

**MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
BOARD MINUTES**

September 16, 2020 3:30 pm

ZOOM MEETING

ID: 876 2235 6431

Board Members Present: Evelyn Harrell, Amy Thompson, Joe Goss, Dr. Carolyn VandeWiele
Kevin Dogan, Phil Cornwell, and Carol Walter

Staff Members Present: Kelli Witmer, John Robertson, Kay Medley, Beth Cossairt, Matt Wilhoit,
and Andy French

Guests Present: Monroe County Attorney, Margie Rice, and Monroe County Commissioner, Penny
Githens

I. Meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by President Evelyn Harrell

II. Approval of the meeting minutes for August 19, 2020 –

*Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to approve the August 19, 2020 meeting minutes and
Mr. Cornwell seconded.*

The motion passed unanimously

III. Approval of the August 2020 non-reverting claims –

*Mr. Cornwell made a motion to approve the August 2020 non-reverting claims and
Mr. Goss seconded*

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of the August 2020 Credit Card Charges –

*Mr. Cornwell made a motion to approve the August 2020 credit card charge and
Dr. VandeWiele seconded.*

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Limestone Greenway shoulder erosion & fence project update – Ms. Witmer told the Board that when the Limestone Greenway was inspected by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), it was highly suggested that additional fencing and stone be added to the shoulder to help stop the erosion problem. Monroe

County (MC) Legal and the Monroe County (MC) Commissioners both agreed with IDNR and appropriated the proper amount of money. On September 23, Mr. French will lead the park maintenance crew and a trucking crew to take care of the stone compacting needed to help with the erosion. Bledsoe, Riggert, Cooper and James will put out a bid package for the additional fencing. The MC Commissioners will graciously provide funding for the stone, which will be approximately \$5,000 to \$6,000 and the additional fence will be approximately \$155,000.

Mr. Dogan asked if the same stone that is washing away will be used. Ms. Witmer told the Board that the same stone will be used along with adding additional #2 & #53 stone which will be compacted to help prevent erosion. Ms. Thompson asked what the fence is going to be made of. Ms. Witmer stated that the fence will be made of cedar, because it will last twice as long and take less maintenance, noting that the IDNR gave permission to move the fence closer to the asphalt in order to give enough shoulder to stop the erosion.

Mr. Dogan suggested posting signs telling pedestrians to please stay away from the scaling rock walls. Ms. Witmer stated that that would be an easy fix and she would work with Ms. Rice on the language for the signs. The Board concurred and also suggested posting signage to inform trail users of the temporary closure of the trail while the work is being completed.

B. Limestone Greenway Sheriff Substation shed demo & new garage project update –

Ms. Witmer thanked the MC Commissioners for their tremendous help with funding on this project, stating that the Parks Department had the demo permit and will be taking down the shed that is located by the substation in November. Graber Post Buildings will be bringing their crew in to install a concrete floor with a two door garage; one side will be the Sheriff's and the other will be the Parks with a pass through door in the middle. Ms. Witmer informed the Board that the Sheriff will be donating \$5,000 for the project and the MC Commissioners will be paying Cassady Electric \$4,600 for electricity and Graber Post Buildings \$10,507 for the project.

C. Sophia Travis Playscape playground surface replacement update –

Ms. Witmer updated the Board on the progress of the surface replacement for the Playscape, noting that Mr. French was in charge of the project. Ms. Witmer thanked the MC Commissioners for their help with funding the project, the Parks Department could not have completed this project without their help. They paid \$61,000 for the surface replacement and \$13,000 for extra staff to help with installation. Ms. Witmer invited the Board to go out and look at the beautiful new surface.

D. Karst Farm Greenway – DNR NLT Grant progress update –

Ms. Witmer told the Board that there were two engineering firms currently working on this project. Their goal is to be ready to go out to bid between January and March of 2021 for the section between Ellettsville and Loesch road parking lot, and if everything goes well, it might be completed in 2021. Ms. Witmer mentioned there was a small section that was not part of the project between the Karst Farm Greenway and Will Detmer Park, noting that Lisa Ridge, Monroe County Highway, is working on that project.

- E. Karst Farm Park restroom water line replacement update, \$27,623 transfer + \$2,900 transfer + \$7,797 Council request = \$38,320 Riverway Plumbing (excludes rock penetration & non-marked items)** – Ms. Witmer told the Board that the MC Council had approved a transfer of \$27,623 from the Naturalist line to the Contractual line to help pay for the water line replacement project. On September 22, 2020 she will be asking for another \$2,900 transfer from the Naturalist line to the Contractual line, this will leave a balance of \$7,797 short for the project, and it may be more if they hit rock, because there is a rock clause in the contract.

Ms. Witmer told the Board she would like to ask the MC Council for an additional appropriation of \$7,800 or even up to \$13,000 because there is a rock clause. Ms. Witmer said if the MC Council does not support the additional cash needed, she would like to pay for this from the Parks County General fund or the Parks Non-Reverting fund. Ms. Witmer stated that she has every indication that the MC Council will support this, but just in case they don't, she feels that everyone believes getting this restroom at the athletic complex up and going is high priority.

Ms. Walter made a motion to approve the necessary changes to the line items in order to pay the plumber, if the MC Council does not support the additional appropriation of \$7,800 or \$13,000 and Mr. Goss seconded.

The motion passed unanimously

Additional Comment: Ms. Harrell asked if the Health Department had provided in writing; approval for the “Friendlies” events that were held at the Karst Farm Athletic Complex. Mr. Robertson told the Board that the Parks Department had received an email with approval and a confirmation that each field should be interpreted as its own entity with a maximum of 150 people. Mr. Wilhoit informed the Board that the events went well and everyone adhered to the social distancing restrictions. Mr. Robertson told the Board that the Health Department stated that they were very pleased with the Parks Department’s transparency in helping the athletic user groups with getting their plans submitted.

New Business

- A. Commissioners Surplus Resolution 2020-41: Kawasaki ATV & John deere MX8 brush cutter** – Ms. Witmer asked the Board for approval to surplus the Kawasaki ATV & John Deere MX8 bush cutter. Mr. Goss asked if anyone had contacted Richard’s Small Engine to see if they might be interested in purchasing the equipment. Ms. Witmer stated that Richard’s Small Engine may have interest; if not, the MC Highway Department has an auction site that they are set up on, and some of the items could be put on there.

Dr. VandeWiele made a motion to send the Kawasaki ATV & John Deere MX8 bush cutter to surplus, subsequent to sending a resolution to the MC Commissioners and Mr. Goss seconded

The motion passed unanimously

B. Disc Golf basket update – Mr. Robertson informed the Board that a local group had donated 18 new disc golf baskets to the Karst Farm Park disc golf course. The Parks Department would like to donate the old disc golf baskets to an organization called Wheeler Mission Camp Hunt Training Center. Ms. Witmer reminded the Board that the disc golf baskets would have to be surplus first.

Mr. Dogan mentioned that it would depend on if the MC Commissioners would determine that the baskets are worthless, if that is the case then they could be given away to whoever the Board decides. If it is determined that the baskets have value, then the Board is limited in how they could be disposed of; they could be transferred to a not-for-profit organization, but the Parks Department would want to check with Ms. Rice first.

Mr. Goss asked why the Board couldn't allow the group that donated the new disc golf baskets to have the old ones in exchange. Mr. Dogan said that might be more complicated than determining they are worthless or to surplus them. Ms. Witmer asked Mr. Dogan if the Board could just vote to surplus the disc golf baskets, then give it to the MC Commissioners, Jeff Cockerill, and Ms. Rice to determine what can be done with them. Mr. Dogan said he thinks that would be fine for the Board to authorize the surplus or transfer of the disc golf baskets.

Ms. Witmer said the Parks Department can recommend to the MC Commissioners where they would like the disc golf baskets to go. Mr. Goss told the Board that the organization that graciously gave the Parks Department the new disc golf baskets has a real desire to where the old ones go, so the Parks Department needs to express that to the MC Commissioners. Ms. Githens pointed out that the County is in support of the Wheeler Mission, noting that Wheeler Mission has been given grant money in the past.

Mr. Dogan moved to declare the 18 old disc golf baskets to become surplus, and as a result they may be transferred and the Board recommends to the MC Commissioners that the transfer be made so they go to the Wheeler Mission for their property, and Mr. Goss seconded.

The motion passed unanimously

- VII. **Financial Reports** – Please read
- VIII. **MCPR Reports** – Please read
- IX. **Public Comment** – None
- X. **Correspondence** – None

Mr. Goss made a motion to adjourn the meeting

President Evelyn Harrell adjourned the MCPR Board meeting at 4:42 pm



Amy Thompson - Secretary



Date

Minutes Prepared by Kay Medley