

Wapello County Conservation Board
Regular Meeting Notice
Monday, August 14th , 2023
5:30 PM Meeting
Pioneer Ridge Nature Center (1339 HWY 63, Bloomfield)

Call to Order:

Beth Doggett called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Roll Call:

Marsha Parker(Zoom), John Henscheid, Beth Doggett **Absent:** Jeff Layton, Aaron Ruff

Staff Present:

Rick Tebbs, Amanda Jones, Sara Runyan, Austin Roe, Mike McCall, Paul Totten, Sunshine Laursen

Approval of Agenda:

John moved to approve the meeting agenda, Marsha seconded, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Previous Monthly Meeting Minutes:

Marsha stated that one of the guests names was spelled incorrectly in the prior meeting's minutes. John moved to approve the minutes from the July meeting with the correction, Marsha seconded, the minutes were approved.

Approval of July 31st Special Meeting Minutes:

The box was incorrectly checked D instead of B for the July 31st Special Meeting Minutes. John moved to approve the minutes with the correction, Marsha seconded, the minutes were approved.

Guests:

Darren Batterson

Claims:

- WCCB claims for the month of July were submitted for approval.

John moved to approve the July claims, Marsha seconded, approved.

- The American Gothic House Center claims for the month of July were submitted for approval.

John moved to approve the July claims, Marsha seconded, approved.

Old Business:

- **Park rules and regulations**

Rick dispersed the rules booklet to the board. This booklet will be printed for the public to see and use.

- **Employee Cell Phones**

Rick spoke with US cellular for a quote on employee cell phones. They gave him a rough estimate of 5 smart phones for \$176 and a 36 month contract. He has not yet heard back with a final estimate. This agenda item was tabled until more information is given.

New Business:

- **Summer camp report**

Sara updated the board about the summer camps offered at PRNA. 9 different camps were offered this year spanning 26 days. Attendance doubled from last year and 196 kids attended camps. The camps made over \$2,200 in revenue. Sunshine showed the board the promotional summer camp video she made from footage taken this summer.

Cari updated the board on the summer camps she offered at the AGHC. During the camps, she placed heavy emphasis on the connection between Grant Wood's paintings and the natural world.

- **Monthly reports/ what the board would like to see**

The board had previously expressed that they would like to see monthly employee reports expanded upon.

Marsha asked the staff to provide more information on certain subjects in their report. This would provide the board with a clearer picture of what they are doing.

Rick provided the board with a rough draft of the Conflict of Interest statement needed for the Destination Iowa Grant. He suggested having an attorney review the document before signing anything.

Rick gave the board a project expense worksheet of different items that need to be completed and that have recently finished. Darren suggested prioritizing the list to give everyone a clearer picture of things that hold the most importance to the board and staff. Discussion followed over different items on the list.

The board and Darren discussed the land purchase at Garrison Rock. The board touched on the pros and cons they saw with the purchase. The board and supervisors will have a meeting together to further discuss the land purchase.

American Gothic Board Updates

Cari is attending the State Fair Tourism Days to promote the American Gothic House Center. She is also working with Meet Ottumwa on a commercial to air on Roku/ Hulu TV. Lack of space for tour groups continues to be an issue. She has placed applying for grants on hold because she does not have the match needed.

Porchfest is Aug 26th and Cari encouraged the board to attend.

Staff Reports and Comments:

Marsha asked for more details from on the staff reports. These topics included, Hanz Wilz meeting, the MOTUS system, the Naturalist office, REAP five year plan, the lake study, Crowdriff, water and sewer lines at Pearson, Eddyville signs, and the summer attendance. Discussion over these topics followed between board and staff.

Marsha updated the board and staff over the Halloween Hike. It will be held the 13th and 14th of October. She is currently gathering volunteers and actors.

Conservation Board Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

John moved to adjourn the meeting, Marsha seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28PM.