

Starke County Park Board Minutes 09/20/16

The meeting was **Called to Order** by President, Roger Chaffins at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call- Roger Chaffins, Deb Mix, Rosie Rose, and Chris Lawrence. The County Attorney, Mr. Martin Lucas was also in attendance. Absent: Butch Gerstandt,

Minutes -A motion to accept the July minutes as written (Lawrence-Rose). The motion was voted on and carried.

5-Year Master Plan: Kankakee-Iroquois Regional Planning Commission (KIRPC) Edwin Buswell explained that the Commissioners had contacted him since they provided money to help write a 5 year Plan. It was explained that KIPRC serves 8 counties and the commissioners understand the importance to have a 5 year Master Plan in order to apply for DNR grants. Mr. Buswell is here to explain what KIRPC can do to help this Park Board. The cost to conduct a mandatory survey of the county is prohibitive and if we were to wait to get the survey, applying for the OCRA grant would not be timely. It also wouldn't guarantee the OCRA grant would be granted. KIRPC is willing to write a 5 year Master Plan including the survey. Although KIRPC doesn't specialize in Park Master Plans, they have written several that have been able to obtain grant dollars. Several options were laid out to write the plan that would require the Park Board to participate in writing parts of it. Different costs were given for specific parts. Mr. Buswell suggested that they may elicit Ball State or Purdue students as a class project to keep costs down. The Commissioners have earmarked \$15,000 in funds to get a 5 Year Master Plan going.

The steps required to start the process includes interviewing at least two firms to conduct the survey and to advertise the efforts in local media. Mr. Buswell provided several Master plans including one that KIRPC had written for the Town of Monon. After reviewing, a motion was made (Mix-Rose) to have KIRPC begin the process of making a Master Plan. After discussion and a vote, the motion carried.

A general timeline was given, stating it would take about 40 days to get the proposals from consultants to do the survey/focus groups to get information from the public. The proposals will be sent to the Auditor's office. The goal is to try to make the 2017 OCRA grant deadline.

Beach and Campground: Mr. Todd Wallsmith and Mr. Rich Callahan came to speak. President Roger Chaffins made a clarification that the two attorneys are not in collaboration and working together. They both agreed that there's a level of respect each attorney gives to one another, especially since they are likely to work together at any given time.

Mr. Wallsmith gave a verbal announcement that they plan to renew the lease for 2018. The park board directors expressed they are not willing to accept a verbal notice when the Lease calls for a written notice.

Mr. Callahan stated that October 31st is the last day that the campground and beach will be open. He is requesting that he not be required to attend park board meetings until March. Mr. Lucas read Section 31 of the Lease into record.

SECTION 31 Supervision and Control of Lessee

It is understood that a major consideration inducing the execution of this lease by LESSOR is that Richard Callahan personally control and direct the operation of the activities of LESSEE; and if at any time during the term of this lease Richard Callahan should, either voluntarily or involuntarily, relinquish control of lessee, then and in any such event such loss of control shall be deemed an assignment, and the provisions of this lease respecting assignment as set forth herein shall be deemed applicable thereto.

Mr. Callahan brought up that emails are going around where park board members are on the list and one has made a comment on the email. He wants to know if it's a violation of the Open Door Policy. Mr. Lucas noted that the concern is viable and the park board members will be notified that they need to restrain from making comment on public emails. Mr. Callahan wants to not have to attend each meeting until March or April even if the Park Board meets throughout the winter. President Chaffins stated that we can work through letters.

Mr. Wallsmith noted that Mr. Callahan plans on carrying a Workers Compensation insurance policy for the next year, even though he doesn't believe he's required to, since the people that are working at the BLBC are independent contractors and volunteers.

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When asked how the raffle for the gazebo is going, Larry Clarich stated about \$300 was raised to rehab the structure. He stated they would like to revisit the board's decision to demolish the gazebo. They would like to rehab it in the month of October. He also noted a change in address which is now 7060 S US Hwy 35, Knox.

A motion was made (Rose-Lawrence) to suspend the demolition of the gazebo until October when new plans for the gazebo will be presented to the board. After discussion a vote was taken with 3 for and 1 opposed. The motion carried.

President Chaffins stated that the 3rd Tuesday of each month has been difficult for Mr. Lucas since the meetings are so close to the Commissioner meetings. A motion was made (Mix-Rose) to change the regular meetings to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Discussion was had and a vote carried the motion. October 11th will be the next meeting.

With no further discussion or questions, the meeting was adjourned by a motion from Ms. Rose and seconded by Mr. Chaffins at 7:20pm. Next meeting is October 11, 6pm at the annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Mix
Secretary