

THE MORGAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2024 AT 10:15 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. VOLITTA FRITSCHKE, MORGAN COUNTY PARKS DIRECTOR; LINDA PRUITT, MORGAN COUNTY AUDITOR; AND DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

Pledge

Prayer – Kenny Hale

MINUTES

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2023 meeting. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

REORGANIZATION

Kenny Hale made a motion reappoint the current officers (Bryan Collier as Chairman and Kenny Hale as Vice Chairman). Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

EVENTS

Santa in the Park - Volitta Fritsche stated that this event was on the 9th of December and the weather held out until the last half hour, and then it began to rain. Don sang really well.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

Ms. Fritsche stated that the Council approved the transfer request, which will allow the purchase of playground equipment for both parks as well as tools.

INDIANA ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Ms. Fritsche requested approval of the updated letter to allow the Astronomical Society to use Burkhart Creek Park for stargazing after hours. Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the letter and noted that it is their responsibility to notify the Board that they will be using the park and to turn the light back on. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

ECLIPSE

Ms. Fritsche stated that they will need a fee ordinance in order to charge for camping or parking during the eclipse. Ms. Fritsche suggested a fee of \$100 for Old Town Waverly Park and \$75 for Burkhart Creek. There is space for 25 at Burkhart and 50 at Waverly. Ms. Fritsche also suggested charging for parking the day of the eclipse. Kenny Hale noted that Homeland Security is encouraging extending camping through Monday night in order to ease traffic issues with everyone leaving at once. Discussion continued regarding camping quiet time hours (11 pm to 7 am), closing the boat ramp for the event and stipulating that alcohol is not allowed in the parks. Kenny Hale noted that they will have expenses for trash dumpsters, port-a-pot rentals and clean up. Linda Pruitt stated that the ordinance would need to stipulate where the fees would be deposited, (General Fund, LIT, etc.). Kenny Hale made a motion to move forward with an eclipse ordinance with fees as listed for Friday through Monday, and must pre-pay; quiet hours are 11 pm to 7 am; one parking site per camper; no alcohol permitted in the park; parking for \$15 per day or \$40 for all four days; and to close the boat ramp at Waverly. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

PARK PLANNING

Bryan Collier suggested that after the eclipse and before budget time, they need to compile an outline to present to the Council for future planning for the parks. Ms. Fritsche suggested working on a five-year plan. Mr. Collier stated that they need to document all the volunteer hours that are being put into the parks. Kenny Hale stated that the first 5-year plan for the parks was done at a cost of \$28,000; the average cost now is \$120,000 to \$150,000 and clarified that they would be doing the plan in-house. Mr. Collier stated the purpose of the plan would be to get the Council on board so that budgetary items are not a surprise.

COMMENTS

David Mow, Morgan County Soil & Water District, stated that he has scheduled spring weed wrangles at both of the parks to pull garlic mustard. Mr. Mow stated that they have been doing this at Burkhart for nine years and it is getting under control. They have also done a tree and shrub control project to control bush honeysuckle and callery pear. Don Adams suggested that this would be a good project for a scout group. Mr. Mow stated that there is a merit badge for explorers that they could earn by interviewing someone who is an explorer and has discovered things. He has discovered three new species of plants in the state and over 300 in three different counties and did this by using his scout training.

Don Adams stated that he has seen frisbee golf courses in other parks and suggested that this could be added to Morgan County parks. Volitta Fritsche stated that she could look into this. Mr. Adams

stated that he would gather more information for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Morgan County Parks & Recreation Board

Bryan Collier

Attest:

Kenny Hale

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Don Adams