**Colfax Park and Recreation Auxiliary Board**

**May 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

# Attendees & Guests

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Doug Garrett | Greg Rhames | Don Edwards |
| Shannon Harding | Kyle Amendt | Pete Parvi |
| Danae Edwards | Karen Russell | Kim Seebeck |
| Dave Mast | Kathy Dickerson | Linda Darrock |
| Pat Utz | Kent Deal | Karla Jones |
| Darla Edwards | Terry Edwards | Mike Brown |
| Dennis Farland | Nicholas Deal | Michael Deal |

# Topics for Discussion

**Agenda Approval –** Motion made by Shannon Harding to approve agenda. 2nd by Greg Rhames. Motion approved.

**Announcements –** Doug Garrett announced that June 1st is the public meeting for Confluence at Colfax Mingo High School from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be a formal presentation, talk, Q&A. Doug reported the Living Roadways grant is moving forward. He also noted that Kathy & George Dickerson have donated two toilets, two sinks & a hot water heater for the park office. Lastly, Doug announced that in cleaning out the Monroe Building, George finagled us 200 stackable metal chairs for free.

**Guests –** *Terry Edwards* – believes largemouth bass limit should be 18”, so higher. Concerned 15” is too small and will cause problems. Also noted the lakes have a large gizzard chad population that needs to be kept under control or it will cause big problems. They are detrimental to any body of water absent the proper number of game fish. He was concerned it could require a poison kill to control. Mr. Edwards stated that pike and musky would hunt the gizzard chad. Finally, Mr. Edwards advised that he found a cougar print near the shoreline. In response to the fishing related concerns, Kyle Amendt explained his survey findings and work or efforts toward moving the bass length up.

*Mike Brown* – With help of Keith and Kirk Russell and Doug, the ground on the island that has been leveled off was measured. He then put those measurements into graph form and onto paper to see what RV camping would look like in the area just southwest of the park office. Mr. Brown considered sight lines and the formation of a possible road. He shared his drawing with those present. There were primary and secondary sights with views depicted. He explained further that a center road should be 25’ wide so folks can back up. Each site pad is 20’ wide by 60’ long. Each cubical square equals 5’ on the drawing. The four gravel sites depicted area a cheaper option for late arrival and early departure campers. 25 sites are represented and 25’ exists between each site, that being comparable to other parks. These are hard pack/gravel pads. Keith believes he’s leveled as much as he can; he needs direction from the board to continue. Discussion ensued regarding nightly rates and offering a booklet with 6 night stay at $125, good for one year. Doug asks, do we want to get this done and start to move forward with it, beyond what the REAP Grant will cover? He noted we can get quotes and vote electronically. Shannon moved to investigate Mr. Brown’s plan further, and to obtain quotes for electric and water in that area in accordance with the drawing; Kent seconded. Motion approved. Mr. Brown noted Keith will want to know ASAP what to do next, i.e., finish grading and seed it. Further, he noted that by midsummer we’ll lose out on some income if the RV camping is not established. Kim Seebeck will be touching base with Confluence tomorrow about the possibility of this RV camping location versus that provided for in the plan. Dave Mast suggested grading and seeding now while we’re considering it. Karla Jones believes we need to give deference to Confluence’s plan (with RV camping located in a different area). Doug and Don Edwards noted that Jim with Confluence is aware of the interest in getting RV camping up and going even if it differs from Confluence’s design. Kim noted that she isn’t disagreeing with the idea, but believes we should work in tandem with Confluence.

*Dennis Farland* – fundraising. Mr. Farland passed around a bio of his work – he is an Iowa Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame inductee. He discussed a number of the shows and fundraisers he’s worked on. He spoke about his experiences and the Winter Dance Party tour in particular. That tour generated $86,000 and still had money left to provide scholarships for those interested in music and teaching music. Other profitable fundraising events included “Rock the Rink” and “Rock 4 Vets” events – four of those have been done. Mr. Farland noted that any of the bands that have been inducted into the Iowa Rock n’ Roll Hall of Fame are expected to do fundraisers for the Iowa Music Association. He believed he could get them to be co-sponsors/producers. He can get bands, for instance, Echoes Five, at a cost of about $300. Announcements about such shows or fundraisers at the park would also go on the IRMA’s FB page and internet page, etc. Such a fundraiser could create park awareness and awareness for the IRMA as well. Further, Mr. Farland noted that shows do not just have to be rock n’ roll, other genres are an option as well. He has a lot of contacts in the music industry to offer. He’s been to the park and he thinks it’s a great venue. Mr. Farland noted that he would start small where the cement pad is now (next to Beck’s) and two flatbed trailers could be used for a stage. Electrical is available there. Mr. Farland is volunteering to be a part of the Promotions Committee and to become involved. He was advised that Pat Utz and Danae Edwards with that committee are meeting next Wednesday and they’ll connect with him. Doug suggests Promotions meet and then get back to us with ideas/dates. Lastly, Mr. Farland believes a fishing tournament could happen this year as well; a friend has a great contact with the Bass Pro Shop – they may agree to sponsor something next year.

**Annual Officer Elections –** Doug noted that the organization is two years old this month. Via its by-laws, we’re to hold elections when terms expire. The following offices were addressed:

President: Shannon nominated Doug; Kim seconded. Motion to cease nominations by Kim, Karen Russell seconded.

Vice President: Karen nominated Kyle; Pete Parvi seconded. Motion to cease nominations by Linda Darrock; Kim seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer: Linda nominated Kathy Dickerson for one year term; Don seconded. Motion to cease nomination by Pat; Linda seconded. Motion approved.

Secretary: Kim nominated Shannon; Linda seconded. Motion to cease nominations by Karen; Don seconded. Motion approved.

**Approval of Financials – 4/12/16 through 5/11/16**

* Savings:
  + Interest Income: $39.57
  + Balance: $160,522.28
* Checking:
  + Incomes:
    - Rental Income: $800.00
    - Interest Income: $0.52
  + Expenses:
    - Confluence: $6,161.45
    - Insurance: $51.52
    - Park Improvements: $1,517.90
    - Sanitation: $45.00
    - Postage: $58.28
    - Utilities: $53.45
  + Balance: $3,767.90

Kathy noted she is looking into the possibility of identifying someone or some entity that could prepare a financial audit. She noted an audit can be complicated when grants are involved.

Next, Doug raised the issue of a monetary donation to the church for the use these facilities by the board. Pat moved that the board make a donation to the church in the sum of $250.00; Kim seconded. Motion approved.

Motion to approve financials made by Kent Deal. 2nd by Greg. Motion approved.

**Meeting Minutes -** Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2016 meeting. Motion by Pat. 2nd by Greg. Motion approved.

**Committee Reports**

**● Operations/Planning Committee –** Don reported the doors on the block building were completed by Craig Johnson. Regarding the gravel donation from Manatts – Bob Rhone reported he is having difficulty getting in touch with them. Don asked Kyle about grass on west side; Kyle put some seed down and he’ll continue to work the area. Don noted we need to decide on the tuck pointing on the block building later on – a major project to get done this year. We will be re-mowing the campgrounds sites. We need to move the steel posts and telephone poles near Becks’ area. Don acknowledged Pete Parvi’s significant volunteer efforts. Regarding the metal roll off bin – two old, heavy metal doors and frames need to be placed in the bin and then we can call and get it picked up. Greg will call once we arrange to get the doors deposited in the bin. Don does need to know where the septic out there is; we need to know what’s what. Dave recommended asking Bob Rhone. Regarding signage, Doug indicated we’ve borrowed some signs from the City to place near the Bus Barn denoting “No Parking.” Don indicated the school board agreed with idea for some parking in their area; both areas are insured. Doug will touch base with the school board contact (“Tracy”) again about that issue.

● **Park Opening Committee –** Kim reported the park is open. Really good reception; word is getting out. We’re going to have a download meeting next week or so, to meet and talk about what the issues are, concerns, etc. Kim created a schedule for closing the park; she’s got a spreadsheet. City employees will unlock the gate every morning, but we need to handle the evenings. So we need volunteers for closing at 9 p.m. It would require a run through the primitive campground (and other fishing spots) about 8:30 p.m. to advise the park is closing at 9 p.m. Then to make sure folks are gone and then to lock (or otherwise secure if campers present) the gate. Kim noted that two dog waste receptacles have been installed and two lid-secure trash cans also. The balance of the trash cans will be put in this weekend. Greg gave the board information regarding canoe/kayak rental-demonstration that can be done on the following dates: 6/7, 6/21, 7/5, 7/29 6-8 p.m. The cost is $5 a person and is put on through Jasper County Conservation/Keri Van Zante.

● **Steering Committee –** Kim reported that Confluence will be here soon with the current plan. The Historical Society and Schlosser Trust land will be shown in the current depiction. Again, the presentation is scheduled for June 1st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the high school. She’ll want help with Promotions for/of it; discussion ensued on ways to get the word out. It is a public forum to introduce the master plan. Phasing will follow. Kim also noted that we need a donations box or mail slot through the wall into the park office to accept donations to/for the park. Greg and Don will work on it together.

● **Promotions Committee –** Connor has resigned as the chairperson as of last month but will stay involved in the committee. Pat and Danae are interim co-chairs moving forward. They’re looking for more people to participate on the promotions committee – active members. A new domain name has been purchased: quarryspringspark.com. To the website, they’ve added the rules and the updated map that Kim worked on for consistency. Worked with Kim to get fonts/colors matched. Brochure boxes have not yet been installed; six were purchased and three are needed. Greg and Don will get them attached to the large park signs. Pat noted he was at the park on Sunday and visitors stop and read the signs so brochures would be helpful. One key thing for next week will be planning for the formal park opening and promoting that and fundraising. Danae reported that she reached out to a woman in Des Moines to help design a park logo. Danae has met with her and showed her the master plan. The woman came back with a couple ideas and the promotions committee is currently reviewing those. Revisions will be needed, so it’s in process.

● **Fishing Foundation Committee –** Kent, Greg and Shannon, with Kent’s wife Shelly in attendance, had an initial meeting. It was reported that guidelines are being developed and those will be brought forward for board consideration once completed. The committee is not yet ready to meet with Toad at this point.

**REAP Grant Update** – Kyle reported grading and seeding has been nearly completed. Next step is fencing. He’ll follow up with contractor re fencing at entryway; probably get quote in next month or so. Post and possibly cable system. Seed is coming up great. Once fence done, we may have leftover money for more grading and seeding. To date, he noted that the graded/seeded area is covered by the REAP Grant; anything more would need to come out of the general budget, i.e., more grading at the potential RV campsites.

**Park Opening –**

*Camping Procedures/Fees*: Doug reports a lot of interest in primitive camping. Concept is only on weekends because we can’t lock the gate when folks are camping. Linda says we might want to consider possibility of Boy Scouts using the facilities. Greg suggest a donation box and/or way to reserve campsites via our website. He suggests $15 a night; weekends only. Doug says he’s had folks volunteer to sit in the office to deal with camping. Sites need to be numbered, but otherwise it’s a matter of mowing again. We’re working through the procedures.

*Speed Limits*: Going in we’ve had a lot of input; 15 mph is the most common. We’ll order some signs. Don reported he could make them or we could order them from the prison. Those Doug has borrowed from the City can be replaced once the handmade signs are ready.

*Grand Opening*: We need to set a grand opening date to promote.

**Rental Space & Fees for west half of block building –** There is not presently an immediate need. We need to get ready for the fall. Kim says let’s get pricing ready and be prepared to move forward in August. Don, Greg and Kim and other planning/operations committee members will confer regarding rental rates.

**RV Campground –** See above notes regarding guest Mike Brown’s presentation and the discussion had.

**Transformer’s Sale** – Doug reported that after numerous attempts to contact companies, and one company who wanted the transformers for free, we sold them at $65 apiece.

**Overhead Door Bids –** Three bids have been sent out for consideration. Low bid was out of Newton – Gary Reither. Repairs are not intended for heating the building; it’s a matter of closure. $8,500 for all six new doors versus $5,500+ to repair the existing doors. Dave suggested we may want to replace. Greg moves to make a purchase of the six replacement doors; Kim seconded. Motion approved.

**Conservation Reserve Program -** Kyle just got a bid for prairie grasses. We can enroll portions of the park in this program. It’s good habitat for wildlife. Palmare and wetland acreage. We could earn money for participating. Note: It’s a 10-year investment. We’re currently renting 71 acres to Becks for two more years. Were the park to participate in the conservation reserve program we can create the boundaries; tillable acres are available. Doug and Kyle will further explore the idea.

**IMT Grant** – We’re applying for a $500 grant – more tables or benches are possible.

**Adjournment –** Kim made a motion to adjourn. 2nd by Greg Rhames. Motion approved.