

The monthly meeting of the Washington County Park Authority will be held, Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Washington County Building.

Board Members Present: Ben Casteel (Chairman), Jim Hutton (Vice Chair), Steven Statzer (Secretary), Jennifer Blankenship, Claude Worrell, Lisa Wilson.

Board Members Absent: Stuart Wright

Others Present: Tony Fetty, Kathy Johnson, Jason Berry

Agenda

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM with Quorum Established.
2. Guest speakers: Jason Berry and Kathy Johnson were present to discuss the soon-starting recreation study, along with the creation of a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.
2. Public Comment - Steven Statzer spoke about a conversation with the Boy Scouts regarding continuous campfire.
3. Washington County Park Authority Manager Report
 - Scouts are coming for Klondike Derby this Saturday.
 - Drawings, Most recent period had zero entries for site 66. Steven Statzer made a motion to amend the rules to allow the following: in the event of a site not having any entrants in a drawing, the Park Manager may offer the alternate winner of a similar site the option to accept the site that did not have an entrant. A second was made by Lisa Wilson, and the motion passed 6-0-0.
 - The staff are working on upkeep of equipment for the year.
 - Alongside equipment upkeep, staff are also working on drainage at the ballpark, which seems to be working better this year.
 - Jason started at the park earlier this month, training is moving forward well.

- Several events are upcoming.
 - April 6th easter egg hunt
 - June 16th is the opening bluegrass and BBQ
 - July 13 is Christmas in July
 - August 17th is Touch-a-Truck
 - Sept 8th Seasonal Camper Picnic
 - October 19th haunted Forest
- Following a request from Tony Fetty, Steven Statzer made a motion to increase the starting till at the park to \$300 to make change easier. The motion received a second from Jim Hutton and the motion passed 6-0-0.
- Opening Day is arriving soon, with the season running from April 1 to October 31.
- Schedule for Ballfields - Little League has priority right now. Jennifer Berry made a motion to charge up to \$5/day to use the facility for ball teams, plus usage fee for the lights. The motion received a second from Steven Statzer, and the motion passed 3-1-2.

4. Recreation Department Report - Guest Speakers Were present to discuss, See Item 1.

5. Submitting and approval of the January Minutes. Jim hutton moved to accept the January Minutes as submitted, with a second from Jennifer Blankenship. The motion passed 5-1-0.

6. Financial Report: The board did not have a report available to review, but approved payment of the bills following a motion from Steven Statzer and a second from Jennifer Blankenship. Motion passed 6-0-0.

7. Old Business:

- a. Park Superintendent Hiring - Following a technical error in hiring, Jennifer Blankenship made a motion to ratify the chairman's decision to hire Jason. A second was offered by Claude Worrell, and the motion passed 6-0-0.

8. New Business:

- a. Mendota Trail/DCR: A discussion was had about the upcoming legislative session and potential impact of a state park. No board action was taken, but members were encouraged to contact their legislators regarding the applicable bills.

9. Board Member Action Items:

- A. Ben Casteel -
- B. Jim Hutton -
- C. Jennifer Blankenship -
- E. Claude Worrell -
- F. Steven Statzer -
- G. Stuart Wright -

A Motion to adjourn was made by Steven Statzer and seconded by Jennifer Blankenship. The motion passed 6-0-0, with the meeting adjourning at 8:22 PM.

Sincerely,

Ben Casteel, Chairman
WSS