

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Swede Point Park shelter house

Members present: Randy Johnson, Jennifer Schieltz, Gary Nystrom, Pat Hagan, Marilyn Jordan

Members absent:

Employees present: Chris Call, Cooper Sanor

Chair Jordan officially called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Chair Jordan made two additions to the agenda. Schieltz made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, 2nd by Hagan. Motion passed.

Nystrom motioned to approve the minutes of the September meeting, seconded by Hagan. Passed. Nystrom motioned to approve the minutes of the August meeting, Johnson seconded. Passed.

Liz Miller gave a presentation on the Salvation Army Camp Laurie that existed from 1927-1970 on the grounds of what is now Swede Point Park. Liz attended and later worked at the camp in 1969 and 1970, the last two summers. The property was purchased in 1970 by the Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Saylorville dam project. Liz read a narrative she wrote and presented displays she created showing photos of the camp buildings and staff. She is donating these to Swede Point to share the legacy of this site.

Ranger Sanor presented the monthly bills totaling \$36,009.39. Bills this month included \$10,400 to Elite Construction for gutters and trenching on the new cart shed. Ranger Sanor noted that we need to contact them because there is still some work that needs to be finished. The board requested that we hold off on paying this bill until they finish the work. Other purchases this month include tires for Kyle's work truck, a large order of t-shirts for seasonal staff, fuel, LP, and aerating the golf course. Nystrom made a motion to approve the monthly bills except for Elite until the work is done. Seconded by Johnson. Passed.

Old Business:

Last year cabin 3 was rented through the winter by an employee, who would like to rent it again this winter. The board voted at a previous special session to allow him to rent it again this winter but at an increased rental rate of \$100 more a month to cover electric costs.

New Business:

Bill Grieser gave an update on operation of the clubhouse this year. He thinks the year went pretty well. He noted that the contract currently states that the clubhouse is open April 15 – October 15 until 9pm each night. He recommends adjusting the hours in spring and fall based on the shorter day length. He still recommends renting 8 to 10 more carts next year, at least for the busiest 3 months. The golf course at Spring Lake is closing, so this might increase traffic to our course. Members are still asking about plans for the new clubhouse. Any information we can share would be helpful. The board shared some general plans, but are waiting to hear back from an engineering firm any day now. Funding is still an issue. Any fundraising the Friends of Don

Williams can do through their 501(c)3 entity would help. Volunteers still plan to build a new shelter on hole 8. They hope to get to this soon, in the next month. Bill will get a list of materials to Cooper.

Campground B maximum length stay discussion: Currently there are some prime spots along the lake that have a 14-day maximum stay limit. All other spots have no limit. Staff would like to add more spots that are 14-day maximum, including the group sites in B. The board is supportive of this. They asked the staff to use their judgement to come up with a plan on sites that need a limit.

Other Board Discussion: the board asked how the transition is going and how the current staff are doing handling the bills in the interim until a new Executive Director starts. Ranger Sanor says it has been a team effort and they are working well with the Treasurer's office.

Discussion about putting up railroad ties instead of a guard rail fence along the new cart shed to prevent people from driving into the building.

Member Nystrom looked over the septic system at the Don Williams ranger house. It seems to have a problem in the outlet side of the tank itself. They are going to need to get someone to look into this further. The Don Williams office and shop currently do not have septic systems, so if we need to put in a new one for the residence, we might look into putting in a unit for all three buildings.

The application for a grant for a new dock was submitted. We are now waiting to hear back.

Schieltz moved to adjourn, Johnson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.


Marilyn Jordan, Chair


Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary

Action Items

- Gary follow up with engineering firm about new clubhouse design
- Cooper follow up with Elite Construction to finish their work
- Get railroad ties for next to new cart shed?
- Staff come up with a proposal for which camping spots to put a max stay limit on
- Staff coordinate with Friends of Don Williams volunteers for building new shelter on hole 8
- Get a company to look into septic system at Don Williams ranger house further