

OTSEGO COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



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 April 17th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:03pm

Members Present: Chad Dutcher, Bill Holewinski, Pete Awrey, Doug Johnson, Scott Courterier, and Randy Stults.

Members Absent: Tom Johnson, Butch Fleming, Abe Cruz and Dave Baragrey.

Others Present: Mike Tarbutton.

Consent Agenda: Approval of previous minutes. Motion by Stults, second by Holewinski.

Bills: Approved to go to finance for payment.

Budget: Mike brought up an idea or suggestion for saving some labor in the future years at the County Park. He compared costs of bringing in employees at normal hiring times each year. These employees basically are used early to clean the park and get it ready to open. Mike feels we could use the county work crew instead and save significant dollars. He would then stagger the new employees start dates and possibly let them go earlier in the fall. We would reduce man hours. We agreed. Motion made by Stults, second by Holewinski to back Mike on this idea and implement as soon as possible.

Stults brought up that Mike should get a Uniformed Procedure of how he operates on a daily basis as he will ultimately retire and the new director should have guidelines to follow on all our properties: start ups, closures, etc. Mike will keep us posted.

Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve: Mike brought in a new sign for the nature preserve listing the prohibited activities at the preserve. We noted a couple of misspellings on the sign and Mike will get them fixed. Sign looks great. Mike reported that everything is going well; he gave us an update on the preserve. Repairs to the Echo Valley Lodge will wait to Phase 2 of the project. The preserve will be open 50 hours per week with closed days being Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Will advertise for two part time employees. Duties will include trail supervision, restroom and storage building maintenance along with enforcing the regulations of the preserve. Lots to do in the next two months before the scheduled grand opening at the end of June. Mike will coordinate the opening for when Mrs. Groen and the Groen Advisory Board are up at her property. John and Mike will not have to go to Ohio as was thought a month ago. Randy brought up the emergency plans for evacuation, closures, and bad weather guidelines would need to be implemented also. Mike agreed.

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Libke Fields: Received one proposal for fence repair, replacement with safety top covers and one proposal for additional sprinklers. Mike gave us three options on how to proceed at the fields. We agreed to leave fence along Van Tyle Road and repair it with rail top and covers. We will remove all other fencing and turn into a flag football field. We will have one softball field and the other two will be opened up to one large flag football/soccer field. Mike will check with Matt at the airport on 10 foot fence and will update us on costs and inform at the next meeting.

Community Center: Mike gave us a report on the condition of tennis courts and surrounding fences. Cost to repair the fencing is roughly \$950 and repainting the tennis courts is \$4500. Mike was instructed to do both. Stults went over roof spec plan and made some recommended corrections then returned the specs to Seidell and they were revised.

Wah Wah Soo: Park has been cleaned and is ready to go. Bathrooms will open soon and buoys will be put in the third week of May. We talked about putting gravel down on the north side of the property. Mike will check with Tom Dean at the Road Commission on county/railroad lines, etc. He will report back to us.

Irontone Springs: Will open in a couple of weeks. The sign poles need painting and the north sign needs to be put up. Other than that it's ready to go.

County Park: Mike has received lots of requests for donation of camping nights. He will come up with an application for these organizations to fill out and start bringing the requests to us.

Old Business: None.

New Business: MSU Extension has dropped their 4H adventure camp which we have hosted for the last three years. Mike has some interested people to take it over. It would be called the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Summer Adventure Camp. The camp should be self supporting and will go for 4 days a week for 2 weeks in July. Randy suggested that we have the ladies bring us their plan so we know what is going on. Mike would also like to be able to allow 5 youths to attend at no charge and ask United Way to also provide funding for 5 youths at no charge. The instructors will be the same as they have been for the last three years and will be paid as contract employees, like an official.

Public Comment: None.

Commissioner Comment: Randy questioned a line item on budget; property taxes. He hadn't ever seen this amount in this area. Mike will follow up and let him know at the next meeting.

Next meeting: Monday, May 14th, 2012 at the Community Center at 6:00pm.

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Motion to adjourn by Stults, second by Holewinski. No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm.

Pete Awrey
Secretary