

Menominee County
Parks and Recreation Committee
September 9, 2009
Minutes

Members Present: Mark Aubert, Judy Bright, Commissioner James Furlong, and Jason Lauzer. Absent: Vola Bleile and Commissioner Dick Peterson. (Position vacated by Mike Lyons still had not been filled as of meeting date.) Also in attendance: Steve Wery, Parks Superintendent.

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

Motion to approve agenda as presented made Judy Bright, seconded by Jason Lauzer. Motion carried.

Motion to approve August 12, 2009 minutes with reference to "Mike Aubert" being corrected to "Mark Aubert" was made by Jason Lauzer, seconded by James Furlong. Motion carried.

There was no public comment.

Since the last committee meeting, Chairman Aubert was advised by the interim county administrator that the secretary of the committee should prepare the agenda, since his office does not have the time to do this. The consensus was that the committee is advisory only and has no capacity to post the agenda to the county web site. A motion to return the agenda preparation to the county administrator in conjunction with the parks superintendent was made by James Furlong, seconded by Jason Lauzer. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the By-Laws as amended in their final form was made by Jason Lauzer and seconded by James Furlong. Roll call vote: Aubert – aye; Lauzer – aye; Furlong – aye; Bright – aye. Motion carried 4-0.

The committee has been made aware that the position of Building and Grounds and Parks Superintendent (equal to one full-time position and currently held by Steve Wery) is in jeopardy of being eliminated through the 2009-10 budget process. In discussion that followed, Chairman Aubert read into the minutes and shared a lengthy list of grants received and various improvements to the county parks (copy attached) while Superintendent Wery has been in charge of the parks. Jason Lauzer commented on Steve Wery's dedication to and interest in his position. James Furlong questioned long term effects on the parks by cutting this position. Judy Bright commented that she has seen many positive improvements in the parks over the past ten years. Following further discussion about the need for a parks superintendent, a motion was made by Jason Lauzer, seconded by James Furlong to "to support keeping Steve Wery on as Parks Superintendent and to authorize Chairman Aubert to advise the county of such motion." The secretary will draft a letter to the commissioners and the interim administrator advising them of this action. (Copy of letter attached.)

Superintendent Wery advised the committee that the new park fee schedule for 2010 was approved by the county board and that the resolution supporting efforts of the Front 40 group died for lack of a second.

Mark Aubert inquired into the status of filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Mike Lyons. Commissioner Furlong updated the committee stating that a new application process is a "work in progress" at this moment, but was hopeful that someone would be appointed by our next meeting in October.

Public comment:

Arlen Bright, Wallace, spoke to the cumulative effect of reduced outlays by the county over the years as revenues have increased at the parks.

Tina Lesperance, past committee member for 17 years, spoke in support of Mr. Wery and how he gets the job done. If there have been any problems with Mr. Wery's performance, there has been no documentation. She asked the committee to speak out as a group at the next meeting of the commissioners.

Kandace Curran, MSU Extension Secretary and Fair Board Manager, complimented Mr. Wery on his ability to find the money needed for projects and not waiting for money to come to the county. She further added that Mr. Wery was proactive in resolving any fair issues.

Karen Kayser, parks employee at Shakey Lakes Park, commented that Steve is her manager, is very conscientious and is always there.

Steve Sobay, seasonal camper, stated that Steve does things right and any issues at the park are resolved.

Following public comment, Steve Wery thanked everyone in attendance and said that this would probably be the last meeting he attends as parks superintendent. It has been a pleasure working for the county, and his dealings with the county board had always been positive, until this past February. He further commented that buildings and parks are major operations, and commended his workforce for their efforts and good work. He is also trying to arrange a walk-through to let the county board know the current status of the parks and buildings.

James Furlong advised all in attendance that it is very important for citizens to give input to their commissioners, since they represent the community and need to know what their constituents think.

A motion to adjourn was made by James Furlong, seconded by Jason Lauzer. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Judy Bright, Secretary
Menominee County
Parks and Recreation Committee

September 09, 2009

I would like to point out some of the accomplishments made at the parks over the past 11 years while Steve Wery has been Park Superintendent.

- GRANT (Kleinke Park) - Obtained a CMI grant for Kleinke Bath House 60/40 40% County contribution. Steve saw this project through from beginning to end. As a result Kleinke Park has showers and flushing toilets; new dump station. Total cost (approximately) \$130,000.
- GRANT (Shakey Lakes Park) – Obtained new playground equipment as a result of a grant for \$17,500 from the Hannaville Community.
- GRANT (Shakey Lakes Park & Kleinke Park) – 50% of cost towards all new fire pits at the two parks came from the Hannaville Community. The remaining 50% came from the insurance carrier under the “risk management” clause. This was cost to the tax payer.
- GRANT (Shakey Lakes Park) – Obtained a \$10,000 grant from the Hannaville Community for removal of hill for horse related sites.
- GRANT (Shakey Lakes Park & Kleinke Park) – Obtained grant for \$4,000 from the Hannaville Community for new grills and benches.
- Kleinke Park – 35 sites updated to 50 amp power.
- Kleinke Park – Built new shop (26’ x 28’) in order to save fuel and get more work-time out of workers.
- Shakey Lakes Park - West side, hill leveled; addition of 20 new sites, (50’ x 100’), with 50 amp power.
- Shakey Lakes Park – Center of park, 35 sites updated to 50 amp power.
- Shakey Lakes Park – Built new office. Removed old trailer.
- Shakey Lakes Park – Built new shop (28’ x 40’)
- Shakey Lakes Park – Built 2 new pump houses and brought them above ground.
- Shakey Lakes Park – Remodeled bath house with new floor and ceramic shower; painted exterior; new roof; new garage door.
- Shakey Lakes Park – Completely redid Pavilion No.1.
- Shakey Lakes Park – The Lease Program increased from 6 to 47.
- Shakey Lakes Park & Kleinke Park – On call “24/7”.
- All Parks – Ground approximately 500 stumps out at Shakey Lakes Park; replanted approximately 150 new 12’ maple trees and approximately 5,000 spruce and pines throughout the park
- All Parks – Got rid of old trucks and backhoe and upgraded mowers and trucks for Parks. Got new 4 wheel drive tractor and, along with it, a brush hog in 2008. A very generous donation helped pay for a good part of this.
- All Parks – Had a good working relationship with every Park & Recreation member to move the parks forward.
- All Parks – Attended every Park meeting; showed good leadership; showed positive attitude.

- All Parks – Took general fund appropriation (in 1999/2000) from \$108,767 tax payers paid after revenue was brought in to (2009-2010) under \$50,000 general fund appropriation moving forward.
- All Parks – Near record revenues every year for the past ten years in parks.

These accomplishments have helped create a steady growth at both Shakey and Kleinke Parks. This growth has lowered the County's cash input from \$108,000 in 1999 to \$46,000 for 2010. During this same period when fuel, energy, wages, benefits, equipment, permits, testing, etc. have all increased, the Parks continue to generate enough revenue to lower the County's support. They also support the other Parks that do not generate income.

The Parks committee, working with the Park Superintendent, continues to grow the interest in these parks. Without your support that interest will go elsewhere.

September 10, 2009

County Board Chairperson Gary Eichhorn
County Board Vice Chairperson Dick Peterson
Commissioner Garry Anderson
Commissioner Bernie Lang
Commissioner James Furlong
Interim County Administrator Mike Erdman

Menominee County
839 10th Avenue
Menominee, MI 49858

Gentlemen:

At a duly noticed meeting of the Menominee County Parks and Recreation Committee on September 9, 2009, with a quorum present, the Parks and Recreation Committee unanimously approved the following statement to be forwarded to you for consideration during your budget meetings.

To support keeping Steve Wery on as Parks Superintendent and to authorize Chairman Aubert to advise the county of such motion.

Mr. Wery's dedication and service to Menominee County will be sorely missed should the commissioners decide to eliminate his position through the budgetary process.

Sincerely,

Mark Aubert, Chairman
Menominee County Parks and
Recreation Committee

MA/jb