

**Menominee County
Parks and Recreation Committee
November 11, 2009
Minutes**

Members Present: Vola Bleile, Judy Bright, Ruby Ivens, Jason Lauzer and Commissioners Peterson and Furlong. Absent: Position vacated by Mark Aubert had not been filled as of meeting date. Also present: Former Parks Superintendent Steve Wery and summer parks employee Karen Kayser for informational purposes due to the vacant Parks Superintendent position.

The meeting was held at the Stephenson Annex and was called to order at 6:00 pm by Vice-Chairman Lauzer.

Motion to approve agenda with the following additions made by Furlong, seconded by Bleile:

F.9 Responsibilities of the Committee

F.10 Vacancy due to term ending

Motion carried.

Motion to approve October 14, 2009 minutes made by Furlong, seconded by Peterson. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Concerning the resignation of Chairman Mark Aubert, Lauzer advised the committee that the county board had not yet advertised to fill that vacancy, which term expires 12/31/2010. It was agreed that the secretary would advise the county administrator's secretary to put this on the 11/24/09 County Board agenda. Bright also identified members and terms as follows, taken from county board minutes of 2008 and 2009:

Jason Lauzer, appointed 2/26/2008 to a 2 yr term expiring 12/31/2009

Judy Bright, appointed 2/26/2008 to a 3 yr term expiring 12/31/2010

Mark Aubert, appointed 1/22/2008 to a 3 yr term expiring 12/31/2010. Position is open due to resignation of Aubert and has not been filled as of this meeting.

Ruby Ivens, appointed 9/22/2009 to fill unexpired 2 yr term of Mike Lyons, whose term will expire 12/31/2010.

Vola Bleile, appointed 11/25/2008 to a 3-yr term expiring 12/31/2011. (This appointment is subject to a lawsuit and injunction issued by the court.)

Lauzer advised the committee that attorney Dan Hass is reviewing our by-laws, but has not rendered an opinion, regarding status of committee officers when the chairman of the committee resigns. Since the committee usually holds its reorganization meeting in January, Lauzer will continue as Vice-Chair through 12/31/2009.

Ruby Ivens was introduced as a new committee member filling the vacancy created by Mike Lyons' resignation and whose term expires 12/31/2010.

Furlong updated the committee on the status of supervision of two parks employees in the absence of a parks superintendent as presented at the personnel committee: Al Thompspon is supervising these employees who are in the process of closing up the parks for the season and doing a fine job. Peterson advised the committee that he had toured Shakey Lakes Park this day reporting that there had been 15-20 cords of wood cut and that there were approx 20 RVs on sites.

Karen Kayser and Steve Wery proceeded to update the committee on various ongoing responsibilities and activities of the Parks Superintendent during the winter months, including: soliciting advertisers and collecting fees for placemat maps and printing the placemats. There are approximately 8 advertisers left (at \$55 each) to contact. The placemat revenues go into "unscheduled revenue" and are then applied to the digital reservation program upgrades, which cost about \$400, making this program revenue neutral.

Wery updated the committee on outstanding issues with the parks reservation system for 2010. New camping fees which were approved by the county board for 2010 must be posted in January in Luft's, EagleHerald and Menominee County Journal. Letters to current lease site holders also must be sent and applications must go out. Many of those with lease sites have already signed a first-right-of-refusal form to secure their sites for 2010 and have until February 15 to pay in full for their leases. Some will not, but there is a standing waiting list that was left in the Parks Superintendent files. Wery also advised that opening day for reservations (which falls again in February 2010) is very hectic and requires a second copier as a back-up.

Wery advised the committee that he had left a whole week open before his departure to spend time with interim administrator Erdman or anyone else who wished to meet with him to review files and open parks items; but there was no response from the interim administrator, whose responsibilities would include parks supervision after Wery's last scheduled day of employment on September 30, 2009.

Since there are many concerns of the committee as to the function of the parks, it was agreed that the new county administrator/parks superintendent be invited to our next meeting on December 9, 2009 and the secretary should compose and send a letter to the county board with items needing attention over the winter months and before next camping season.

The committee has some questions on the horse building at Shakey Lakes Park and the county's arrangement with 4-H for use and maintenance. It was agreed to have a representative from 4-H attend the December 9th committee meeting, along with the Fair Board as already scheduled. Jason Lauzer will follow up with 4-H.

Ruby Ivens presented a printout of “Responsibilities of this Committee” as spelled out in the Charter of Parks and Recreation Committee and reviewed whether or not the committee was following each of the 14 items listed.

Furlong moved and Bright seconded a motion to advise the county board in writing that we support the re-appointment of Jason Lauzer to the Parks Committee. Motion carried.

There was no correspondence.

Public comment: Charlene Peterson suggested that since three committee members have terms expiring in 2010, the staggered terms should be reviewed.

Karen Kayser discussed an Internet-based reservation system. Lauzer will follow-up with Marinette County, which currently has such a system.

Steve Wery addressed boat launch fees and how those fees are directed to be used only for maintenance and improvement of boat launch areas. He also hoped to see that items included in the county rec plan be pursued, with the help of grant funds. These projects include a new bath house at Shakey Lakes and updates at River Park. Wery advised that there is a CMI grant available that should be pursued for such improvements and the administrator/parks superintendent should be advised of this.

There being no further business to become before the committee, Furlong moved and Peterson seconded a motion to adjourn at 7:12 pm. Motion carried.

Judy Bright, Secretary
Menominee County
Parks and Recreation Committee