



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center
These are the proposed minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission held on July 8th, 2013.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Members Present: Dave Baragrey, Pete Awrey, Doug Johnson, Tom Johnson, Scott Courterier, Abe Cruz, Bonnie Miller, and Randy Stults.

Members Absent: Bill Holewinski and Butch Fleming

Others Present: Mike Tarbutton.

Consent agenda approval of minutes with corrections on 1st page of Ron Starback, should be Ron Stahlbuck. Same section minutes read Mike would like to take Trevor from \$9.87 to step one with an increase to \$10.31. Should have read take Trevor from \$9.87 to step one. Motion by Miller, second by Courterier. Motion passed on voice consent of the members.

Public Comment: Mike reported that he received an email from Larry Nakfoor in regards to parking easement at Wah Wah Soo. Questions on parking and what would the price be for additional property he is looking at purchasing. Mr. Nakfoor was invited to this meeting. It is the consensus of this board that we don't have any extra property to give them and he will have to deal with the real estate people to come up with a price.

Old Business: Mike received the bid from Fitzek Construction on viewing area at the Community Center. Still some questions on code issues, etc. We hope to have resolved for the August meeting.

Budget: Rachel Frisch has been on medical leave, so no June reports. Rachel is working part time from her home and if she can she will get the reports ready. If Mike receives them he will mail to us. The 2014 budget will be started within the next month. Priorities of things to put in the budget: #1 – Cabin at the County Park, #2-Fish cleaning station, #3-Truck with four wheel drive. We also discussed playground equipment and fixing the tennis courts. We will look at possible donations from service groups to get these things going.

Bills: Approved to go to finance for payment.

New Business: Mike reported on fireworks; park was jam packed. Normal problems arose, but they were handled. Fireworks contract is up for renewal. Mike feels that if the lake levels continue to rise, it will be difficult to shoot from existing spot. The display has gotten smaller over the years as the budget has remained at \$15,000 but the supply cost has gone up.

Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve: Meeting with full Groen Board is on Wednesday at 2pm. John and Mike will talk about 3rd party use and possibly starting to work on the Echo Valley Lodge. Smiles for Miles race went well with 182 registered runners/walkers. 50 poles are ready to be installed and all the arrows pointing to intersections have been installed. Pavilion that covers the big wheels has been painted. The Otsego County Board of Commissioners approved the step increases for both employees. Still waiting to hear from the Cook Farm on the horse/wagon tours. Mounted Division of the Sheriff's Department would like to use the preserve on Saturday September 14th, 2013 from 9am to noon for approximately 40 to 50 riders. Motion by T. Johnson, second by Cruz to allow this to happen. Motion passes by voice consent of the members.

County Park: We had some electrical problems. At least three campers reported damage to their equipment due to power surges. Consumers Energy came out and worked on the lines. Mark Mellon Triathlon went well. Received \$432 in vehicle passes by 7:30 am. The 20 picnic tables are done. Mike reported that they worked on a



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center path out to the point on the South side of the park and will make it our Dog Beach! Mike reported on families camping on lake sites. Families are just trading sites so they can stay longer than the 15 night rule. Even after it was explained to them, they insisted they were not breaking any rules. Two years ago the rule was after 15 nights in the park you had to leave. Now the rule is you have to change sites after 15 consecutive nights in the same site. The 15 night rule is so you don't stay in a prime site for a long period of time. The rule needs to be revisited. Mike will rewrite the rule and have at the August meeting for our approval. Motions by T. Johnson, second by Courterier at allow Mike to rewrite the rule. Motion passed by voice consent of the members. Mike reported we will need twenty new fire pit rings. He will look at a possible RAP Grant as in previous years.

Community Center: Area at the rear of the Community Center has been finished. Parks paid for the materials and city employees installed the sidewalk to the back door. Mike will get us a price on black topping or cementing a parking area. Gaylord Basketball Camps went well. Lots of humidity on the floor. Summer Camp is going on now and the Girl's Camp starts July 22nd and 29th and goes for three days each week.

Libke Fields: New parking lot has not been started yet. We have some gravel and we need to spread it on low spots in the parking area. We discussed possible tree removal for more parking, tables, etc. Bonnie will consult with Patricia Osborne on tree removal if we decide to do so.

Wah Wah Soo: Will work on getting a trail camera hooked up this week.

Irontone Springs: Mike will get out soon and see what can be done with landscaping, tree replacement, etc.

Commissioner Comment: We have to continue to look at the overall picture as we continue and look years down the road as we transition into a new director position and all that it will entail.

Next meeting: Monday, August 12th, 2013 at the County Park at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn by Courterier, second by Cruz. Motion passed on voice consent. No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Pete Awrey
Secretary