

OTSEGO COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION



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

These are the proposed minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Otsego County Parks and Recreation Commission held on November 12th, 2012.

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

Members Present: Chad Dutcher, Butch Fleming, Dave Baragrey, Pete Awrey, Doug Johnson, Scott Courterier, Tom Johnson, and Randy Stults.

Members Absent: Abe Cruz and Bill Holewinski.

Others Present: Mike Tarbutton, Will Clever, Linda Weiss, Jason Weiss, Melinda Hambleton, Colleen Gorno, and Jen Richard.

Motion to approve minutes from October meeting by Tom Johnson, second by Baragrey.

Public Comment: Will Clever from the adult football league was present to thank us and comment on previous football league. Everything went great and he is looking forward to next year. One thing he thought would need to be looked at as we go forward is the parking situation. Very crowded with vehicles being parked on Van Tyle due to the parking lot being full. We will revisit as we get back to fall football. We also had a group of people from the Great Start Parent Coalition present to voice their concerns on seating and viewing of bear basketball and other events at the Community Center. They also voiced their concerns on handicap signage and overall handicap issues with east and west entrances at the center. They wanted our consent to proceed with a grant procedure that could possibly get us some money to make some improvements in these areas. Motion by Baragrey, second by Tom Johnson to allow the Great Start Parent Coalition the opportunity to get a grant proposal ready for Phase I of this project. Motion was voted on and passed. This group will also get us a list of their concerns as soon as possible so we can continue to work with them to alleviate their concerns. At this time in the meeting (roughly 6:40pm) Chairman Dutcher excused himself to a prior commitment and Vice Chairman Baragrey took over in his absence.

Mike reported that the Fairgrounds Committee is looking into a possible campground business to accommodate large venues at the fairground. He will keep us posted.

Mike received a card from the Johannesburg-Lewiston Schools thanking us for the opportunity to have the race at the Groen Nature Preserve.

Libke Fields: Bonnie Miller called on behalf of the youth football program. She was very pleased and wanted to be here to personally thank us, but prior commitments won't allow her to attend the Monday meetings. She will write a letter of thanks. Lots of good comments on fields. The last electric bill was normal and sprinkler system has been winterized.

Bills: Approved to go to Finance Committee for payment.

Old Business: None

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Budget: Mike requested approval to transfer \$1,200 from overtime/personal to water/sewage line time. Motion by Stults, second by Tom Johnson to do so. Motion passed.

At this time in the meeting (roughly 7:15pm) Butch Fleming excused himself for a prior commitment.

Mike reported that a tax reduction from Treetops/Dover Township dispute could cost us \$6,600 in revenue. He gave us a memo from Diann Axford alerting us of the issue. He will keep us posted. Mike also informed us that the Big Ticket Venue is returning to Gaylord. This could mean more revenue to us thru camping, etc. for that week.

Louis Groen Nature Preserve: Preserve is on winter schedule now. The big wheels and pavilion are all set. We will have to stain the pavilion in the spring. Groomer is being stored at one of the barns. The preserve is still averaging around 150 visitors per week. Mike had the comments on trail use. Possibly use colored poles to help in directions.

Irontone Springs: Randy Stults talked to Mike Mang about the park. They will talk again in the spring about the trees, after the leaves are on the trees. Mike reported 10 small red oaks have been planted. Park is closed, one picnic table is missing.

Wah Wah Soo: Park is closed. Mike reported we will have this park manned with a seasonal ranger next summer, at different days and times. Had to paint one of the vaults due to graffiti on the outside.

Community Center: Mike gave us a general update on all activities. Very busy. The outside of the Community Center had graffiti problem. Police arrested one adult and one minor. Restitution will follow. Mike reported that we've had three different groups of basketball traveling teams ask about renting time to practice for these select teams. Mike will work them in without conflicting with regular scheduled events.

New Business/Director Comment: Mike wanted to comment on what a fine job that Arnie Quay and Keri Swantek have done over this past year. Especially with his absence with the Groen Project coming on board. We also worked with 1 ½ less employees than we have in the past. This totaled 1200 man/woman hours. On top of that a lot of changes were made at Libke Fields, with a lot of the work being completed by park employees. Mike would like the minutes to reflect the efforts of these employees. So noted.

Commissioner Comment: None.

Next meeting: Monday, December 10th, 2012 at the Community Center at 6:00pm.

Motion to adjourn by Courterier, second by Stults. No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Pete Awrey
Secretary

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