

Menominee County Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 5, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Bob Desjarlais at the Annex in Stephenson, MI on November 5, 2012.

Reporting for roll call were: Vola Bleile, Bob Desjarlais, Ruby Ivens, Gail Jerzyk, Glenn Cody, County Administrator Brian Bousley, and County Commissioners Charlie Meintz and Mark Jasper. There was a quorum present to conduct the meeting.

Approval of agenda: A motion was made by Ruby and seconded by Mark. The motion carried.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ruby to approve the minutes from the last meeting that was seconded by Charlie. The motion carried.

Public Comment: Several long-term lease campers at Shakey Lakes Park were present and asked for clarification of the existing park rules concerning: that part of Section 9 that states "No glass containers allowed in parks", that part of Section 12 that states "Park hours are from 7:00 am. to 10 pm. daily. Anyone found in the park after 10 pm. not camping with a permit will be construed to be trespassing", and that part of Section 10 that seems to prohibit the use of sound systems of any kind in the parks.

It was suggested that the board consider striking the provision against glass containers. Concerning the park hours, Bob suggested that visitors be allowed to remain in the park until 11 pm. Sound systems at preapproved special events (e.g. end of season parties) would be allowed as long as they did not disturb other campers. The use of any sound systems must terminate at or before 11 pm.

The campers also raised questions concerning the responsibilities of the off-duty deputy who was a fellow camper at the park. Brian responded that he is an off-duty police officer when he is camping in the park, but that he might be called to respond to a problem or situation if needed. The deputy is also authorized to respond to any altercations that might occur at the park during his presence.

Several campers also expressed their opposition to any increase in the camping rates.

Business:

- a. **Monthly Budget Review:** Brian distributed copies of the most recent budget for the board's perusal and comment. He remarked that there is not much activity in the budget this time of year, and that he would like to use the existing fund equity of \$37,755.23 to help offset the costs of an electrical upgrade at Shakey Lakes Park. Estimates for the work are still pending.
- b. **Park Ranger/Park Manager Updates:** Brian reported that the water had been turned off for the season at the parks. There was still one camper at Kleinke Park.
- c. **Project Update:** Brian reported that the pit toilets at both Shakey Lakes Park and River Park had each received a new roof. There were also some new issues concerning the new bathhouse at Shakey Lakes Park including a crack in one of the walls.

- d. **Kleinke/Shakey Lakes Park:** Updates relative to these parks have already been addressed in items "b" and "c" above.
- e. **Lease Program/Lease Policies and Procedures:** Brian opened the discussion by asking the board to work on clarifying the definition of the term "water site" as it appears in the policies and procedures. This clarification is especially needed at Shakey Lakes Park in order to designate exactly which sites meet the criteria. He also expressed the need to revamp the wording on the renewal form so that the administrator would have the power to deny a renewal if necessary.

A discussion of the current camping fee structure and the need to increase revenue at the parks then ensued with considerable feedback, comments and suggestions from members of the audience. Bob suggested that an "energy surcharge" be considered for those sites that offer an electrical hookup. Other suggestions included establishing a structure that would charge non-county residents a higher fee to camp at the parks and a surcharge on "additional" energy-consuming appliances (e.g. a second refrigerator) It was also suggested that campers be encouraged to help conserve energy whenever possible. It was decided to call a special meeting on November 19, 2012 at the Stephenson Annex beginning at 5:00 pm. to devise a new fee structure for the 2013 camping season.

Three changes were made to the 2012 Parks Price List for the 2013 season that concerned fees other than for camping:

1. Charlie made a motion that was seconded by Vola to remove the words "second" and "free" from the first four lines of the Gate Fees section. There would still be no gate fee for senior citizens (70 yrs and older). The motion carried.
2. Mark made a motion that was seconded by Vola to eliminate the free boat launch for seniors over 70 in the section entitled "General" and to amend the second to last line in the same section to read as follows: "Boat Launch Seniors 65 and older ----- \$10.00". The motion carried.
3. Mark made a motion that was seconded by Charlie to increase the reservation fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00. The motion carried.

- f. **Park Rules:** This discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

There was no correspondence.

Any Other Items Members Wish to Present: None

Public Comment: Mickey Plautz, regular long-term camper at Kleinke Park, asked about the current status of the Host Camper Program. Brian responded that the committee would be addressing this issue early in 2013.

Ruby offered a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Gail. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn D. Cody