

MINUTES

LAKE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

MARCH 14, 2024

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Board President, Chris Dilts, called the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the large conference room of the Lake County Parks Corporate Office, 8411 E. Lincoln Highway, Crown Point, Indiana.

II. ROLL CALL

Secretary to the Board, Jim Basala, called the roll and the following Board members were present: Christopher Dilts, David Uzelac, Julie Jones, and John Salzeider. Board Members Carl Ploense was present via phone conference. Board Attorney, Louis Casale, was also in attendance.

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

Also in attendance was Dyan Leto

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MARCH 14, 2024 BOARD AGENDA

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Mr. Ploense, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Agenda of March 14, 2024.

V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 8, 2024 BOARD MINUTES

In a motion by Mr. Salzeider, seconded by Ms. Uzelac, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Board Minutes of February 8, 2024.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Consider Asphalt Bids (Deep River County Park, Turkey Creek, Deep River Waterpark, Lake County Parks Corporate Office)

Mr. Landgrave wanted to welcome, and introduce to the Board, Ms. Dyan Leto. Ms. Leto has come from the Portage Parks Dept. where she was the director there. Prior to the Portage Parks Dept., she was with the Lake County Parks Dept. as the Educational Manager at the Deep River County Park Visitor Center. The opportunity opened here, and she is now our new Business Analyst. With that said, Dyan has assisted with going out to bid on four separate asphalt projects, around four different park sites. The Corporate Office, had bids from Reith-Riley, Milestone, Pave Works, and Site Services. Of the four that returned bids, only three qualified. The Corporate Office lowest bid was Reith Riley at \$63,765.00. This is all dependent on, the Parks getting an increase in the appropriations. Mr. Uzelac made the motion to approve the bid from Reith-Riley for \$63,765.00. Pending on funding for the project. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, with no discussion, the bid was approved. Lowest bid for Deep River County Park was Reith Riley at \$167,330.00. Mr. Uzelac made the motion to approve the bid from Reith-Riley for \$167,330.00. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, with no discussion, the bid was approved. Turkey Creek Golf Course main parking lots were next on the bidding list. With a bid by Reith-Riley for \$196,605.00. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to approve the bid from Reith-Riley for \$196,605.00. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion, with no discussion, the bid was approved. Deep River Waterpark base bid for their parking lot was \$402,353.60 by Milestone. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to approve the bid from

Milestone for \$402,353.60. Mr. Ploense seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a discussion, with no discussion, the bid was approved.

B. Consider Non-Binding Agreement with Lola Mroz

Mr. Basala reported, the Residential Purchase Letter of Intent, agrees that, Lola Mroz’s house and property, which is adjacent to Deep River County Park, and the Historic Grist Mill, would end up with the Lake County Parks Dept. It is the beginning of a process, to come to agreement, in a price, and all the additional particulars. It is a non-binding agreement, that we are both agreeing with the Letter of Intent. Mr. Basala recommend that the Board adopt the non-binding agreement with Lola Mroz. Board member Mr. Salzeider had some questions pertaining the Letter of Intent. Mr. Basala stated that he would communicate with Ms. Mroz and her son, stipulating any unresolved questions would be answered and resolved, issuing a companion document could be added to the agreement. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to approve the agreement. Mr. Salzeider seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a discussion, with no discussion, the agreement was approved.

C. Consider Performance Food Group Agreement

Ms. Mateer reported, that the Performance Food Group Agreement, was drawn up due to Performance Food Group needing and using the Deep River Waterpark parking lot. Paying the Lake County Parks a rental fee, quarterly, of Seven hundred and fifty dollars. They have been keeping the areas clean when the Waterpark is not operating. Performance Food Group, was in the need to find an area to park two trailers overnight, every day, or for the week temporarily. After discussion with Mr. Don Race an agreement was drawn. Mr. Uzelac made a motion to approve the agreement. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was a discussion, with no discussion, the agreement was approved.

VIII. ACCEPTANCE OF CLAIMS

Claims to be accepted:

1107 Operating Fund	\$ 247,728.43
1116 Non-Reverting Land	54,817.59
1117 Non-Reverting Operating	27,536.13
4118 Gift Fund	<u>2,699.10</u>
Total:	\$ 332,781.25

Mr. Dilts asked if everyone had a chance to review the claims that were emailed to them. Mr. Salzeider made a motion to accept the claims. Ms. Uzelac seconded the motion. Mr. Dilts asked if there was any discussion. There being none, Mr. Dilts called for the vote, and the Board unanimously approved the claims for payment.

IX. REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

1. Policy and Personnel/Budget and Finance
2. Goals and Objectives/Land Acquisition

B. Division Reports

1. Administrative Services

Mr. Landgrave, Chief Operating Officer reported that looking at the cash reports, the balances are looking good. Tax funds should be coming in soon. The mechanics have finished up all the maintenance work for the upcoming summer. Golf carts are ready for the upcoming season as well. The carpenters have recently installed new sealed fireproof doors at Deep River Waterpark. They also will be replacing fascia boards, and siding around the Waterpark. Turkey Creek Golf Course needs new flower beds, where the carpenters will be assisting the horticultural crew as well. The planters there, are well over thirty years and need replacement.

2. Recreation and Special Facilities

Ms. Mateer, Division Superintendent, reported that Deep River County Park, is in their final week of Maple Syrup Time. The weather has been favorable for the public, but terrible for the sap production. The program remained popular, and made record revenue the first weekend. Having to reorder merchandise for the upcoming weekend. The program will be from 10 am to 4 pm this Saturday and Sunday, and free to the public. Staff at Buckley Homestead are ahead of the game, getting the grounds and buildings ready. Next weekend on the 23rd and 24th, from 12 pm to 4 pm, they will be hosting the program Meet the Farm Babies. A program that first started some years back at about 50 guests a day, to about three to four hundred people a day presently. It gives everyone the opportunity, to get up close and personal with the livestock, and get educated at the same time, about what goes on at the farm. On March 29th Buckley will be hosting their first Find Flopsy program. It is an interactive, wild goose chase to find Flopsy. Flopsy is one of Buckley Homestead's Giant Flemish Rabbits. Bellaboo's is busy as well getting ready, for their Eggs Marks the Spot program, on March 28th. This is a special ticketed event, that will be from 4 pm to 7 pm. Fencing has been put up on the School City of Gary property, and Three Rivers. Hammond Fencing is putting up, brand new wooden fencing along Liverpool Road, and is almost complete. The style is like what was installed at Deep River County Park. At Big Maple Lake, DLZ and Nipsco, are surveying the property, and creating easements, so power can eventually be brought onto the site. The funds that were donated to this park, are for restrooms to be installed. A project that will be starting sometime in July.

3. Park Operations

Mr. Mateer announced, that due to Park Superintendent Mr. Nawracaj's absence, she would be reporting his division report. Interviews, and the hiring process has started at the Waterpark for the 2024 season. Lifeguard training has started as well, with the next pre-course starting March 25th at Hobart Middle School. The Water Safety Leads will be attending job fairs, at local high schools to recruit. Turkey Creek Golf course has already had golfers out, taking advantage of the nice weather that has come through. Cedar Creek Golf Course is not opened yet due to the rain, that has made it impossible to golf their course.

4. Planning and Natural Resource Management

Mr. Zandstra, Division Superintendent, reported that the Natural Areas has been working hard with the control burns. Recently at Oak Ridge Prairie County Park, Grand Kankakee Marsh, Gibson Woods, and parts of the Erie Lackawanna Trail. When conditions are appropriate, even doing them on weekends. Indiana DNR Nature Preserve Division and TMZ has also assisted our crews. The Hunting Report for 2023/24 ended with a total of 1,451 hunters. Harvesting seven hundred sixty-four ducks, seventy-eight geese, with 2. billion gallons of water that was pumped into the Marsh from the Kankakee River. There were seventy-seven paid hunters, each hunter totaled about six times hunting at the Grand Kankakee Marsh. Next Friday, there will be a walk through, on the C & O Trail, the new trail at Oak Ridge Prairie, that was completed last year. The Town of Merrillville has completed their trail off Taft St. near Innsbrook Country Club. The trail is part of the Hundredth Mile Next Level Trail Program, that was put in by Governor Eric Holcomb and General Assembly. Working on a possible June day for a trail dedication that would work for the Town of Merrillville, Lake County Parks, and other officials of the DNR.

X. GENERAL DISCUSSION

XI. ADJOURNMENT

In a motion by Mr. Rippe, seconded by Ms. Gillis, the Lake County Parks and Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BASALA

Secretary to the Board

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