

Richland County Parks Commission  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Meeting Minutes

#1 The September 9<sup>th</sup>. 2019 meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Peters at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Gary Peters, John Collins, Kerry Severson, Gary Manning, Cindy Chicker, Steve Kohlstedt, Pat Werner, Tom Johnson, Tracy Gobin and Cathy Cooper. Brad Wegner was absent.

#2 The agenda was mailed out and it was posted at the Courthouse bulletin board, Gary Manning moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification second made by Steve Kohlstedt. Motion carried.

#3 Motion made by Cindy Chicker to approve the minutes of the August meeting as sent out second made by Gary Manning. Motion carried.

#4 Public input; Tracy Gobin asked about cleanup of the trail, she is asking for direction from the commission, Kerry Severson suggested cleaning up small junk and dead trees, brush along the fence line. Leave the larger trees alone, inform the commission if those need to be taken care of. Let Cathy know so a permit can be issued for vehicles and the Sheriff's Department know when you are planning to do the cleanup. Tracy also asked about the highline workers and the heavy equipment being used. Cathy informed Tracy that they will be repairing the trail after the work is done. If not, please let Cathy know.

#5. Hidden Valley Ad. Kerry Severson has not had a chance to do anything at this time. He has spoke with Lon Arbegust, Lon will be helping Kerry with the centerfold. Cathy also informed the commission that Lon had stopped into the office, Tammy asked him to edit the ad to include The Ash Creek Community Forest.

#6; Bike trail update; Cathy reported that the utility company will be going through the end of November depending on the weather and they will repair the trail when they are done. Also, the day after the ATV/UTV issued went through the County Board there were machines on the trail, Cathy informed the Sheriff's department that the trail is not open to ATV/UTV's as of yet. Tickets will be issued if caught. Cathy spoke with the State regarding the application and the person said that the application needs to be forward on the Federal government. Cathy will do more research on this in order to get the application sent to the correct people.

Tracy Gobin spoke of some events that are planned for the trail. There is scavenger hunt going on right now thru this Saturday. Take pictures and sign up for the free event through the Symons Center web site then on Saturday there will be a party in Gotham to go thru all of the pictures with prizes, everyone that participates will get a free pool past to Symons. Also, that morning there will be a bird walk starting at Twin Bluffs with a bird expert, they will hike 1 mile down the trail and then come back. This is a free event, please register on the Symons web page. The rain date will be Sunday. October 5<sup>th</sup> a portion of the trail will be used for the fall Ocooch bike tour. Kerry asked about grading on the trail prior to any of these events. There is a grater at the snowmobile shed that could be used if there is someone willing to grade the trail. This would require a tractor with a three-point hitch.

#7 Rifle Range; There are more boards that were purchased from Rockbridge Sawmill; John also picked up 10 more boards from a project that Gary was doing in Blue River.

#8 Rockbridge Park; Cathy reported that the picnic tables are ready for pick up. We can have them delivered for a cost. Gary Manning said that they can be delivered to his property behind Good Will, there are 2 different fork lifts in the building. Gary needs to know within the hour of delivery, better yet the day before and he will meet them at the building and off load them with the fork lift.

#9 Viola Park; Kerry reported the personnel/finance committee met, they increased the money available for a well at the park to \$13,000. The committee is proposing to borrow the money. The proposed levy for the parks commission is \$50,000 plus the \$13,000 for a new well for 2020. Cathy reviewed an email that was received off of the web site. Discussion followed regarding the well and the potential cost and water quality.

#10 Kayak Landing at State Highway 80 & County Highway SR; There hasn't been activity on the project. Need to put in the grant application for the parking area at the site. Motion made by Steve Kohlstedt to apply for and accept a grant for County Conservation aide, second made by Gary Manning. Motion carried.

#11; Snowmobile Alliance; nothing new to report.

#12 Snowmobile Grant; Kerry attended the recreational council meeting, Kurt Byfield is the new regional director, there is 3.9 million available for new development. They will pay 100% supplemental this year for the 2019-2020 season. There is \$300,000 available for new miles. No new miles have been approved yet. They will be meeting later in the year before approving any new miles. GPS trackers for the groomers may be a funded item. This is something that is optional, and the alliance will have to decide if they want to purchase a tracker for the groomer. A. bid opening, first thing to let the commission know the approval From the Army Cor came last week. This is for 600 ft of rip rapping. Bid 1. Craig Daniels for \$59,400.00. Bid 2. Wanless Construction for \$24,700.00. Bid 3. Mike Lepke \$48,500.00. Motion made by Steve Kohlstedt to accept the low bid contingent on getting more funding from the state, second made by Kerry Severson. Motion carried. Cathy will contact Anne from the state regarding additional funds for the project.

#13 Boat Landings; Port Andrews is fixed, more than estimate however the is a grant received for \$1,500.00 to assess in payment. The Orion boat landing needs more cleaned out.

#14 Long Range Recreation Plan; We met with the invited group of people and started with ideas for the next plan. Cathy & Cindy will be getting together to set the next meeting date. Pat Werner suggested to keep the boats and the hover crafts on the river.

#15 Commission structure administration need to keep this on the agenda. John Collins made a recommendation to have a job description for a park's supervisor.

#16 Committee member reports; John reported on the rifle range, the last few times he has been to the range the people that were using the range are not residents of the county. Cindy reported that she has been on the bike trail a number of times of the last month and it is not too bad for travel

#17 Other business.

#17 The following bills were presented for September; Town & Country Sanitation, \$422.13; Nature's Way Portable Units, \$486.00; Sharon Miller, \$54.00; Don Wanless, \$750.00; Walsh's Ace Hardware. \$123.94; Rockbridge Sawmill, \$272.00; John's Welding LLC, \$1600.00 Richland County Highway Department, \$4,051.69; Richland Observer, \$79.96; Premier Coop, \$340.35. Motion made by Gary Manning to pay the September bills as presented, second made by Kerry Severson. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be on Monday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Meeting will begin at 5:30 pm in the conference room of the Ag Service Center, 26136 Executive Ln.

Motion made by Steve Kohlstedt to adjourn the meeting, second made by Gary Manning. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 6:45 pm.

*Gary Peters*

Gary Peters  
Parks Commission Chair