

# PORTAGE COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

Minutes

March 14, 2019

The Portage County Park Commission meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. by Vice President Eric Olson at the Jordan West Lodge.

Members present: Bob Gifford, Jim Gifford, George Kraft, Eric Olson, and Mike Splinter. Mildred Neville and Jim Zach excused. Also present were Scott Cole, Mike Mitchell, Jake Barnes, Lead Foreman Jerry Brzezinski, County Executive Chris Holman, Trail Coordinator Rex Runke, Assistant Park Director Justin Vogel, and Park Director Ryan Rose.

Moved by George Kraft and seconded by Bob Gifford to approve the minutes of February 14, 2019 minutes as mailed. Motion carried by voice vote.

\*Moved by George Kraft and seconded by Eric Olson to amend the minutes to state that it may not be worth the battle with Wimme regarding the dust. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Correspondence-Ryan Rose attended a Rotary Club meeting and gave a talk on Standing Rocks.

Rose received a phone call regarding a Wausau disc golf group that would like to hold a tournament at Standing Rocks on June 1 for 30-35 players. They will charge \$40 per person which goes back to the group and each player will pay the \$4.00 daily pass. The area will be open to the public. Park Commission members suggested that they make a modest donation to the park.

The vendor invoice list was reviewed. An inquiry was made regarding the snowmobile invoices. R. Runke stated that the snowmobile trails were open this season for about six weeks. Snowmobile clubs are responsible for grooming, pruning, putting in snowmobile signs and taking out the signs. They are reimbursed for their work and the State reimburses the Parks Department. A lift and tire changer were purchased from Central Auto Parts. The invoice list was placed on file.

## Board Member Reports:

Rose stated that we have hired the seasonal employees for the summer and shut down the Standing Rocks ski hill.

Eric Olson read the public notice. Jake Barnes registered to speak on Item #5

Public Comments – Jake Barnes thanked the staff for the grooming of the ski trails over the winter and also thanked the staff for the ski loop that now has lights.

Discussion was held regarding request for special meeting attendance, approval of attendance of special meetings, and special meeting attendance report. B. Gifford presented a request for a Tubing Subcommittee meeting held February 18 attended by himself and G. Kraft. Moved by Splinter and seconded by Olson to approve the request. Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion to change Policy on Standing Rocks Park Single Track. Motion by George Kraft and seconded by Bob Gifford to change the existing policy on single track trail maintenance at Standing Rocks Park from: "The local mountain bike club will construct, sign, and maintain all

single track trails. If this does not occur the single track trails will be closed down,” to “Single track bicycle trails at Standing Rocks Park will be constructed and mostly maintained by the Point Area Single Track Association working cooperatively and with oversight of the Parks Department. The Parks Department will mow, clear downed trees, and perform certain other maintenance activities, subject to the availability of personnel and funding and discretion of the Parks Department Director.” Motion carried by voice vote.

Discussion on allowing the P.A.S.T.A. Mountain Bike Club to build a Beginner/Intermediate Bike Trail. Motion by George Kraft and seconded by Mike Splinter that the Portage County Parks Commission approve the planning and fundraising by PASTA, in conjunction with Parks Department staff, for an improved single track bicycling trail network; intends to approve construction of the improved single track trail network subject to the submission of an acceptable plan; expects that the entire single track trail network will total 10 to 12 miles, with a corridor width not to exceed that required for mechanical mowing using a four wheeler or Gator towing an approximately 4.5 foot wide mower, a bare-dirt width of 18-36 inches, and infrequent berms that do not exceed 18-30 inches in height; as represented by PASTA; expects that the trail will be multi-use and will honor the existing “back country” aesthetic of much of Standing Rocks Park; expects that tree cutting and clearing will be needed, but that these will be minimized, and that good standard practices that minimize erosion and other deterioration will be employed; and extends its appreciation to PASTA for its efforts to improve recreational experiences in our Parks, fundraise, plan, and work in conjunction with the Parks Department. Motion carried by voice vote.

Jim Gifford arrived at 5:20 p.m.

Discussion on Standing Rocks Winter Sports Area. Jake Barnes stated that it is not worth the battle with Wimme regarding the dust. A ski trail could lose 1K and it shouldn't be a problem. Kraft is worried about losing more trail and does not want to see that happen. The dust issue will be on the agenda for April.

Rose gave an update on the Standing Rocks Multipurpose building. The bids are in and Ability Builders bid \$468,292. The Friends Group has raised \$81,000 for the building and there is \$350,000 in the Capital Improvement Projects budget. There is \$125,000 budgeted for the Collins Park Road paving. The Highway Department will be doing this project for approximately \$70,000 and this would leave \$50,000 that we could possibly use for the building at Standing Rocks.

Rose gave an update on Capital Improvement Projects. The Jordan Dam will need repairing and this could cost approximately \$200,000.

Moved by Splinter and seconded by B. Gifford to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Mickey Cychosz  
Administrative Associate I

s/s