



MARION COUNTY PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Zoom

PRESENT Members: Wayne Rawlins, Marty Heyen, Ryan Mann, Kyleen Zimmer
 Staff: Russ Dilley, Elizabeth Parker

ABSENT Members/Staff: Josh Faulkner, Alton Hoover, Brian May

ADMINISTRATIVE (Information/Discussion/Action)

Call to Order: 3:16 p.m.

Member and Staff introductions

Public Input: none

Approval of July 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Marty moves to approve minutes, Ryan seconds. A voice vote is unanimous – motion passes.

AGENDA REVIEW / VOLUNTEER MODULAR TRAINING

With time being limited due to the fires in Marion County, it was decided to have Elizabeth (and Sherry Lintner) send the Volunteer mandatory training links to the Park Commission members instead of doing as a group in this meeting. Members can take the training on their own time and the completion of courses will be documented by the Volunteer Coordinator.

STAFF UPDATES

Russ gave an update on fire damage to the parks in the North Fork Corridor. Most importantly, Russ reported that Eric, the host for Bear Creek Campground, was evacuated safely. Russ will keep in contact with Eric for updates on how he's doing. Russ stated he hasn't been in the area to give a visual account, but he doesn't think Beer Creek Campground will be open next summer. Everything has been destroyed by fire. Wayne asked if there might be any reforestation plans or projects coming. It's too soon to announce plans, etc. as fire efforts are still in full force. As of September 17th, the following parks are closed: Beer Creek, Salmon Falls, North Fork, Niagara, Minto, and Packsaddle.

Due to fire damage, we only have one temporary employee for Parks. Two others are on call, but only get paid when they work. Steve is on notice to be deployed to another fire if needed. Before the fire, our focus was fee collection at Bear Creek. Bear Creek was full every night July 4, 2020 through August 31, 2020.

Russ announced the Commissioners have approved the IGA between The US Forest Service and Marion County for exchanging money or services for park maintenance. This is great news – the Commissioners are pleased.

Wayne would like to explore the idea of researching Marion County's foreclosed property list to see if any of the properties could be utilized as parks. Wayne also mentioned we should look at adjacent properties and if they might be for sale. For example, Joe has his property for sale...the thin strip along the creek at Scotts Mills. Should we consider acquisition? Russ stated that Marion County had originally sold the property to Joe, but he'll check with Brian to see if purchasing might be an option.

COMMISSIONER ROUNDTABLE

Marty- Suggested we have another Zoom Meeting next week to get more updates on damage to parks. Meeting will be informal. Russ and Elizabeth will schedule.

Ryan- Has been involved with conversations regarding parks that have lost lottery funds. Working on supplement projects and will research fund availability to assist Marion County Parks with fire damage.

Kyleen- Asked if Scotts Mills is open. Russ reported that the security company kept gates open to assist fire fighters in fire efforts, using restrooms, etc.

Wayne – Saw a webinar with City Parks Alliance – Leveraging Land Acquisitions. Asked if Marion County has a foreclosed property list we could review. Russ will discuss with Brian May. Russ informed the group that ORPA has a new program called “The Outdoor Recreation Summit.” They are working with City Parks Alliance to produce two other webinars per week. This might be worth checking out and would be great information.

Wayne asked for an update on the phone tower at McClay. Russ gave update that the neighbor didn’t renew the lease there. He’ll check into phone tower status. Wayne also asked for a status update on the Butteville right-of way. Russ had no update to report and hasn’t heard from Ben.

Russ reported that we need to complete the Memorandum of Understanding and then move forward with the process of purchasing San Salvador. The Parks Commission approved this action over a year ago.

FUTURE TOPICS / EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Other Business: None

Adjourn: 3:46 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: November 19, 2020, at 3:00 p.m.