

***Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission* Minutes**

November 16, 2017

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on November 16, 2017, in Conference Room B of the Murray County Government Center in Slayton. The following voting members were present: Troy Wehking (Chair), Leroy Reese (Vice Chair), Justin Hoffmann, James Jens, Doug Stewart, Rae Storm, and Dave Thiner. Ex-officio members in attendance were Jean Christoffels and Amy Rucker. Also present was Julie Foote of MVTV Wireless.

Chair Wehking called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Open Forum:

There was no one present for Open Forum.

Agenda:

MSP: Jens, Stewart to approve the agenda.

Secretary's Report:

MSP: Hoffmann, Reese to approve the minutes from September 21, 2017 meeting.

Wireless Internet at Swenson Park:

Julie Foote of MVTV Wireless summarized the company as a not-for-profit member-owned cooperative providing fixed wireless broadband internet to businesses and residents who cannot access reliable telephone, fiber, or wireless internet.

A camper approached MVTV at the fair this year and stated that he had used service at another campground and asked that it be offered at Swenson Park. Fixed wireless technology requires line of sight to an access point. An MVTV Wireless technician visited Swenson Park and determined that the park has line of sight to the access point on the Trosky state communication tower. The service offered is pay-as-you go internet access. Instructions could be distributed to campers and is also online. Campers would log in, choose the length of time for service, enter a user id and password and then connect. No involvement of the camp host is necessary. MVTV maintains the equipment. The County would need to install a telephone pole to the south of lot #7 and would also need to provide 110V power to the pole. The only ongoing expense to the county would be the cost of the electricity to power the equipment: Similar to the cost of powering a 100-watt lightbulb. MVTV would add a few "hops" throughout the campground, attached to the site pedestals, so that all sites would have a good signal.

MSP: Jens, Reese to recommend that the County Board allow MVTV Wireless to install wireless internet at Swenson Park, contingent upon County Attorney Smith's approval of the agreement, and then proceed with installation at Sundquist Park and Seven Mile Lake Park if line-of-sight can be attained.

Park Director's Report:

- Park restrooms are all winterized and shut down for the season.
- The restroom project at Lime Lake Park is still in process.
 - There have been a few change orders. The elevation had to be raised to above the flood plain. In addition, after reviewing the plumbing plan, the State wanted to require a double grinder which would have added \$6,000 to the project. So we're going to install a 2400 gallon holding tank, rather than hooking up to sewer. Approximately \$16,500 will be saved (including boring) by going with the tank rather than sewer and there won't be

a monthly sewer fee. The septic designer suggested the tank be emptied in the fall and then as needed throughout the year.

- The concrete (sidewalk, foundation, floor) is done. Walls were supposed to be set yesterday, but that didn't happen.
- Hoffmann is still waiting on easements for Lake Shetek and Bloody Lake aeration, so it won't be installed this year.
- The inline aeration system is in place on First Fulda Lake. The bubblers from First Fulda and 3 spares on hand will be used on Shetek and Bloody if oxygen levels get too low.
- A public hearing has not been scheduled yet for the Parks Ordinance update. Hoffmann is waiting for approval of the proposed changes from County Attorney Smith.

Old Business:

Parks Rules

Parks Rules were reviewed again and a few changes were made. They are now ready to go to the County Board for final approval along with proposed changes to the Parks Ordinance.

Capital Improvement Plan

The Capital Improvement Plan was updated and a few changes were made.

New Business:

Online Payment of Camping Fees

A camper requested the ability to pay camping fees online. Hoffmann talked with Mary Ellen Moline in the Auditor/Treasurer's office, who said it can be done although there is a fee associated with making an online payment.

MSP Reese, Jens to allow online payment of camping fees if payers can be warned that payments do not reserve camp sites.

Posting Camping Availability on Facebook

Another camper requested that camp site availability be posted on Facebook. Justin, his staff, and/or camp hosts could regularly update Christy Riley, Murray County Community Relations Coordinator, on availability and she can post. Members agreed this would be a good idea.

Expiring Terms

Tom Kappes' and Troy Wehking's terms end on 12/31/2017. Kappes is eligible to serve two more terms, but Wehking will have served three terms and must be off the board for one year in order to be eligible for re-election. Commissioner Thiner will try to find someone to apply for the open position.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 18, 2018, at 5:30pm, in Conference Room B of the Murray County Government Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Attest: _____
Secretary –Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission

President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission