



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center

These are the minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission held on October 14th 2013.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

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

Members Absent: Tom Johnson.

Others Present: Mike Tarbutton.

Consent agenda to approve previous minutes with the following corrections. On page one, Irontone Springs: adding how many trees, 15 and how many stumps, 7 and a possible path or trail added. Second page, top paragraph, original minutes read we will need to get some tree trimming down on trees in the campsite area. It should have read: we will need to get some tree trimming done on trees in the campsite areas. Motion by Stults, second by Fleming. Motion passed on voice consent of the members.

Public Comment: Tarbutton gave us a report on the race that the Guardian Gals held in September past. They were looking at possibly changing race in 2014 to October, but dates coincided with Halloween Weekends already scheduled. The Guardian Gals will stay with the current schedule. Tarbutton met with John Burt and members of the Alpine Tennis Association. The Association informed us that to be eligible for grants from the MNRTF they must be part of the current Otsego County Recreation Plan. John Burt informed the association that Otsego County was going to put in an application to the MNRTF for the Courthouse Project by April 1st, 2014. He will be requesting to update the current recreation plan. Also requesting a recommendation from Otsego County Parks and Recreation for the grant application and amending the current recreation plan to the Otsego County Board of Commissioners. John Burt gave the time frame and information to the Tennis Association. Tarbutton reported on a request from St. Mary's for a donation. We will donate two nights camping at the County Park, midweek for Tarbutton's recommended dates. Tarbutton will provide us with a grid of dates for future donations as we receive them. Motion by Courterier, second by Doug Johnson. Motion passed on voice consent of the members.

Bills: Approved to go to finance for payment.

Budget: Tarbutton and Burt met and ordered 30 more I.D. poles at \$32.50 each. Tarbutton reported that Fitzek Construction should be starting the viewing wall project, at the Community Center, any day. Tarbutton reported that we have not received the \$1,750 still owed but Melinda Hamilton said she will get it to us as soon as Fitzek Construction starts the project. The Irontone Springs tree project was awarded to Stuckman Tree Service, at a cost of \$1,800. Tarbutton reported that costs for the cabin project at the County Park will range from \$4000 to \$9000. We went over information on size and appearance of cabins. Tarbutton will provide us with some prices, sizes, etc. at the next meeting. Current Fund Balance is \$168,679.55. Tarbutton believes that by the end of 2013 the fund balance will be around \$105,000.00. We discussed increases for services at the County Park for 2014, the following increases were approved:

Non Resident Rate currently is \$25 per night; it will increase to \$26 per night. Motion by Doug Johnson, second by Holewinski.

Resident Rate currently is \$23 per night; it will increase to \$25 per night. Motion by Awrey, second by Cruz.

Day Vehicle Pass currently is \$3 per day; it will increase to \$ 4 per day. Motion by Stults, second by Courterier.



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Senior Day Pass currently is \$2 per day; it will increase to \$4 per day. Motion by Stults, second by Courterier.

Pavilion Rental currently is \$50 per day, it will increase to \$65 per day and this price will apply all week, not just on the weekends. Motion by Miller, second by Doug Johnson.

Season Pass is currently \$14; it will increase to \$15. Season Pass for seniors is currently \$5; it will increase to \$7. Motion by Cruz, second by Stults.

A onetime special event fee of \$10 was implemented for Tarbutton to charge on camping rates when necessary on special event weekends. Motion by Cruz, second by Miller.

Also set the age of 60 years or older for senior passes. Motion by Stults, second by Courterier. All motions passed on voice consent of members.

Old Business: Tarbutton reported on GNAT Chart on the Director-Department's duties. Just about completed.

Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve: The 8th grade program held by the Conservation District and the OWLS went very well. Close to 400 kids over two days went to seven different locations to learn about nature. There was no cost to the schools. Motion by Doug Johnson, second by Stults to allow the Johannesburg-Lewiston School to have a 5K race on part of the preserve on October 26th, 2013. Tarbutton will lead the race and make sure everything goes well. Tarbutton reported that runners should only be on the preserve for roughly ½ hour. Motion carried on voice consent of the members.

Otsego Lake County Park: The park is closed. Boat launch area is still open along with the vault toilet. Ramp has been taken out. Park Revenue will be up from 2012. Both Halloween Weekends went well. Guardian Gals race was nice. Tarbutton was advised to come up with budgets on cost vs. revenue for events so we can see the results from each.

Community Center: Bear Basketball has started. We also have over 100 youth attending gymnastics. Dave Johnson has asked about cardio tennis on Monday and Wednesdays between the hours of 5 and 7. The Center may need to close for a few days when Fitzek Construction starts the viewing area project. As per the County Park request, Tarbutton will provide cost vs. revenue on events at the Community Center.

Wah Wah Soo: The tagging of the vault toilets stopped after the May incident. No more word on the selling of the house north of the Park. The guard rail is starting to rub up against the tree; Tarbutton would like to work with the Road Commission to resolve. Vaults are empty and closed.

Libke Fields: Bonnie Miller gave a report and showed pictures of parking lot upgrade. Looks great. Still cars parking on Van Tyle. Tarbutton and Miller will work on a sign at entrance to the parking area for Alpine Chocalat Haus for all their help in the upgrades at the facility. Very well deserved. Motion by Doug Johnson, second by Stults to allow this to happen. Motion passed on voice consent of members. Tarbutton brought up a request from Paul Beachnau from the Snowmobile Trail Association on designating the parking lot at Libke Fields as a spot to unload and park for snowmobilers using the Van Tyle trails. Discussion ensued and a motion was made by Courterier, second by Cruz to deny this use. Motion passed on voice consent of members.

Irontone Springs: Vault toilet is closed. Tree and stump removal should begin soon.

New Business: None.

Next meeting: Monday, November 11th, 2013 at the Community Center at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn by Courterier, second by Miller. Motion passed on voice consent. No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.



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Pete Awrey
Secretary

Dave Baragrey President, Scott Courterier Vice President, Pete Awrey Secretary, Doug Johnson Otsego Co. Board of Commission, Bill Holewinski Otsego Co. Road Commission, Randy Stults Otsego County Planning Commission, Butch Fleming, Abel Cruz, Tom Johnson, Bonny Miller, Mike Tarbutton Director, Arnie Quay Coordinator