



**Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center**  
These are the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego County Parks & Recreation Commission held on Monday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Pete Awrey. Dave Baragrey resumed control of the meeting at 6:02pm.

**Members Present:** Pete Awrey, Bonny Miller, Doug Johnson, Judy Jarecki, Butch Fleming, Abe Cruz, Bill Holewinski, Dave Baragrey and Scott Courterier.

**Members Absent:** Tom Johnson

**Others Present:** John Burt, Gina Marchio and Keri Swantek

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2015 meeting was made by Doug Johnson and seconded by Butch Fleming. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Budget:** Gina Marchio reported that revenue at the county park is up. John Burt informed the members that the restitution money from Mike Tarbutton will be deposited in the parks budget soon.

**Bills:** Approved to go to finance for payment.

#### **Director's Update**

- A. Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve:** John Burt reported that the transfer process of the remaining 25 acres is in progress. John Burt reported that the Groen Board wanted to leave the Echo Valley Lodge in its current state per Mr. Groen's wishes. John Burt said he would like to set up a visioning committee for future planning. John Burt reported that existing races at the preserve may continue and any funds from additional races must go through the preserve and the money used for educational programs.
- B. Community Center:** Gina Marchio reported that the construction is progressing.
- C. County Park:** Marchio reported that reservations have increased this year. Marchio reported that the upcoming Halloween Weekends are both nearly full. Marchio also reported that the swimming buoys will be removed for the season soon.
- D. Wah Wah Soo:** Marchio reported that the swim buoys will be removed soon.
- E. Libke Fields:** John Burt reported that the property transfer process is complete. Bonny Miller reported the flag football season has started. Bonny Miller also updated the members on the repairs being made to the parking area.
- F. Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Annual Meeting:** John Burt informed the members of the meeting which recently took place with the Groen Board.



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**Old Business:** None

**New Business:**

- A. **Proposed 2016 Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Budget:** Gina Marchio reported she has prepared a budget with \$2,000.00 going to repair and maintenance and \$5,000.00 to special programs. Marchio reported she has received requests for money for food plots and an additional employee. Marchio reported she will provide a complete budget at the next meeting.
  
- B. **Boyne Area Gymnastics Contact:** Marchio presented the members with a proposed contract for the gymnastics program. Scott Courterier expressed concern over some of the wording and suggested that section 5 of the agreement be simplified. A motion to recommend the contract to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners with the changes was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Abel Cruz. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Comments:** Doug Johnson, Bonny Miller, Bill Holewinski and Butch Fleming were excited about the property transfer process taking place at the Groen Preserve. Bill Holewinski also expressed appreciation for the support shown for the Road Commission millages.

**Next Meeting:** Monday October 12, 2015 at 6:00pm at the Otsego County Community Center.

A motion to adjourn was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Abe Cruz. No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm

Keri Swantek  
Recording Secretary