

Allen County Park Board Minutes – March 11, 2010 @ Metea County Park

In attendance: S. Gregory, T. Hall, K. Stacey, C. Vandervelde, J. Baxter, C. Gutman, , K. Ferguson, R. Divelbiss, M. Gobert, D. Davis, B. Brown

President Sam Gregory called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

January 2010 minutes approved K. Stacy, C. Vandervelde, (sec.).

January & February 2010 financials approved, C. Vandervelde, K. Stacy, (sec.)

Friends of Metea: Ron Divbelbiss reported that cross country skiing rentals had been higher than in the past. Bid that department put in to purchase used skis from Lagrange County Parks was successful. Staff had worked Home & Garden Show in February and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner had been held at Metea this year.

Fox Island: Kate reported on the April 25th date for the Fox Island Alliance Annual Meeting and Dinner, M.T. Jackson will be the speaker. A form for Alliance Board nominations was passed out. The Alliance will be judging at the Regional Science Fair as well.

Superintendent's Report Highlights:

Verizon reported they hope to be out at Fox Island in the next few weeks to make partial changes for DSL connectivity at the park.

Received quotes for new air compressor for maintenance at Fox Island. \$377.00 is low quote.

A wild turkey mount was donated by Mr. Mike Heaston to the department. The Board expressed its appreciation for the donation.

The successful bid for Lagrange County Parks used skis meant 45 pairs of skis, poles and boots to Metea's inventory or rental skis.

Jeff reported that JIMN class registrations were slow but that the program will be held regardless. 9 of 20 spots have been filled.

SolFest planning still ongoing.

School groups have been down at Fox Island but reservations for Metea have held steady and are increasing.

Old Business:

The board heard a discussion on the use of the Deer Run property owned by the Commissioners and operated by Juvenile Probation for programming by the department. The courts are currently drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the joint use of the property. Michael Gobert, our part time naturalist at Metea, has been involved and employed there in the past and explained the facilities and there use. Michael is certified to run the challenge course. Other Park staff would need to be certified in order to assist in any future programming. Once Jeff , the staff and Carrie have had a chance to review the proposed MOU, Jeff will bring to the board for their approval. The board would like to see release of liability forms and inventory as well. No official action was required on this subject.

Old Business:

The board was presented with the 2009 Annual Report from the Superintendent.

Discussion Items:

The board discussed allowing political parties to set up booths and pass out informational fliers at Sol Fest. The board feels that the department should remain neutral in political matters and that allowing this type of booth is not appropriate for SolFest.

Commissioner Bill Brown discussed the newly formed Friends of the Rivers that Dan Wire has started and how it is hoped that it will increase the use of the area's rivers.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM K. Stacey, T. Hall (sec)

Respectfully submitted
Jeff Baxter, Superintendent