

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

October 29, 2020

The Murray County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission convened on October 29, 2020 in the 4H Building on the Murray County Fairgrounds, in the City of Slayton. The following voting members were present: Leroy Reese (Chair), James Jens, Justin Hoffmann, Tom Kappes, Jon Hoyme, Rae Ann Storm, David Thiner and Les Speckmeier. Jean Christoffels, ex-officio member, was in attendance as well.

Call Meeting to Order:

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

Open Forum:

No one was present.

Agenda:

MSP: Kappes, Hoyme to approve the agenda as presented.

Secretary's Report:

MSP: Hoffmann, Speckmeier to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting as written.

Park Director's Report:

- All parks are winterized. With warmer weather coming, hoping to do some additional fall cleanup in the parks.
- DNR inspected the Parks that have received grants in the past, reporting that they found the parks to be well-maintained and look good. At Swenson – swings on the east side of the park needed to have a safety zone added – simply removed the swings.
- Signs noting grant dollars received for the parks needed to be updated – signs were ordered.
- The woodchips below the playground at Seven Mile Park were compacted such that they were below the level of the sidewalk – more chips were added to bring it level again.
- The DNR will be accepting grant applications for their Outdoor Recreation Grant starting in November/December with a due date of late March. The County previously received grants for both West Lake Sarah and Fulda Parks. Wondering if the Board would be interested in either creating campsites at Corabelle Park or looking into the possibility of land acquisition and/or adding sites to Swenson Park, which is the most popular park with camping.
- Hunters are still camping in the parks this fall yet, even with the snow.

Old Business:

Lime Lake Dam Feasibility Study

Parks Board Members were given nine technical proposals for the Feasibility Study for the Lime Lake Dam replacement project from the following engineering firms: WIDSETH, Barr Engineering, Ulteig, Wenck, SEH, Houston Engineering, Bolton & Menk, Stantec, and ISG. After some discussion about the proposals, each Board Member was asked for their first, second and third choices.

MSP: Speckmeier, Thiner to select the following three firms, in no particular order, to interview: SEH, Houston Engineering, and Bolton & Menk. Interviews will be held on November 12, 2020 via zoom.

Corabelle Park Campground Expansion

One of the handouts for the meeting was three potential site plans for campsites at Corabelle County Park. Justin wasn't sure if the Board wanted to establish a new campground at Corabelle or check into the possibility of adding more sites, and potentially more land, to Swenson Park. Justin spoke with one of the family members that own the land north of Swenson Park to see if they would entertain the idea of selling land to the County for a park expansion. Justin will continue in conversation with the landowner and report back his findings at a future meeting.

New Business:

2020 Camping Fees

Also distributed was a report of the camping fees collected for 2020 for each of the Parks with camping. Justin also provided Board Members with the amounts from 2019, indicating that even with no camping allowed for Memorial Day weekend in 2020, camping fees collected increased over last year.

2021 Camping Rates

The Board feels that the current camping rates are acceptable and should not be increased for 2021.

MSP: Speckmeier, Hoyme to keep the 2021 Camping Rates at \$17.00 for daily camping and \$1,200.00 for seasonal sites.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be November 12, 2020, at 1:00 p.m.

MSP: Hoffmann, Kappes to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

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

President – Murray County Parks & Recreation
Advisory Commission