

THE MORGAN COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MET IN A REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2023 AT 10:30 A.M.

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

MINUTES

Kenny Hale made a motion to approve the June 5 and July 5, 2023 minutes. Motion seconded by Don Adams. Motion carried 3-0.

WILBUR SCHOOLHOUSE UPDATE

Volitta Fritsche, Morgan County Park Director stated that they were approached in March about having community sales at the Old Wilbur Schoolhouse. The Board approved having a smaller sale to see how it goes and this sale is coming up next week, August 10-12. Ms. Fritsche started the school if full and they will have more on the lawn. There was concern about protecting the historic items in the school and most of the items have been placed in cases or have been removed.

WAVERLY UPDATE

Ms. Fritsche stated that the smaller cabin is up. Kenny Hale stated that the outside will be done in time for the festival, but the inside will not be finished. The big cabin is being chinked. Morgan County Leadership Academy and Morgan County IU Health will be doing a community service day and will be chinking, working on the front porch, working on the back porch, working on the privacy fence behind the maintenance barn and working on the split rail fence that DNR provided supplies for. Kenny Hale stated that both groups have been there previously doing projects. IU supplied \$1,908 worth of building materials and are also providing lunch. Mr. Hale stated that the interior chinking of the large cabin is done as well as much of the outside.

HAYRIDE

Ms. Fritsche stated that she received a request from State Treasurer Daniel Elliott to have a hayride at a hog roast that is planned later in October. There will be several state dignitaries and it would be an opportunity to show off the park. Ms. Fritsche stated that since staff is familiar with the park and has the equipment, they could provide the service. Bryan Collier and Kenny Hale stated that they did not have an issue with either option. Mr. Collier asked that Ms. Fritsche or Mr. Hale contact Mr. Elliott to determine which option is best.

WAVERLY EVENTS

Ms. Fritsche stated that they have been working on the festival since March. They have the agenda on the website. Vendor applications will be accepted until the 8th of September. They have several food vendors and the festival seems to grow every year.

The Haunting of Waverly usually has approximately 1,000 people attend from 5 pm to 10 pm. There is an application for the trunk or treat online. Volunteers for the haunted trail will also need to complete an application.

Santa in the Park is a three-hour event on a Saturday; this year it is December 9th. There are typically 350 attendees for this event.

FRIENDS OF THE PARK

Bryan Collier asked if there is a means for groups or people that would like to support the parks to donate to a specific project. Kenny Hale stated that they have accounts set up through the Community Foundation and if someone has a specific purpose or project for their donation, they can note that on the donation. Mr. Collier stated that in the past, people chose a place to live based on where they could work. Now, people are choosing where to live and then getting a job there. Mr. Hale stated that it is a quality of life, quality of place. Mr. Collier stated that he would like to see a kayak launch ramp at Waverly, which in turn could help businesses downriver throughout the county. Mr. Hale stated that he has applied for two ramps through DNR; one at Waverly and one at Blue Bluff.

INVASIVE PLANTS

David Mow, Morgan County Soil & Water Conservation District, stated that they have Weed Wrangles scheduled at both parks. September 28 at Old Town Waverly and October 5 for Burkhart Creek. Last year, Mr. Mow personally provided the herbicide and asked if the Park Board had funds in the budget for this event. Kenny Hale asked that Mr. Mow provide an estimate for this. Mr. Mow stated that the north prairie at Burkhart Creek is heavily infested with black locust, along with a few sycamore and cottonwood trees. They will also work on the autumn olive and bush honeysuckle. Mr. Mow has been doing a roadside survey of the county to map the location of noxious weeds and invasive plants such as Johnson grass, Canada thistle, poison hemlock, tree of heaven, Japanese knotweed and Chinese yam. Bushhogging the roadside can spread some of these plants, He will try to make this map

available to the public eventually.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Adams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Bryan Collier. Motion carried 2-0. (Kenny Hale stepped out of the room.)

Morgan County Parks & Recreation Board

Bryan Collier

Attest:

Don Adams

Linda Pruitt, Morgan Co. Auditor

Kenny Hale