Attendance

Secretary--Thanked everyone for attending and questioned if a decision was made regarding communicating with our public was reached.

Recreation Director--Thanked everyone for attending and participating.

Adjournment at 9:45 p.m.

Linda Russell, Minute Taker