

MINUTES

The Monthly Board meeting of the Kewanee Park District Board of Commissioners was held at the Baker Park Office, Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

PRESENT: President Steve Brackett, Commissioners Paula Kapacinskas, Jim Heberer, Andrew Verstraete, Director Andrew Dwyer, Dan Erickson (Superintendent of Parks), Brian Johnson, Kenny & Lana Leisure, Susan DeVilder (Star Courier), & Jennifer Russell (Regional Media)

ABSENT: Secretary Christy Jackson-Ehnle

President Steve Brackett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

President entertained a motion to allow Commissioner Kapacinskas to be at the meeting in teleconference. Commissioner Heberer motioned to allow Commissioner to be at the meeting in teleconference. Nichelle Morey seconded the motion. Motion Passed. 5-0

The Consent Agenda included the following items:

- a. Consideration of minutes: Regular Meeting April, 2022
- b. Consideration of Financial Statements
- c. Consideration of Bills for Approval

Commissioner Verstraete motioned to approve Consent Agenda. Commissioner Morey seconded the motion. Motion Passed 5-0

Public Comment: Brian Johnson came to the board meeting to discuss a OSF bill from injuries he received on 10/29/2020 when he was employed with the park district and had medical reimbursement at that time. He got the first OSF statement on 3/05/2022/ and gave to Director Dwyer and then got another notice and gave to Andy, he was questioning why hasn't it been paid and wanted to know why they had attorney Justin Raver call him and tell him that the board no feels that they have obligation to pay this bill. Commissioner Heberer said he thought it should be paid and Commissioner Morey agrees that this should be looked into. He also asked why he was taken off the lifetime golf pass list and questioned that years ago there was a policy that was passed stating that any commissioner, employee with 20 years and over of service gets. Commissioner Heberer asked if he could be added to the book this year until we get things ironed out. Director Dwyer said he could, he will reach out and let Brian know.

Kenny & Lana Leisure came to the meeting to discuss bushes on the park's property adjacent from theirs that her sister donated bushes for 20 years ago that have gotten way out of control and would like to replace them with shorter ones that will look nicer. They explained that they were supposed to get shorter ones then but ended up being 8-9 feet tall that obstructs their view. Dan Erickson discussed with them what it takes to get the bushes planted and they were ok with fall or next spring and will pay for the bushes. President Brackett asked Director Dwyer to put it on the agenda next month.

New Business: None

- a. Discussion – Determination of location(s) for solar ray
Director Dwyer discussed the possibilities of placement at the 19th hole by the road and will be fenced in or on the grass in the green space between 19th hole & main parking or it can be mounted on the building. Northeast has to be on the ground to be close to the electric meter.
- b. Discussion – Re-visitation of vandalism discussion and update
Director Dwyer and the board discussed the punishment to give the vandals and agreed to 1 year banned from all parks premises and activities and pay full restitution.
- c. Discussion – Soil proposal from school district
Commissioner Heber mentioned that he & Andy walked the soccer field last week and saw good growth but seeing it mowed today it's really progressed. He would like to purchase some of the soil for the parks for Dan to use. Commissioner Verstraete said that he didn't want to pay for dirt that they were going to give away. Commissioner Kapacinkas thought that this is not a good time to get into a project and gave her reasons and said we all have the same conclusion. Commissioner Brackett didn't want to freeze the contract for 10 years at the most 1-3 years. Director Dwyer said he would reach out to Dr. Sullens and tell him we will not be moving forward.

Director's Report

- 1.) Continuing to develop volunteer partnership with RICCA on our programming and with them on hosting a few events in the parks throughout the summer. We are looking at 2 days per week where they will assist with Youth Golf, Day Camps, Library reading event, and then host a few events on open days.
- 2.) Pollinator Garden going in this Sunday. Working with potential donor to develop space as a stop with seating along the way.
- 3.) Staff on all fronts preparing for pool opening, we are selling passes, trying to find help, pool managers are working on prep and hiring, and maintenance staff are readying the physical aspects in advance of opening,
- 4.) Other Activities
 - a. Jerry Bowers and I are presenting to Kiwanis next week about our youth golf program. Met with Jerry to go over and also development of an "Intro to golf—Clinic for Adults"
 - b. Baseball/softball/T-ball numbers for the year are approximately 425 and we will have a boy's pony league this year!
 - c. Working towards fishing rodeo. Expected to be another good year.

.Working with M+M Golf cars to receive remaining cart info and also
Maintenance manuals.

- d. Partnering with Henry County Mental Health Alliance for a community picnic, .
Encounter Church on a soccer outing, and The Ville Basketball tournament.
- e. Spent a large amount of time working on prices and restitution and other aspects
of the 3 recent bouts of vandalism. One area of concern is that a door was not listed
on report but was broken and quote from Menards alone was \$1800, .without labor.
- f. Met with Regional Media about our win(s) for best of Tri-Counties.▯
- g. Followed up on Henry County ARPA app. They are meeting on May 19 and I am
hopeful we will have good news soon!
- h. Have spent time working on an array of staffing/personnel concerns to streamline
our workflow as well as trying to ramp up hiring in areas that workload exceeds .
staff capacities.
- i. Held conference call with First Mid-State about bond disclosures and their change
in service of this aspect and responsibility shifting to us. Currently in
communication with their 3rd party vendor who handles this aspect..
- j. Working with Jeremy on Baseball schedules/rosters/umps/etc for upcoming
season
- l. Assisted Nextlink on installation of wifi at 2 parks — Chautauqua unable to be done
due to trees and terrain
- m. Working with Steve Rogula on camera install at Windmont and Northeast (Big
thanks to Steve's assistant JH for his time!)
- n. Working with Commissioner Morey on familiarization of packet and any other
areas inquired about.

COMMISSIONER COMENTS

Commissioner Verstraete: He is tired of the vandalism and hearing about it
hopefully they will stop from doing it by the actions that we are taking. He told
Dan he got a great amount of people telling him how great the course looks the
soccer field hasn't looked this good, you, Josh and the guys do an amazing job.

Commissioner Morey: Still learning and excited to be here and will have to say from the first meeting to this one she has been approached by 4 people with concerns.

Commissioner Heberer: He ask Dan about hiring employees and he said there are 5 high schoolers that are starting next week. He also asked about the restaurant cook's situation, Director Dwyer said Jackie is training someone now and Kylie is coming back from her maternity leave. He also asked about the pickleball court screens, Director Dwyer said that he got the measurements and is waiting for Breedlove's to give him pricing to place an order. He asked about having bags at the 19th Hole and Director Dwyer told him he could work that out.

Commissioner Kapacinskis: She complemented the restaurant & food that dining outside and enjoying the beauty of the golf course and thanked Dan & Josh for their fine work they're doing.

President Brackett: Agree about the whole parks looking good he goes by Windmont everyday really loves that fence to match looks beautiful. Soccer fields looks fine, baseball fields look fine, and the golf course looks immaculate. Guys are doing a wonderful job.

With nothing further to discuss President Brackett entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Heberer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Verstraete seconded the motion. Motion Passed 5-0