

Richland County Parks Commission
August 3, 2020
Meeting Minutes

#1 The August 3, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Severson at 5:32 p.m. Those present were Kerry Severson, John Collins, Eric Siemandel, Cindy Chicker, Gary Manning, Tracy Gobin and Cathy Cooper. Brad Wegner and Clinton Langreck joined via Webex

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

#3 Motion made by Cindy Chicker to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2020 meeting as sent out second made by Gary Manning. Motion carried.

#4 Public Input- A. Orion Church. Cathy said that Ken Thiede called her and said that the auction did not happen. He was the only person there and the auctioneer announced that the lady decided to postpone the auction. She found out that the land needed to be surveyed before she could sell it. Ken said the Historical Society has given him permission to spend up to \$2500. He will go back when the auction occurs. Cathy said that Clinton had called her and asked if this was property that the Parks would be taking over. She told him no. That Historical Society was looking at the Parks possibly do the mowing. Cathy said that the Parks had made no decision and that it would have to be approved by the County Board. B. Signs. Ken told Cathy that he would be meeting with Marty Richards from Richland County tourism to discuss County Historical signs.

#5 Pine River Recreational Trail- A. Ditch cleanout- Cathy reported that Ray Schmitz called to say the cleanout hadn't happened yet. The Commission had approved Randy Olson to complete the project. He was going to contact Randy. Cindy reported that Doug Huffman has been attempting to get ditched cleaned out along the trail between TB and Gotham to keep the water off the trail. Cathy said the repair is part of the trail grant. She found out that the awards for the grants wouldn't be until late September or October. Tracy said the last time she was on the trail there was a dead deer on the trail. Cathy said that Don Wanless had just mowed the trail and didn't mention it. She was going to get ahold of someone who rides every day and find out if it was gone.

#6 Rifle Range- John stated that it is well used. Cathy received a call last week asking if cross bows were allowed to be shot there. The Commission said it's not against the rules. As long as they don't leave bales, etc. out there that they could shoot.

#7 Viola Park- Cathy reported that she had received a call from Mike Drake concerning long term camping at the park. He was mowing out there when Officer Reid from Viola stopped out and talked with him. There were 2 different instances of people starting to long term camp there. He informed them that camping wasn't allowed. One couple actually have a Crawford County arrest warrant. The commission was happy that the Viola officer is assisting Richland County. There were a couple items left and Mike was going to dispose of them.

#8 Rockbridge Park- Cathy had a phone call from a new scout leader from Reedsburg looking into a camping trip there is late August. They would be tent camping with 6 kids and 2-4 adults. They just wanted to make sure the larger group wouldn't be a problem. Gary reported that he was out at the park to check out the pothole repair. The highway crew did a great job. Cathy was informed that there was another step missing out a Rockbridge. One of her staff went out and reattached the step. He told her that the steps are starting to go. He put more screws in to try to keep it safe. The stairs might need to be replaced. Discussion followed on how to pay for it. The question was asked of Clinton on if the borrowed money for the well could be used instead for replacing the step. It sounds like it is a possibility. Gary, Kerry and John are going to go out Wednesday and access the situation. Cathy is going to contact Roger Petrick at Highway to see if they have anything to close the stairs for safety reasons. Gary Manning moved to utilize the borrowed funds for the Viola Park well instead on stair replacement at Pier Park in Rockbridge. Seconded by Cindy Chicker. Motion carried.

#9 Kayak landing. Cathy said that the agreement with the Department of Natural Resources has been finalized. Ben Southwick has looked it over and approved. The 15-year agreement will be recorded. One of the bills is for the recording fee.

#10 Snowmobile Alliance - Cathy asked Eric and Kerry if the election of officers for the Alliance had taken place yet. They said it hadn't. She asked that at the time of election if the Alliance could appoint to people for the alliance level on the SNARS computer system. The hours would go through them first on SNARS before they go to the County level. This way the Alliance could see what the total hours of grooming and non-grooming would be.

#11 Snowmobile grants- Kerry opened the only bid for the 2 bridge projects. Custom Manufacturing bids are as follows:

Richland Center bridge \$59,500.00

Snow Valley bridge \$59,500.00

Gary Manning moved to award the 2 bridge projects to Custom Manufacturing for a total of \$119,000.00. Seconded by Eric Siemandel. Motion carried

#12 Boat landings- Cindy said that her husband hadn't looked at the Orion boat landing yet.

#13 Commission member reports- John reported that although the Pine River does not fall under the Parks jurisdiction, that there was a record number of people kayaking the Pine last weekend. Gary Manning said he would like to see the County keeping the land along the Pine River off of County Highway O instead of selling it. He feels it would make a great little park with primitive camping and a kayak port. It is currently on the property committee agenda for this month.

#15 Bills. Parks: Town & Country, \$422.12; Nature's Way, \$458.12; Don Wanless, \$1500.00; Premier Co-Op. \$450.10; Department of Natural Resources, \$32.50; Snowmobile Grant: The Kraemer Company, \$3,317.14; Department of Natural Resources, \$606.00. John Collins moved to approve the bills. Seconded by Eric Siemandel. Motion carried.

Next meeting is August 31, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting ended at 6:41 pm.

Kerry Severson

Kerry Severson

Parks Commission Chair