



Otsego Lake County Park
Otesgo County Community Center
Libke Fields
Irontone Springs Roadside Park
Wah Wah Soo Beach
Community Dog Park
Pontresina Park

**Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting August 14th, 2023
Approved Minutes**

Call to order at 6:00pm at the Otsego Lake County Park by president Bonny Miller.

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

Members Absent: Troy Huff and Trevor Burroughs.

Others Present: Jacob Brown, Keri Swantek, Mel Maier, Thom Marquardt, Jessica Harp and Chuck Harp.

Approval of Previous Minutes: A motion was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Jack Korte to approve the minutes from July 10th, 2023 as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: None.

[Trevor Burroughs arrived at 6:05pm.]

Presentations: Mel Maier, Otsego County Finance Director, discussed the budget reports, fund balance and advanced reservations.

Bills: A motion was made by Jack Korte and seconded by Randy Stults to approve the bills from July 1st, 2023 - July 31st, 2023 in the amount of \$24,509.68. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. **[Community Center Lease:** Jacob Brown discussed the lease with the City of Gaylord of the exterior property which includes the basketball, pickleball and tennis courts and the garage. Jacob Brown presented 3 options which include not renewing the lease and let the property go back to the city, renewing the lease for a longer time or purchase the property. Jacob Brown and Mel Maier said if the county does not own the property, capital outlay projects or improvements can only be pursued through grants. Trevor Burroughs said he called the city offices several times and has not received any response. Mel Maier was not aware of any communication between the City of Gaylord and Matt Barresi, the county administrator. Jacob Brown discussed problems with not renewing the lease include not being able to park the county trucks on the property, using the garage. Randy Stults said if there were complaints about incidents taking place on the property, the staff would hear the complaints but they would have to be directed to the City of Gaylord. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Scott Courterier to have Otsego County Administration inform the City of Gaylord that they are not interested in renewing the lease. Justin Wing opposed this motion. Motion carried.]



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2. **Community Center Repairs:** Jacob Brown said he did not receive any bids for the repairs at the Community Center. Thom Marquardt said the bids can be resubmitted under the same scope or with changes indicated the commission members. The board members discussed resubmitted the bids for the same projects with the completion date extended to a later date in the summer. Jacob Brown discussed a community center grant from the Labor and Economic Opportunity. The board members wanted to make sure the facility is eligible for the grant and to have estimates available for repairs. A motion was made by Bonny Miller and seconded by Justin Wing to move forward with applying for the Labor and Economic Opportunity Community Center Grant if the department is eligible and approve is received from the Otsego County Budget and Finance Committee and Board of Commissioners. Randy Stults opposed the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Utility Vehicle:** Jacob Brown the bids received which were from Hutson John Deere for \$18,388.31 and from M-32 Enterprises LLC for \$24,129.85. Jacob Brown said an alternate bid was presented from M-32 Enterprises LLC for \$23,899.00 with the aftermarket heat package and tip-out front glass window. Jacob Brown said some businesses were unaware that bids requests were available and they asked if the bid process could be reopened. Randy Stults asked if the bid process was done the same as it has been completed for other county projects. Jacob Brown said the process was the same. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Scott Courterier to recommend to the Otsego County Budget and Finance Committee the bid received from Hutson John Deere for \$18,388.31. Motion carried.
4. **Fireworks:**
I Updates on the After-Action Meeting: Jacob Brown said the meeting went well and it was discussed that the most likely cause for the platform collapse was the cinder blocks being set up vertically instead or horizontally. Jacob Brown said this was done because of the water levels. Jacob Brown said options for a different platform were discussed including a pontoon boat or barge. Jacob Brown said the Otsego Lake Association does not want to be involved in operational tasks any longer. Bonny Miller said that Jacob Brown is the contact person for fireworks. Jacob Brown said Wolverine Fireworks is transitioning to new ownership and the firework costs will likely increase or be sold wholesale from the company. The board members discussed if the department can invest and if so, how much. The boards members asked Jacob Brown to get cost estimates from other companies.
5. **5 Year Outline:** Jacob Brown presented an updated copy of the 5-year plan and asked the members to review it and contact him with any questions.
6. **Campsite Improvement Project:**
 - i- **Road Edges:** Jacob Brown said two loads of gravel have been delivered from Team Elmer's and Josh Brannan and other staff members have been pouring it along the road edges and other areas in the park.
 - ii-**Updates on the Fall Campsite Drainage Project:** Jacob Brown said he plans to start putting gravel on some of the campsites next month.



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New Business:

- 1. Synergetic Sweethearts Roller Derby:** Jacob Brown presented the updated special event form from Jessica Hart as well as the dates requested. A motion was made by Scott Courterier and seconded by Jack Korte to allow the Synergetic Sweethearts Roller Derby to use the facility if the schedule permits and as long as the equipment doesn't damage the floor. Motion carried.
- 2. Bear Basketball:** Jacob Brown said after meeting with Dave Baragrey, Dave suggested increasing the registration fee from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per participant to help cover the increasing costs of t-shirts. The members asked Jacob Brown to try to find sponsors for the shirts. A motion was made by Randy Stults and seconded by Scott Courterier to keep the registration fee at \$25.00 per person if a sponsor can be found as well as provide scholarship opportunities. Motion carried.

Director's Updates:

Jacob Brown provided a copy of the opening and closing procedures for the county parks.

Jacob Brown said ARPA funds are being used to construct the justice complex and the dog park may be relocated in the next few months. Randy Stults discussed not paying for any of the costs associated with moving the dog park because it is out of the hands of the department.

Jacob Brown said the Sparks Grant is still in progress and results are pending.

Jacob Brown said the lacrosse tournament at Libke Fields went well. Jacob Brown said a couple stumps were removed.

Jacob Brown said they have received a lot of compliments at the dog park.

Jacob Brown a new sign was installed at Wah Wah Soo and a tree and stump removed.

Jacob Brown said the Mark Mellon Triathlon took place last weekend and it was well attended.

Jacob Brown said a lending library has been installed new the host camp site and has been very popular.

Jacob Brown said the basketball camp held at the center and was very busy.

Jacob Brown said the adult basketball league has been going well.

Jacob Brown said open gym on the weekends has not been very busy.

Jacob Brown said the open gym on Wednesday evening before the league started was busy with approximately 30 people.

Jacob Brown said some fence was removed at the Community Center between the parking lot and basketball court and replaced with a privacy fence.

Jacob Brown said the outdoor pickleball has been very busy.

Jacob Brown asked the board members for suggestions for projects for next year. Jacob Brown suggested replacing the bridge and replacing the drinking fountain. As well as budgeting money for erosion issues at the park. Jacob Brown discussed finishing the painting on the inside of the Community Center and budgeting for bathroom renovations. Jacob Brown said the current tractor works well but it is not the best for the work that is needed. Jacob Brown discussed purchasing a 4-wheel drive tractor.

Commissioner Comments:



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Justin Wing wanted to clarify that a letter will be sent to the City of Gaylord from the Otsego County Board of Commissioners recommending to discontinue the lease. Justin Wing asked Jacob Brown to get a price on moving the garage.

The next meeting is Monday September 11th at 6:00pm at the Otsego Lake County Park, Rhodes Pavilion.

The meeting was adjourned was 8:20pm.

Attachments as part of these minutes:

Proposed minutes from July 10th 2023.

Bills dated July 1st – July 31st in the amount of \$24,509.68.

Budget reports from July for the County Parks and Community Center and the Groen Preserve.

Keri Swantek, Recording Secretary

Randy Stults, Secretary