

**THE MORGAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2023 AT 10:58 A.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE BRYAN COLLIER, DON ADAMS, AND KENNY HALE. DEB VERLEY, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT; JOSH MESSMER, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR; LINDA PRUITT, COUNTY AUDITOR AND JIM WISCO, COUNTY ATTORNEY, WERE ALSO PRESENT.

PLEDGE

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Don Adams made a motion to appoint Bryan Collier as Chairman. Motion seconded by Kenny Hale. Motion carried 3-0.

Don Adams made a motion to appoint Kenny Hale as Vice Chairman. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 3-0.

**PARK RESERVATIONS**

Kenny Hale asked if the Board would like to continue the current process of allowing him to approve reservation requests for the parks or if they want the requests to come before the Board. There are currently two requests. Bryan Collier stated that the system has been working and if there is a request that Mr. Hale has a concern about, then it can come before the Board.

**YMCA PARTNERSHIP**

Kenny Hale stated that the parks have partnered with the YMCA for several years for runs. This year, they will have a run at Burkhart on March 4<sup>th</sup> and October 5<sup>th</sup> then a run at Waverly on May 13<sup>th</sup> and September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Soil and Water Conservation District also partners with them. The Partnership for Water Quality also works with the Parks for the White River Cleanup.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

The Special Olympics would like to move events to Old Town Waverly Park and Mr. Hale will be meeting with them later this week.

**5-YEAR PARK PLAN**

Mr. Hale stated that the current plan is outdated and having an updated plan makes the county eligible for grants that would otherwise be unavailable to them. There is a possibility of paying for the plan through the REDI Grant.

**TRAIL PRESENTATION**

Mr. Hale stated that there is a group comprised of Community Foundation, YMCA, Kendrick Foundation, and Purdue Extension representatives regarding trails. Mr. Hale will be meeting with this group in a workshop to show what the county has been focusing on for trails. They are working on obtaining grants and would like the county to sponsor them. Mr. Hale stated that he is concerned about who would administer the grant. The workshop will be February 10<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Mr. Hale stated that he is currently focusing on the foundation of the parks. There are two projects that have been started at Burkhart Creek, restrooms and kiosks. He is working with REMC to run a line in order to have automatic locks installed. Many of the kiosks were damaged last year by vandals. Bryan Collier asked if they were able to pursue legal action for reimbursement. Mr. Hale replied, not yet. He is working on storage space at Wilbur, replacing a leaking water heater and rewiring the electrical system. Once the inside tuckpointing, painting and kitchen cabinets are done, it should be ready for rental. At Old Town Waverly, they are finishing the cabin, painting the gazebo and ADA ramps, installing split rail fencing and working to obtain boulders and the History Center cabin.

Mr. Hale noted that there is no money in the budget for equipment. Bryan Collier asked that Mr. Hale submit a list of equipment needs.

**WEED WRANGLE**

David Mow, Soil & Water Conservation District, stated that he has been doing Weed Wrangles at the parks. One of the requirements is to submit an invasive species control report for each park. He has done one for Burkhart, but not yet for Old Town Waverly. He has a meeting with the state organization that organizes the Weed Wrangles (which is a trademark name). They will start compensating the county for doing the event, but he does need to complete the control report in

order to receive the compensation. Don Adams suggested recipes for wild garlic for the newsletter. Mr. Mow stated that he has many recipes and has published them in the Martinsville Neighbors Magazine. The March edition has an article on garlic mustard as well as a link.

**COMMENTS**

Bryan Collier stated that .00345% of overall county budget expenditures is spent on parks. Mr. Collier stated that this small amount is embarrassing. Parks are a quality of life requirement and Morgan County is one of the most beautiful counties in the state. Mr. Collier thanked Kenny Hale and Volitta Fritsche for the time they volunteer for the parks. Lisa MacPhee thanked the corrections crews for help they provide in cleaning up and with the White River Cleanup.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Morgan County Parks & Recreation Board

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Bryan Collier

Attest:

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Don Adams

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Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

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Kenny Hale