

Richland County Parks Commission
July 6, 2020
Meeting Minutes

#1 The July 6, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Severson at 5:30 p.m. Those present were Kerry Severson, John Collins, Eric Siemandel, Cindy Chicker, Timothy Gottschall, Gary Manning and Cathy Cooper. Ken Thiede arrived later in the meeting

#2 The agenda was mailed out and it was properly posted. Gary Manning moved to approve the agenda and proof of notification second made by Cindy Chicker. Motion carried.

#3 Motion made by John Collins to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2020 meeting as sent out second made by Cindy Chicker. Motion carried.

The commission skipped item #4 until Ken Thiede arrived.

#5 Bike Trail- Cindy asked that this item be changed to the Pine River Recreation Trail. Cathy was asked the status of the benches that Tracy Gobin had talked about at a meeting this past winter. Cathy will check with Tracy about the status of the benches and report back at the next meeting. Cindy mentioned that the Lions Club is working on collecting plastic bags that are recycled into park benches. Cathy stated that the Kiwanis Club is going to assist the Lions Club with this project, so more benches are received. The Commission needs to find out where the Lions are planning on placing the benches. Kerry mentioned the need to stain the bridges on the trail to provide better protection for the decks. He wasn't sure about the DNR restrictions on doing this. Cathy will check with Jeff Schure and report back to the commission.

#4 Public Input. Ken Thiede arrived. He first wanted to thank the Commission for all that they do at Akey School. He is actively looking at more membership for the Historical Society and to increase the recognition of historical sites in the county. He has 2 proposals for the Parks Commission. He realizes that the Commission can't vote on these items at this time but wants to let the Commission know what is happening.

The Historical Society is looking into purchasing the Orion Bible church. It is the oldest church building in the county. It is located in the little village of Orion, about 2 blocks off of State Highway 60. It is currently privately owned but is going to be sold at an auction in July. Before the Historical Society goes ahead, he wants to see if there was any interest by the Parks Commission in doing the mowing at the church site, like they do at Akey school. Currently, there is no plan for the society to open it to the public. Kerry mentioned that it would probably have to go to the County Board and have an agreement drawn up that would have to be given to Corporation Council to review. The Parks Commission members expressed that it is a possibility.

The other item that Ken wanted to present is the idea of putting up signs, like the State Historical markers, at 9-10 of County historical sites. He is currently talking with Richland County Economic Development and Tourism about this too. If this comes to fruition, he may come back to ask the Commission if they would be interested in contributing to the costs, especially at Akey school.

#6 Rifle Range. John stated that there are enough boards out there at this time. Cathy mentioned that they collected around \$200 from the donation container (December 2019 to now). Tim mentioned that he is working with a youth group called Trails Life USA. The youth in this group is interested in helping clean up the rifle range. In exchange, they would like a day to shoot out there without others around. John said that the 4H Shooting group uses the range once a year and they just make arrangement with the Sheriff's Department.

#7 Viola Park. Kerry explained to Tim and Eric what has proceeded at the park concerning camping and that the County Board last year wanted the Parks Commission to get a camping permit. One of the things that has to be done is to drill a well. The County authorized the borrowing of up to \$13,000 to drill a well. One of the issues is that there was a well, now abandoned, at the Park that would not pass the bacteria test. The Commission members fear is the county could spend this money and the well not pass. Gary Manning moved to not pursue a well at this time and talk with County Board members to see if there is still an interest in a camping permit at the park. Seconded by Tim Gottschall. Motion carried.

#8 Rockbridge Park. Cathy mentioned that Mark McCauley and Dale Bender with some help installed the kayak landing at the park. Cathy also mentioned that one of her staff repaired one of the upper treads on the stairway that had come off. The Commission noticed a large pothole had developed over the past couple of weeks. Gary said he would look into filling it in as it is a safety hazard for both vehicles and pedestrians. Kerry mentioned that he talked with Boy Scout leader, Jim Birch, and the Boy Scouts are interested in doing some painting at the Park. Tim Gottschall moved to allow the Boy Scouts to paint the bridge and shelters and the Parks commission would purchase the supplies. Seconded by Cindy Chicker. Motion carried.

Tim Gottschall left at this time.

#9 Kayak landing. Cathy said that the county has a DNR permit for the project but are waiting for approval of the land use agreement with the DNR. Ben has reviewed the agreement and made some suggested changes. Cathy has forwarded these on to the DNR. Kerry asked who is authorized to sign for the County. Cathy will check into what the resolution said.

#10 and 11 Snowmobile Alliance and Grants. Cathy said the final bills for the 2019-20 grant will be presented at this meeting and she will be submitting for reimbursement this month. She also said that the grants for the 2 snowmobile bridges have passed the DNR hurdles. She will be putting them out for bids to be approved at the next meeting.

#12 Boat landings- Orion landing. Cathy said that she received a phone call complaint about the Orion boat landing. That it needed repair as far as how to get into the landing from the river. Cindy said that she would have her husband look at it because he knows more about the boating aspect.

#13 Long range plan. Nothing to report.

#14 Commission member reports. Kerry said he attended the Rules Committee meeting and there will be changes on the role of the committees as more policy than supervising. That the County Administrator has the supervising role. Kerry questioned this at the meeting on behalf of the Parks Commission as they have no staff to physically do the work. It is a working committee. He received an email from Ben that listed the statutes concerning and specifically about the Commission. It was stated that the County Administrator can appoint a general manager for the Parks. This person would physically be doing the work at all of the Parks. At this time, they are looking at status quo for the Parks and changing the wording from supervise to advise.

#15 Bills. Parks: Town & Country, \$422.12; Nature's Way, \$431.00; Don Wanless, \$750.00; Snowmobile Grant: All American Do It Center, \$2,318.50; Richland County Snowmobile Alliance, \$21,823.75; Hillsboro Trail Blazers, \$3,835.75. John Collins moved to approve the bills. Seconded by Cindy Chicker. Motion carried.

Next meeting is August 3, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

The Commission decided to take a tour of park after adjourning. John Collins moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gary Manning.

Meeting ended at 6:59 pm.

Kerry Severson

Kerry Severson
Parks Commission Chair