

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2023

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board Vice President, Carl Ploense, called the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the large conference room of the Lake County Parks corporate Office, 8411 East Lincoln Highway, Crown Point, IN, Indiana.

II. ROLL CALL

Secretary to the Board, Jim Basala, called the roll and the following Board members were present: Christopher Dilts, Carl Ploense, John Salzeider, Jesse Rippe and David Uzelac. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

Staff members present: Jim Basala, Craig Zandstra, Sasha Mateer, and Marsha Rodriguez.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2023 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Mr. Salzeider, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda of October 12, 2023.

V. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of September 14, 2023.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Basala reported, that since there was not a quorum at the last month's meeting, the new business which consisted of the GKM Hunting dates and fees, that were not changing, from the year before. Along with the acceptance of Claims. Mr. Basala requested that the board ratify the actions of last months Board meeting. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to ratify the claims from last September's meeting. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to ratify the hunting dates and fees at the GKM. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. With no discussion, the Board voted unanimously to ratify the Claims, and the dates and fees of the GKM.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2024 Waterpark Fees and Rate Modification Policy

Ms. Mateer reported, that she would like to group and discuss, the Deep River Waterpark Fees and Park Fees together for one motion. Then the Rate Modification for a second motion. This year the two reports are being discussed together early, due to the Parks bringing back the Pathfinder. With hopes that it will be published next month. After discussing it with staff, and reviewing the usage of the parks this past year. It was decided to not adjust any of the park's fees, shelters, rentals, and parking rates. Golf fees were removed from the fee schedule, but will be added later after discussions on the comparison of other golf courses. Ms. Mateer recommended that the Board accept the proposed Waterpark and Park fees for the 2024 season.

Mr. Uzelac made a motion to approve the modified rate increase of the Waterpark and Park Fees. Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. With no discussion the Board approved the 2024 Deep River Waterpark and Park Fees schedule.

Ms. Mateer also called the Board's attention to the Rate Modification Policy included in their Board packets. This allows staff to negotiate prices down from the regular admission price for marketing and revenue generating purposes. The policy is as follows:

Policy and Procedure for Rate Modifications

The Park board recognized that it is often necessary to modify admission, rental, group rates, program fees and product prices in order to promote facilities and generate appropriate revenues. The timing of such changes is often of an immediate nature. Therefore, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board authorizes the CEO or his designee(s) to set and alter rates when necessary to secure adequate sales and attendance.

Fee and rate changes will be presented to the Park Board as necessary for their review.

Mr. Salzeider made a motion to approve the Policy and Procedure for Rate Modification. Mr. Rippe seconded the motion. With no discussion the Board approve the motion as presented.

DEEP RIVER WATERPARK – DAILY RATES			
		2024	
		Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun
Regular Admission			
General admission, over 46"		Not to exceed \$44.95	
DEEP RIVER WATERPARK – GROUP RATES			
		2024	
		Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun
Day Group			
Groups are a minimum of 25 paid individuals			
Regular season price; per individual		Not to exceed \$35.95	
Prepurchase; per individual		Not to exceed \$35.95	
Consignment/Fund Raising		Not to exceed \$35.95	
Hotel/Campground		Not to exceed \$35.95	
Private Parties: 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm			
Hourly, June & non-prime time (up to 1000)		4395.00	n/a
Hourly, Prime time (up to 1000)		4995.00	n/a
Per person 1001 to 1500		4.00	
Per person 1501 and up		3.50	
DEEP RIVER WATERPARK – UNLIMITED ADMISSION PASS			
Regular price; Unlimited admission during public hours, not to exceed		\$159.95	

DEEP RIVER WATERPARK – CABANAS/SHELTERS			
		2024	
		Mon-Fri	Sat-Sun
Cabanas 1,2,3		139.00	159.00
Cabanas 4,5,6,7,8		179.00	199.00
Gazebos		189.00	224.00
Large Shelter		275.00	330.00
DEEP RIVER WATERPARK – ICE SKATING			
		2023/2024	
Skating Admission – All ages		\$5.00	
Skate Rental – All ages		\$6.00	
Group admission – 10+w/advance reservations		\$4.00	
Group skate rental		\$5.00	
Eligible Season Pass Holder Discount		\$1 off regular admission and skate rental	
Skating Training Aid		\$5.00	
Spectators		Free	
Birthday Package – 10 persons minimum with reservations. Includes admission, skate rental, pizza, pop/hot chocolate. Two reserved tables for one hour.		\$12 per person	
Private Rink Rental – 2-hour time blocks when not open to the public. Includes admission and states		\$8.00 per person with a \$400 minimum (covers 50 people) for 2 hours. \$200 deposit required.	

B. 2024 Park Fees

2024 Proposed Lake County Parks Rate and Fee Schedule		
Parking Fees and Annual Parking Passes		
Parking fees are collected whenever gatekeepers are present at the following park sites: Lemon Lake, Stoney Run, Oak Ridge Prairie, and Lake Etta <i>(All fees are subject to change without notice).</i>		
Parking fees are waived for all active military personnel and disabled veterans.		
Daily Parking Fees		
In-State Residents	\$5 per vehicle	
Out of State Residents	\$8 per vehicle	
Senior citizens over age 60 (In-State only) - no fee on Monday mornings		

Bus In-State	\$20 per bus	
Bus Out of State	\$25 per bus	
Mobile homes are charged at the bus rate.		
Season Parking Pass		
In-State Residents	\$40.00	
Out of State Residents	\$60.00	
In-State Senior Citizens over age 60	\$30.00	
Out of State Senior Citizens over age 60	\$45.00	
Shelter Rentals		
Regular Shelter / Hexagon		
Monday - Friday	\$40 plus tax	
Saturday, Sunday & Holiday	\$100 plus tax	
Large Group Shelter at LEMON LAKE		
Monday - Friday	\$85 plus tax	
Saturday, Sunday & Holiday	\$225 plus tax	
Lake Etta Pavilion		
Monday - Friday	\$200 plus tax	
Saturday, Sunday & Holiday	\$465 plus tax	
Security Deposits		
Groups of 500-1,500	\$200.00	
Groups of 1,500 or more	\$350.00	
Pavilion - Lake Etta	\$150.00	
BUCKLEY HOMESTEAD Admission		
Adult	\$2.00	
Children under age 12	\$1.00	
Senior Citizens over age 60	\$1.00	
Beer Permits		
Payment required prior to event and issuance of permit. All state requirements must be adhered to. Permission of Park Board required. Bonding or insurance must also be provided.	\$100.00	
Camping at STONEY RUN		
Non-profit groups only, includes one shelter & firepit. Primitive facilities. Advance reservations required.	\$50 plus tax	
Cross Country Ski Rentals		
Oak Ridge Prairie and Stoney Run open Dec-Feb, snow and weather conditions permitting. Fridays and weekends 9 am to 4 pm. Last rental at 4 pm. Equipment for use only in the park site and must be returned by 5 pm. <i>Note:</i> closing times may vary due to extreme darkness.	\$7 for 2 hrs.	
Dogs permitted in the parks		
Dogs must be on a leash at all times, except in Dogwood Run, the off-leash facility at Lemon Lake, or for special activities with prior approval. Dogs are not permitted at Gibson Woods, on the beaches, or at any of the special events held in the Lake County Parks.		
Dogwood Run (LEMON LAKE)		
Annual Pooch Pass includes season parking pass*	Jan-July	Aug-Nov
Annual Pooch Pass In-State Resident	\$70.00	\$50.00
Annual Pooch Pass Out of State Resident	\$90.00	\$70.00

Annual Pooch Pass In-State Senior (over 60)	\$60.00	\$40.00
Annual Pooch Pass Out of State Senior (over 60)	\$75.00	\$55.00
Each additional dog	\$10.00	\$10.00
One-time tryout Pass per dog*	\$10.00	\$10.00
*Keep receipt so payment can be deducted from annual Pooch Pass		
* All annual pooch passes bought in December will be at the Jan-July pricing and will be valid for the entire next calendar year.		
Hayrides		
Monday through Friday	\$75.00	
Saturday, Sunday & Holiday	\$100.00	
Maximum number of 25 adults (more if children). Wheelchair accessible hayrides at Oak Ridge Prairie (daylight hours).		
Non-Reserved at Deep River (tractor) October weekends	\$2 per person	
Non-Reserved at Buckley Homestead in daytime (tractor)	\$2 per person	
Bonfire only. Available only at parks conducting hayrides.	\$30.00	
<p>Horse Riding is permitted at Stoney Run on the perimeter trail, at Deep River on the north side of the park (not the historic area), at Buckley Homestead in the back 80 on non-special event weekends, and at the Grand Kankakee Marsh on the levees, except during hunting season. Gate fees apply at the parks when a gatekeeper is on duty. Horseback riding is restricted at the parks during special events. Call 219-769-PARK for specific dates.</p>		
Recreation Equipment Rental		
Athletic equipment per set per day	\$5.00	
Jon Boat -- Three Rivers only (weekends)	\$10 for 4 hrs.	
Trolling motor -- Three Rivers only (weekends)	\$5 for 4 hrs.	
Wedding Reservations		
Deep River Gazebo	\$250.00	
Lake Etta Pergola	\$250.00	
Wood's Historic Grist Mill Admission DEEP RIVER	Donation	

C. Pumpkin donations from Harvest Tyme

Ms. Mateer reported, that Harvest Tyme in past years, has donated mums, guards, and live pumpkins to the parks. This year along with the mums and guards, Harvest Tyme donated over four thousand dollars’ worth of fake carveable decorative pumpkins. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the donation from Harvest Tyme. Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. With no discussion the Board accepted the donation as presented.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 170,530.19
1116 Non-Reverting Land	147,870.98
1117 Non-Reverting Operating Fund	66,248.51
4118 Gift Fund	<u>1,262.64</u>
Total:	\$ 385,912.32

Mr. Salzeider made a motion to approve the claims. Mr. Uzelac seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there were any more questions or further discussion. There being none, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board voted unanimously to approve the claims for payment.

IX. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy and Personnel/Budget and Finance
No Report
2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition
No Report

B. Division Reports

1. Planning and Natural Resource Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that staff at Gibson Woods are currently installing the burn breaks, and will be starting the control burns, for the fall. A parcel was acquired for the Veterans Memorial Parkway, on the north side of US 231, an area that brings in almost five acres of additional trail corridor.

Grand Kankakee River Days was held on October 2nd thru the 6th. A program was held where canoes were placed in the water, for fourth grade students thru a subsidiary company. They travel throughout the country giving tours to school groups. The organization went over science and history of the Marsh area.

Delta Institute is an organization in Chicago that deals with environmental benefits for communities. They are currently working in Northwest Indiana, planting trees and helping in the area, including Oak Ridge Prairie and Turkey Creek Golf Course.

2. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported to the Board that *Fall Fest* that was held at Buckley Homestead. Was a week earlier from previous years. Over a two-day span, the program had as much as thirty-four hundred people. Staff from throughout the department, came out to help work and volunteer, it is something that never goes unnoticed.

The Grinders concluded their season at Deep River County Park on October first. They had a incredible turnout with over four hundred in attendance. The weather was perfect, and the day ended with children lining up to have an opportunity to bat. The waterwheel at Deep River County Park was featured in Northwest Indiana Life. Describing the restoration, and recognizing the retired volunteers that have been working there. All in hopes to get the waterwheel working by the beginning of winter. The *Fall and Color* program will be this weekend at Deep River County Park. It is a free event from 10 AM to 4 PM. Photo opportunities, historical games and hayrides are just some of the events happening there.

Bellaboo's will be holding their *Boo at the Boo* October 31st. Having snacks, crafts, and costumes for the children.

The Department will be having their *Veterans Day* program on Saturday November 4th. Event Specialist, and Veteran Dawn Robertson, is working very hard getting the program together for that day.

The R.O.S.E. (Recognition of Service Excellence) Award is a recognition program that the South Shore Convention & Visitor Authority puts on. The awards were created to acknowledge and celebrate those non-managerial or hourly employees who exceed usual expectations when providing hospitality services to guests and customers. Both the nominees and winners of the R.O.S.E. Awards epitomize the definition of hospitality. Those front-line employees who have made a lasting impression on guests are nominated for this award by either their managers or the guests themselves. These nominees have gone above and beyond typical job and duties to make guests feel like family, take care of special needs, or make life just a little easier. This year the Lake County Parks Department has three nominees. Mary Bradford and Nikki Faught, both Part-time Historical Interpreters from Buckley Homestead. As well as Mary Williamson a Volunteer for the Grinders at Deep River County Park. Both Mary Bradford and Mary Williamson were winners of the R.O.S.E. award. Mr. Basala wanted to report that there were one hundred nominations with forty finalists, and ending with ten winners.

3. Park Operations
None

4. Administrative Services

None

C. Report from CEO

Mr. Basala stated that he wanted to recognize David Flood's spectacular job, decorating the Deep River County Park Visitor Center. With many areas having great photo opportunities.

Also reporting that the second reading for the budget is this coming Tuesday. Stating that the first reading went well, generally with four percent increases across the board.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Rippe, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA
Secretary to the Board

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