



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**  
**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Called to order at 6:00pm by president Bonny Miller at the Otsego County Community Center.

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

**Members Absent:** Scott Courterier and Trevor Burroughs.

**Others Present:** Jacob Brown, Keri Swantek and Laura Cherry.

**Previous Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented was made by Troy Huff and seconded by Judi Jarecki. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Presentation:** Laura Cherry, the Community Playgroup Coordinator, discussed the program and thanked the board members for their support. Randy Stults asked what they can do to help and how the program is being promoted. Laura Cherry and Jacob Brown said there is a Facebook page specific for the program and it is also advertised on the county Facebook page.

**Bills:** A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Jack Korte to approve the bills dated March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 in the amount of \$6,047.70. Motion carried.

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

**Old Business:**

1. **O CPR Vision:** Justin Wing presented an updated copy of the vision. Jacob Brown prepared a vision for the entire department and each facility. Jacob Brown presented a copy of the lease from the City of Gaylord and said it will expire at the end of the year. Jacob Brown said a renewal is for 5 years and requires a 30-day notice. Randy Stults asked the members to review the visions and send comments or suggestions to Jacob Brown to be presented at the next meeting.
2. **Wah Wah Soo Vault and Stairs:** Jacob Brown discussed the erosion issue and said it is a safety hazard. Jacob Brown suggested adding a 3-4-foot erosion wall in front of the vault toilet, add side walk from the vault toilet to the top steps and remove and replace the bottom 3-4 steps. Randy Stults designated the erosion issue and steps at Wah Wah Soo as an emergency repair and allow Jacob Brown to move forward with getting price estimates. This motion was seconded



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by Troy Huff. Motion carried. Justin Wing asked if a drawing can be prepared for the board members to review.

3. **Boat Rental Proposal:** A motion was made by Justin Wing and seconded by Jack Korte to move forward with the request for boat rental proposals. Motion carried.
4. **Tree Removal at the Community Center:** Jacob Brown said 3 bids were received for removing 10 trees and 11 stumps. Jacob Brown said the lowest bid came from Shawn Thomas Tree Service for \$6,500.00. A motion was made by Troy Huff and seconded by Randy Stults to recommend to the Otsego County Budget and Finance Committee the estimate from Shawn Thomas Tree Service. Motion carried.
5. **Event Policy:** Jacob Brown presented descriptions of each program taking place at the facilities as well as an updated copy of the special event permit. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.
6. **Camping Reservations:** Jacob Brown discussed changing the reservation policy from 1 year in advance to 6 months in advance of the arrival date. Jacob Brown said this request is due to the special event dates not being determined a year in advance. A motion was made by Justin Wing and second by Judi Jarecki to change the reservation policy to 182 days in advance of the arrival date beginning in the 2024 season. Motion carried.
7. **Other Policy's:** Jacob Brown presented copies of the student/minor waiver, the adult waiver and the disciplinary policy. Jacob Brown discussed several problems with the after-school program. Jacob Brown told the students the program is suspended until further notice. Bonny Miller was in favor of suspending the program and having a police officer present from 3:30-4:30pm. Jacob Brown asked about the cost to have a police officer at the Community Center. Randy Stults asked about the amount of money available in inside purchase services. Randy Stults asked if the cost of an officer is better spent on hiring 2 additional part-time employees. Randy Stults asked if the rules were posted online. Randy Stults was in favor of cancelling the after-school program for the rest of the week. Jacob Brown said he is seeking approval for the waiver forms and disciplinary policy. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Bonny Miller to approve the disciplinary policy subject to format [format] and content and legal review of the policy by the county attorney. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Troy Huff to accept the student/minor release form and the adult release form subject to format and content and legal review of the policy by the county attorney. Motion carried. A motion was made by Justin Wing and seconded by Randy Stults to suspend the after-school program from 3:00-5:00pm due to violence and safety issues and to conduct a safety review with the program being suspended until April 17<sup>th</sup> at the latest. Motion carried.

**New Business:** None.

**Project & Director's Updates:** Jacob Brown presented a list of the fund balance amounts for the past few years per the board's request. Justin Wing asked about the cost of replacing the windows. Jacob Brown presented information discussed from the October 2022 meeting. Jacob



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Brown presented a ~~listed~~ [list] of where advertising is currently taking place. Jacob Brown said \$1,000.00 is spent annually for the Community Center, the County Park and the Groen Preserve. Bonny Miller said she has received a lot of good response from the radio ads from WMJZ for the Groen Preserve. Randy Stults expressed concerns over the content of the ads and the quality of the paper and printing and was in favor of not doing weekly ads. Randy Stults wants to increase advertising on Facebook and other social media outlets. Jacob Brown is in favor of weekly ads being eliminated and having an ad for each facility once a year.

A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Bonny Miller to continue with the meeting. Motion carried. Jacob Brown read a thank you note from MSU Extension for the Community Center having open gym during the Spring Break Extravaganza. Jacob Brown read some updates from Jacob Meyer at the Groen Preserve including that 150-300 people visited the preserve in March. Jacob Brown and Keri Swantek have started opening the campground. Jacob Brown asked the members to review the 5-year plan that he presented and send him and comments or suggestions. Jacob Brown said all the locks at the Community Center have been rekeyed. Jacob Brown said some applications have been received for the lead ranger position and that interviews will take place soon. Jacob Brown said the application for seasonal park rangers is posted online.

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

The next meeting is Monday May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 at the Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve , Hilltop House at 6:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

#### Attachments as part of these minutes:

- March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Proposed Minutes
- Bills dated March 4<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 in the amount of \$6,047.70.
- Budget Reports from March for the County Parks, the Community Center and the Groen Preserve.

Keri Swantek, Recording Secretary

Randy Stults, Secretary