



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve
Irontone Springs
Libke Field
Pontresina Park

Otsego Lake County Park
Wah Wah Soo
Community Center

Approved Minutes
Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
March 13th 2023

Call to order at 6:00pm by president Bonny Miller at the Otsego County Building, room 100.

Members Present: Bonny Miller, Jack Korte, Randy Stults, Troy Huff, Judi Jarecki, Scott Courterier and Justin Wing.

Members Absent: Trevor Burroughs.

Others Present: Quinn Ridley, Thom Marquard, Jacob Brown and Keri Swantek.

Approval of Previous Minutes: A motion was made by Troy Huff and seconded by Judi Jarecki to approve the minutes from the meeting on February 13th, 2023 as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

Presentations:

1. **Otsego Christian School:** Jacob Brown presented a letter from Lani Lyttle with Otsego Christian School asking about the fees being charged to use the facility for the 2023-2024 school year from lunch time and recess and gym class. The current schedule is Monday – Friday from 12:00-12:45pm and gym class on Thursday from 1:00-2:30pm. Bonny Miller contacted Lani Lyttle and they are willing to have an additional staff member on site. The doors will remain open and other persons could come in during that time. The board discussed not charging the Otsego Christian School for the lunch time/recess. They will be charged to use the facility exclusively for the gym class.
2. **Campsite Improvement Grant:** Thom Marquard said he is working on a grant for a security system at the Community Center. Thom asked for organizations that might write a letter of support for the increasing of cameras and a monitoring system. Thom Marquard presented documents explaining the possible costs of the campsite drainage improvement project. Quinn Ridley from Wade Trim said much of the cost is due to grading, bringing in fill and making 3 additional sites ADA compliant. Quinn Ridley also discussed the engineering cost estimate. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Troy Huff to approve to move the project agreement from Wade Trim to the Otsego County Budget and Finance Committee for approval and approval by the BOC and signature. Motion carried.

Sparks Grant: Thom Marquard said the second round of applications has not opened yet and he would like to resubmit the grant for playground and beach improvements and the installation of a



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splash pad for the second round. The members discussed seeking more money in the second round and agreed to a grant request of \$750,000.00 with an additional funding of \$50,000 of local money and include the estimate for beach improvements and 100,000.00 towards the splash pad and the remaining money towards playground equipment. Thom Marquard asked for ideas for the 3rd round of applications. Jacob Brown discussed improvements at Irontone Springs including replacing the bridge, repairing the concrete in the pavilion, additional parking and making the trail more accessible. Justin Wing asked to hire an engineer for plans at Irontone Springs. Randy Stults wants a master plan designed for the entire department and a vision plan for each park and/or facility. Randy Stults asked the staff to prepare a list of ideas for updates to Irontone Springs.

Bills: A error was identified in the bills and corrected. A motion was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Troy Huff to approve the bills dated February 3rd – March 3rd in the amount of \$10,285.36 with the bill to Jakovon Pryor-McCovery being updated from \$41.00 to \$410.00. Motion carried.

Budget Reports: Jacob Brown discussed the budget reports from February for the Community Center, the County Parks and the Groen Preserve.

Old Business:

- 1. Boat Rental Agreement:** The staff presented a listed of ideas for boat rental proposals. Randy Stults asked for a request for a proposal for non-motorized watercraft rental at the Otsego Lake County Park as approved by the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission and in the request have it included in the request if they will provide a dock if it is needed, what park staff involvement, if any is required and the water front space requested. A motion was made by Justin Wing and seconded by Scott Courterier to have the park staff put together a request for bids/proposals to provide non-motorized watercraft for rental to be supplied and rented at the Otsego Lake County Park as approved by the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission. Motion carried.
- 2. Fireworks Agreement:** Jacob Brown presented the proposed fireworks contract. Jacob Brown said he went to a meeting with the Otsego Lake Association and they are interested in funding a larger fireworks display. They would like the P&R staff to negotiate with Wolverine Fireworks to get options for a bigger show. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Jack Korte to enter into fireworks display agreement with the Otsego Lake Association and the fireworks agreement with Wolverine Fireworks with the cost no less then \$17,325.00 with the possibility of a larger display with the cost covered by the Otsego Lake Association. Motion carried. Jacob Brown said the Otsego Lake Association wondered where the park commission stands on future fireworks shows. Randy Stults recommends seeking other sponsors before consideration of a financial contribution towards the display. Scott Courterier asked to present this to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners. The park commission said the fireworks are funded on a year by year basis.



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3. Special Event Forms:

-Otsego Lake Splash-In: Jacob Brown presented an updated special event form. A motion was made by Troy Huff and seconded by Jack Korte to approve the Otsego Lake Splash-In scheduled for June 9th – 11th, 2023. Motion carried.

-Fireworks: Jacob Brown presented the special event form. A motion was made Randy Stults and seconded by Troy Huff to approve the fireworks display on July 1st, 2023 with a rain date of July 2nd, 2023. Motion carried.

4. Community Center Vision: Justin Wing discussed the outline of the vision. Jacob Brown said he has not heard back on the status of the current lease of the exterior block. Scott Courterier asked that the City of Gaylord office being contacted to determine if they have interest in the exterior block before investing a lot of money in it. Bonny Miller discussed having three options preserve and enhance the Community Center to present to the public. Justin Wing asked that the Community Center Vision be put on the agenda for next month. Justin Wing said he will update some of the wording in the document. Randy Stults and Scott Courterier want the necessary repairs documented. The board members said they want to move forward with installing new windows. The board members asked the staff to find the estimate that was discussed at a previous meeting.

A motion was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Jack Korte to continue with the meeting after the two-hour time frame. Motion carried.

Jacob Brown said that Libby Benjamin is interested in putting up “stop aquatic hitchhikers” signs at the boat launch Libby is also interested in bringing a mobile boat wash station that they would staff and instruct people how to use. Randy Stults is in favor of the signs. The board members asked that a special event permit be completed for Boat Wash station event. A motion to approve will be explored when the paperwork is complete.

Director’s Update:

- 1. Community Center:** Jacob Brown discussed the gas leak issue at the building that was quickly corrected. Jacob Brown said Great Lakes Roofing still has to examine the roof and provide their suggestions for repairs. Jacob Brown said BEAR Basketball is done for the season. Jacob Brown said open gym is scheduled for approximately 10:30-5:30pm. Jacob Brown said this schedule varies on a weekly basis depending on staffing issues and afternoon rentals. Jacob Brown said they are currently not charging adults to come in for open gym on the weekends. The park commission agreed to continue with this for the remainder of the school year. Jacob Brown said the Community Playgroup has been getting really busy and 40 kids were there on Friday. Jacob Brown said the tennis program held on Friday evenings has been going well.



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2. **Libke Fields:** Jacob Brown said the water well was supposed to be chlorinated annually due to the spigots by the benches. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Troy Huff to cap the open spigots to eliminate chlorinating the well requirement and to alleviate the cost. Motion carried.
3. **County Park:** Jacob Brown said a complaint was received about the boat launch not being open in the winter. The park commission said it has been closed because the area is not plowed of snow and they agreed it is to remain closed when the campground is closed.
Jacob Brown said the Otsego Child Welfare Alliance said the life jacket station project is on hold until at least the Spring of 2024. Randy Stults expressed concern over the liability and the training for use of life jackets.
4. **Irontone Springs:** Jacob Brown said the staff met with the health department and staff from Northern Michigan Well. The first step is installing a sample tap to determine if the bad samples are coming from the well. The initial chlorination and installation of the sample tap may cost \$500.00-\$1,500.00. If the bad samples are not coming from the well, the next step is chlorinating the wells at least another six times. Jacob Brown said that Northern Michigan Well is providing an estimate for chlorinating the well. The board members want the sample tap installed and the water to be chlorinated and tested.
5. **Groen Preserve:** Jacob Brown read a list of updates provided by Jacob Meyer including approximately 225-450 people visited the preserve in February. Jacob Brown said approximately 30-40 girl scouts came for a snowshoe hike to the lake. Jacob Meyer is working on maintenance of the equipment and grooming the trails.

Commissioner Comments:

Judi Jarecki said the meeting was busy and well run.

Troy Huff, Jack Korte and Scott Courterier thanked Jacob Brown for their work and transparency.

Justin Wing asked Tim Moore's position has limited hours. Jacob Brown said the position is a part-time irregular position and is permitted 20 – 25 hours per week.

Randy Stults said that the parks and rec commission leadership is trying to get the meeting under two hours and appreciates the patience of the members.

Jacob Brown said the Parks and Recreation Commission has a vacant position and he is working on advertising this opening.

The next meeting in Monday April 10th, 2023 at 6:00pm at the Otsego County Community Center.



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Attachments as part of these minutes:

- February 13th, 2023 Proposed Minutes.
- Bills dated February 3rd – March 3rd in the amount of \$10,285.36.
- Budget Reports from February for the County Parks, the Community Center and the Groen Preserve
- Special Event Form for Fireworks.
- Special Event Form for Otsego Lake Splash-In.

Keri Swantek, Recording Secretary

Randy Stults, Secretary



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