

Richland County Parks Commission
August 31, 2020
Meeting Minutes

#1 The August 31, 2020 meeting was called to order by Chairman Kerry Severson at 5:39 p.m. Those present were Kerry Severson, John Collins, Tim Gottschall, Cindy Chicker, Gary Manning, and Cathy Cooper. Eric Siemandel and Jason Marshall joined via Webex

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

#4 Public Input- No Public Input

#5 Pine River Recreational Trail- A. Trail Signs- Cindy said she had let Cathy know about a rough section of trail between Sawmill Rd and Twin Bluffs near bridge #2. The rain runs across the trail there causing rills. Cindy is concerned that some unsuspecting riders could have an accident on this section and that warning signs need to be posted. Cathy ordered 2 "Rough Trail" signs from the highway department. B. Trail Spraying- Jim Husnik has been spraying the trail for Parks the last few years. He plans on giving it up after this year. We will need to find out if a license is needed to do this if someone volunteers to spray it. Jim also ordered a couple of parts to keep the sprayer going. Cathy read a thank you note from a rider about the rest stop in Twin Bluffs and they also donated \$50. Cindy let the commission know that a couple of bird houses have been attached to a couple of the bridges. Kerry would like to have the commission develop a policy/rule about this so that random items don't get attached without the commission's knowledge.

#6 Rifle Range- John stated that there are only 3 boards left in the pile. Gary said he will have a few more boards this fall he can bring out.

#7 Viola Park- Cathy reported that there have been no more reports of excessive camping at the park. She did want to ask the commission if the Land Conservation Department could use the Park as a drop off site for well test samples the end of October. They need a spot that could be drive thru in that part of the county. The commission had no issues with it.

#8 Rockbridge Park- Gary, John, Kerry met out at Rockbridge with Roger Petrick and Tom Shields to discuss the safety of the stairs. It was suggested that the stairs be reinforced with boards and screws and have a welder to fashion supports to straighten and strengthen. Gary talked with Dale Bender about a bridge over the West Branch of the Pine River to connect all parts of the parks. Gary had suggested using a semi-trailer as the bridge. It would cost about \$20,000. Gary is going to talk with Jeff Schure about the permit requirements. John Collins spoke with Don Clark. He has land that adjoins the park. He has been doing a little mowing. He noticed people driving back behind the rock, some onto his property. John picked up a few fence posts and spaced them so that a mower could go through but not a car.

#9 Kayak landing. Dale Bender told Cathy that everything is a go at the landing to go in this fall.

#10 2021 Budget- Cathy passed out copies of the budget that was sent to Clinton and the Clerk's office. The budget was kept the same. Gary Manning moved to approve the budget. Seconded by Tim Gottschall. Motion carried.

#11 Highway Department proposal. Clinton mentioned to Cathy about a proposal by Roger Petrick. He is looking into hiring a limited term employee for the summer to do mowing for the county. He was wondering about having this person mow the county parks and recreational trail Cathy said she let Clinton know that commission hires someone to mow the bike trail once a month and that the commission has a contract with a gentleman to mow and clean bathrooms at the other parks. Discussion followed. Mr. Drake does more than mowing the parks. He also does minor maintenance as well as taking care trees that have fallen down at Rockbridge for no extra cost. The Parks Commission will look into it further.

#12 Hidden Valleys- Cathy received a contract for the park's ad in the 2021 Hidden Valleys publication. Discussion followed. The Parks Commission said that they would like to continue discussion on whether or not this is something the county should continue to belong to.

#13 Snowmobile Alliance – Nothing new.

#14 Snowmobile grants- The Parks commission received the advance on the 2020-21 Trail Maintenance grant. Also received word from Custom Manufacturing that the bridge materials have been ordered and they are looking to start work in October.

#15 County owned real estate Parcel #033-3522-2000.- Map attached to original minutes. A. future land use. This property is part of the old Richland County farm. The land is located next to the Pine River. Many activities could occur there. Hunting, fishing, Kayak take out port, picnic area. It was thought that if it was developed enough and physical access that Pine Valley could use this as place to take residents to fish and enjoy nature. B. Access- Gary Manning moved to start talks with the Unbehaun family about a possible land swap with the county. Seconded by John Collins. Motion carried.

#16 County owned parcel #146-4830-009. Map attached to the original minutes. This property is located in Lone Rock. It was part of the old railroad system and it looks like it was part of the Pine River trail and nobody knew this parcel was part of it. It looks like the access would be the unmarked street plat. Someone will need to look into the deeds, etc. to see if this is owned by the county and secondly, what should be done with it.

#17 Boat landings- Cathy received a call from Roger Petrick that the Orion boat landing had a washout. After much discussion, the washout was repaired by the highway department for less than \$1000. Before and after pictures are attached to the original minutes.

#18 Commission member reports- Gary said he went to look at the Orion church that the Historical Society was looking into purchasing. He met the new owners. Apparently, the sale went through, and it was bought with the house by someone other than the historical society.

#19 Other business- Nothing

#20 Bills. Parks: Town & Country, \$422.12; Nature's Way, \$486.00; Richland County Highway Commission, \$914.22; Sharon Miller, \$96.00; Town of Marshall, \$300.00; Town of Buena Vista, \$300.00; Snowmobile Grant: Richland Observer, \$113.40. John Collins moved to approve the bills. Seconded by Tim Gottschall. Motion carried.

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

Meeting ended at 7:19 pm.

Kerry Severson

Kerry Severson
Parks Commission Chair