



PORTAGE COUNTY

LAKE EMILY PARK- WEST LODGE
3881 PARK DRIVE
AMHERST JUNCTION, WI 54407

MEETING MINUTES

PARK COMMISSION

Thursday, July 8, 2021

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The Park Commission meeting was called to order at 05:00 PM

Members Present:

Attending In-Person: Mike Splinter, Sara Brish, Mildred Neville, Jim Zach

Attending Online:

Members Excused: Charles Gussel, Anton Anday, George Kraft

Members Absent:

Staff Attending: Ryan Rose, Sue McKenzie, Rex Runke

Others Attending: Jake Barnes, Randy Schukar, John Baehr, Ryan Bushman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Zach, seconded by Sara Brish, to approve. Motion approved by voice vote, with no negative votes.

REPORTS

2. Vendor List
3. President's Report
4. Board Member(s) Report

Park Commissioner Zach requested more information on the nitrate levels at Collins Park. Director Ryan Rose stated that those levels are in part, due from high rain fall. Rose said that the Health Department does all the testing at the Parks and reports back to Rose.

5. Park Director's Report

Director Ryan Rose stated that Lake DuBay was hit with high winds from a recent storm and downed trees damaged the roof to the garage.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Committee Chair as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

Jake Barnes would like to speak on agenda item 7.

Randy Schukar would like to speak on agenda item 7.

CORRESPONDENCE

6. Standing Rocks correspondence

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

7. Discussion on tubing hill site alternatives at Standing Rocks Park.

Director Ryan Rose stated that the Commission has previously discussed that using the existing ski hills at Standing Rocks for a possible tubing site is off limits because of the Lakes. The Friends Group of Standing Rocks has looked into other site alternatives for the tubing hill, one of those being on the south side of the back hill, running toward the Behnke Olson Building. Rose stated that there have been issues with that site because the site alternative has a possibility of altering the Disc Golf course at Standing Rocks.

Friends Group member Jake Barnes discussed that the Friends Group came in contact with a Tubing Hill expert, Jim Engle, in late May to come take a look at the site alternatives for the possibility of a tubing hill at Standing Rocks. Barnes stated that Engle concluded that running the tubing hill on the south side to the Behnke Olson building could be a viable option as a non-lake option.

Director Rose stated that his current permit does not permit him to take water out of the Great Lakes water basin and cross into the Mississippi water basin to be able to make snow for the possibility of a tubing hill, running on the south side of Standing Rocks. Rose states that he would have to put in a new high-capacity well on the Mississippi Water Basin, in order to make snow on the south side of the Park.

Randy Schukar discussed how fond he and the public are about Standing Rocks Park, and to clear out a wooded area near the parking lot and Behnke Olson building would be taking the natural beauty of the Park away. Schukar states south-facing slopes receive more sun-light than any other slope, therefore, melting the snow on the proposed tubing hill site alternative. Schukar also discussed how Disc Golf activity is increasing annually by 15%. Schukar also states that Standing Rocks Disc Golf is ranked number five in state and that the Park brings in many public members outside of Wisconsin.

Park Commissioner Mildred Neville stated that she would like to see Standing Rocks be left to its natural, wooded beauty.

8. Update on 2021 Revenues

Director Rose stated that in comparison from this year to last year, the Park revenue has increased this year. Rose stated that the campgrounds are busy, as well as the summer activities at Standing Rocks.

9. Discussion and Possible action on hiring an additional summer seasonal employee, at Standing Rocks Park for the 2022 Budget year.

A motion was made by Mildred Neville, seconded by Jim Zach, to approve. Motion approved by voice vote, with no negative votes.

10. Discussion/Possible Action Re: Regarding Special Meeting Attendance (Portage County Ordinance 3.1.47 & 3.1.48)

- Request for special meeting attendance
- Approval of attendance of special meetings
- Special meeting attendance reports

NOTICES

NEXT MEETING DATE

11. August 12, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sara Brish, seconded by Jim Zach, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.
Meeting adjourned at 06:08 PM

Notice: Any person who has special needs and plans on attending this meeting in-person or remotely should contact the Facilities Office at 715-346-1598 as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodations can be made.

Notice: A quorum of the Portage County Board of Supervisors, or any committee thereof, may be present at this meeting.

APPROVED