



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

These are the minutes from the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission held on Monday July 14th 2014.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m.

Members Present: Dave Baragrey, Scott Courterier, Pete Awrey, Bill Holewinski, Judy Jarecki, Butch Fleming, Abel Cruz, Tom Johnson, Bonny Miller and Rich Sumerix who was subbing for Doug Johnson.

Members Absent: Doug Johnson

Others Present: Arnie Quay, John Burt, Roger Latuszek and Keri Swantek

Dave Baragrey began the meeting by informing the board that Randy Stults resigned his position from the planning commission on June 16th 2014. Baragrey then introduced Judy Jarecki as the new representative to the parks board.

Consent Agenda: Scott Courterier suggested changes to the previous minutes which included under the gym floor sub section of the budget to change the wording from specialty person to special person. Under public comments some corrections were mentioned. Motion by Scott Courterier, second by Abe Cruz to approve the minutes with corrections. Motion passed by voice consent.

Public Comments: Dave Baragrey read a letter from the Department of Human Services thanking the park staff for their help during the 5k run which was held on June 14th 2014. Baragrey read a letter from Melinda Hamilton of Great Start Collaborative regarding making playgrounds area smoke free. Bonny Miller asked if Charleviox has enforced this policy at their playgrounds. Baragrey said a no smoking policy has been established on the beach area. Tom Johnson asked if the parks board has done anything on this issue. Scott Courterier said it was discussed at a previous meeting but no action was taken. Dave Baragrey asked John Burt if he has discussed this with the Board of Commissioners. John said he has not. Members discussed possible areas to make smoke free which included the playground area at the County Park and Libke Fields. Butch Fleming asked if there were any legal issues with creating this policy. John Burt said the parks board can create and enforce a policy. Bonny Miller asked about making Libke Fields a dog free park. Dave Baragrey said the board will discuss that issue at another time. Motion by Tom Johnson, second by Bonny Miller to establish a policy in the playground area at the Otsego Lake County Park and Libke Fields stating that no smoking or use of tobacco products on the premises. Judy Jarecki asked if this policy covers electronic cigarettes. Dave Baragrey asked Arnie Quay to get some signs made which state no smoking or use of tobacco products on the premises.

Budget: Arnie Quay provided the board with two bids for upgrading the electricity on 4 of the campsites from 20, 30 amps to 20, 30 and 50 amps. The bids from Chuck's Electric was \$7,324.00. The bid from Swan Electric was \$12,600.00. Motion by Tom Johnson to accept the bid from Chuck's Electric. Scott Courterier asked if there was any money in the budget set aside for this. Arnie Quay said this project was not in the budget for this year. Dave Baragrey asked if the sites to be upgraded are identified and if people with large campers are advised not to use these sites. Arnie Quay – No. Tom Johnson advised the park staff to inform campers that stay on these sites for the potential for them to pop from too much power use. Tom Johnson rescinded his previous motion to accept the bid from Chuck's Electric. Tom Johnson asked to table this issue until the next meeting. Dave Baragrey showed the board members some pictures of the additional furniture that was purchased for the cabins which included two



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center mirrors, two small tables and two end tables. The supports for the beams and the ceiling fans have been installed. Scott Courterier asked if both the cabins were complete. Keri Swantek said that we are waiting for the head boards from Comfort Center. Abe Curz asked if we still need to pay for the headboards. Swantek – Yes. Dave Baragrey asked if the furniture was the same in both cabins. Swantek – Yes. Dave Baragrey asked if there was any type of mattress on the loft. Swantek said that we currently do not have anything on the lofts and that we had discussed purchasing a futon mattress but that a futon mattress is taller than the guards on the loft.

Bills: Approved to go to finance for payment.

Old Business: At the June 2014 meeting, Dave Baragrey suggested naming one of the cabins after Chad Dutcher. However, Baragrey and Holewinski both felt that Chad deserved more. Bonny Miller suggested making some type of tribute to Chad. Bonny Miller asked if there was one facility or aspect of the department that Chad had a great deal of interest in. Tom Johnson said the Community Center is the biggest attraction of our facilities and suggested renaming the facility the Chad Dutcher Community Center. Bonny Miller said she was in favor of this. Dave Baragrey said this issue will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Community Center: Dave Baragrey reported that the gym floor has been fixed. Tom Johnson said the floor was in good shape and was appreciative that the project was finished in time for his basketball camp. Dave Baragrey and Arnie Quay said the areas that were repaired still need to be sanded. The sanding and staining will start in August. Baragrey reported that the summer day camp has started and has 35 kids. Scott Courterier said that the current hours of the camp which are 9:00 – 3:00pm are difficult for working parents to handle and suggested changing the hours from 8:00-5:00pm next year. Tom Johnson asked Arnie Quay to talk to Cindy Huff and Missy Tallman about possibly changing the hours next year. Dave Baragrey also reported that Dave Johnson will be holding a youth tennis camp at the Community Center in July for 6 weeks.

Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve: Roger Latuszek said that the Smile through the Miles race went very well. John Burt said that Don Sklarczyk is going to send a check to the parks department from the race proceeds. This money will then be deposited into the Groen budget for educational programs. Roger Latuszek said there are several maple, ash and beech trees which are infected and scheduled to be removed. The infected area covers approximately 65 acres. Tom Johnson asked if someone has been contacted for this project. Latuszek said Tom Wood was recommended. Bill Holewinski asked if the trees could be cut so they lay flat. Latuszek said they could chip off the trees. Abe Cruz asked if bids were required for this project. John Burt said they were. John Burt informed the board that the Sklarczyk lease is up for renewal. Burt said he could sign off on the lease if the parks board did not have any objections. Burt said this is a two year lease and the terms have not changed. The board members didn't have any objections to the lease agreement. Tom Johnson asked how busy the property is. Roger Latuszek said it has not been very busy. Arnie Quay reported that the preserve has seen approximately 800 visitors since April but that equestrian use is down which only 3 users so far. Butch Fleming suggested that providing some type of wagon ride may increase use and would be a nice feature for the weekends. Tom Johnson asked if a tractor could be used for the wagon rides. Roger Latuszek said an exception could be made to allow the use of a tractor on the property. Dave Baragrey said the property has not been promoted very much and suggested hosting an open house. Bonny Miller suggested using the current tree damage as an educational opportunity. Baragrey asked if the tree damage is present. Latuszek said it was. Judy Jarecki said that a timber sale is a popular attraction and if a trail is provided for the students to walk on, they may be able to witness the tree cutting.



Louis M. Groen Nature Preserve Otsego Lake County Park Irontone Springs Wah Wah Soo Libke Fields Community Center County Park: Arnie Quay said the park was full over July 4th Weekend. The fireworks display went very well. Arnie Quay said there was some concern about the angle from which the fireworks were being fired from and he will discuss this with Wolverine Fireworks next year. Arnie Quay reported that the cabins are very busy.

Wah Wah Soo: Arnie Quay said the park is busy. The water levels are still high. Quay said that the owners of the home North of the property have not sent a copy of the easement yet.

Libke Fields: Arnie Quay said that the work to the fences will begin in August. Bonny Miller said the youth football program starts after Labor Day. John Burt said the transfer process for the property is still on-going.

Irontone Springs: Quay reported the park has been very busy and there have been several weddings. The tree removal work that was started by Stuckman Tree Service in 2013 has been completed.

Commissioner Comments: Rich Sumerix said that the Board of Commissioners is busy and there are several millage renewals coming soon. Sumerix also reminded everyone to vote. Scott Courterier wanted to recognize Randy Stults for his service on the parks board. Dave Baragrey said he will draft a letter from the board members. Bill Holewinski said the road commission has a new millage during the November election. Bonny Miller said she agreed with Tom Johnson's idea to rename the Community Center the Chad Dutcher Community Center. John Burt said the process for hiring a new director will begin September 1st 2014. The committee consists of John Burt, Dave Baragrey, Doug Johnson and Trisha Adam. John Burt said he has the final decision. Dave Baragrey asked the members if they would like to have the next board meeting at Irontone Springs instead of the County Park. So moved.

The next meeting is Monday August 11th, 2014 at Irontone Springs at 6:00pm at the pavilion.

No other business was presented. Motion to adjourn was passed by voice consent.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06pm.

Keri Swantek
Recording Secretary