

Menominee County Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Bob Desjarlais at the Stephenson Annex on November 2, 2015.

Reporting for roll call were: Bob Desjarlais, Vola Bleile, Ruby Ivens, Dick Peterson, Glenn Cody, County Commissioner Bill Cech, and County Administrator Brian Bousley. There was a quorum present to conduct the meeting.

Approval of agenda: Ruby made a motion to approve the agenda that was seconded by Glenn. The motion carried.

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

Public Comment: Kristi Steger from the Delta-Menominee Health Department presented a letter from Menominee resident Lucy Pier in support of banning tobacco products from the county parks. Ms. Steger had spoken to the committee about the health department's tobacco-free parks initiative at its previous meeting on September 8, 2015.

Business:

- a. **Park Ranger / Park Manager Update:** Brian reported that there is currently not much going on, because the parks are more or less closed for the season. It is still possible to camp in the parks in the off-season (at a reduced rate), but there is no water available. Brian also reported that the parks experienced a lot of use throughout the month of October, the most in the last six or seven years. He theorized that the warmer than average temperatures encouraged more patrons to visit the parks before the onset of winter.
- b. **Monthly Budget Review:** Brian distributed copies of the latest budget for the committee's perusal and review. Several questions concerning clarification of specific items were raised and answered. Brian commented that the budget looked good at this point and that income was up across the board over the same period last year with the exception of campsite income from Klenke Park. Several members of the committee commented that this seemed to indicate that the current fee structure was adequate.
- c. **Parks Projects/ Grants:** Brian announced that no bids had been received so far for the replacement of the ramp and pads at Stoney Point, and that all of the improvements at River Park had been completed, although the electrical work was still awaiting inspection. A quote had been received to repair the entry road at Bailey Park, and a grant will be pursued with the DNR for the construction of restroom facilities. Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association was in the process of electrifying several campsites at Shakey Lakes Park. Brian also reported that there were problems with defective caulk at

the new bathhouse facility at Shakey Lakes Park.

- d. **2016 Park Fee Schedule:** The committee discussed the park fee schedule for the coming year which contains no increases from the previous year. Dick made a motion to add the new campsites at River Park to the fee schedule that was seconded by Bill. The motion carried.
- e. **Lease Program:** Brian recommended the addition of a “lease hold harmless” clause to the current lease agreement. He will consult with Menominee County District Attorney Bill Merkl before officially proposing its inclusion.
- f. **Delta-Menominee County Health Department – Tobacco Program:** Kristi Steger from the Delta-Menominee County Health Department addressed the committee for a second time advocating for a proposal to ban or limit smoking in all county parks. Glenn commented that such a proposal should not be considered without consulting the park patrons. Several other committee members expressed similar concerns. No action was taken pending feedback from the patrons and further discussion.
- g. **Forestry Plan:** Brian announced that the forester was still working on his assessment of a potential timber harvest at the various parks. It is hoped that he will be able to attend the December meeting and offer a full report. Noreen Johnson from the West Shore Fishing Museum presented her findings following a tour of the Bailey Park property on both sides of Highway 35. She expressed her concern regarding the establishment of trails that would require hikers to cross the highway, and offered a suggestion that the committee consider the restoration/reestablishment of historic Native American trails in the area.

Correspondence: A letter of resignation has been received from committee member Glenn Cody effective January 1, 2016. Glenn cited the demands of a growing business and various family matters as reasons for his retirement from the committee.

Public Comment: Kristi Steger and Noreen Johnson expressed their thanks to the committee for listening to their comments.

Any Other Items Members Wish to Present: None.

Vola offered a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Glenn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn D. Cody