

January 23, 2020– Park Authority Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm at The Washington County Building by Jim Hutton.

Present: Jim Hutton - Chairman, Jennifer Blankenship, Helen Holbrook, Michael Johnson, Ben Castell, Claude Worrell, Keith Owens

Non-Members: Richard Rouse, Lucas Smeltzer

Public Comment – (“Do you mind if I record your answers to make sure I get them correct?” -Richard Rouse

Keith Owens said it is fine for him to record our answers)

Richard Rouse: 1. Jennifer Blankenship stated in a public board meeting last fall that she would publish directions on how potential new applicants would apply for available sites in the park on your website. However, there are no directions on the website, and when you call the park superintendents telephone number listed at the website Mr. Alan King answers. Our question is- What is the current proper procedure (including dates when waiting lists are renewed) for applying for any of the vacant or non-renewing permanent sites at the Park?

“Due to getting a Manager hired we are a little behind. We talked to the county to get everything online (reservations) and they said they couldn’t, they advised us to build our own website and we are waiting till we get our manager hired before getting that done. We will continue with the traditional Feb. 1 sign up sheet in person at the Government Building.” – Jim Hutton

Richard Rouse:2. A rumor exists that when any permanent site becomes vacant it will not be renewed as permanent and will be subject only to temporary rental. If this is in fact a new park rule, can the board explain when this rule was voted on/approved, and if this new rule requires or is subject to approval by the Washington County Board of Supervisors?

“I’ll let you know what I plan on proposing tonight. Moving forward any vacant campsite will become temporarily rented for either 14 or 21 days. It may not pass, but that is what I’m going to propose.” – Keith Owens.

“I understand rules but if this does pass will you inform those on the list? Of if it doesn’t pass will you inform them?” – Richard Rouse

“Yes, we will inform them.” – Keith Owens

Keith Owens made a motion to go into closed session for personnel discussion and seconded by Michael Johnson. The motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

Closed Session...

Part time Interim Superintendent Report: Michael Johnson

1. Contacted an electrician, Brian Briscall – Briscall Electric. Remove existing service panel, install a new service panel provided by Park Authority. \$95.00 per box. He will be sending two guys out daily and install as many boxes as they can. The box is about 8-10” wider than the post. Michael has also contacted Fleenor Electric and Hinchey Electric and they would not return Michael’s call.
 - a. Jennifer Berry Blankenship made a motion to do the electrical change over by Briscall Electric. The motion was seconded by Ben Castell. The motion was approved 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

Recreation Department Report: Keith Owens

1. Youth sports are struggling nationwide. The numbers are down. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade basketball programs.

A motion to approve the November 14, 2019 minutes was made by Helen Holbrook and seconded by Keith Owens. The motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

The Park Authority met three different times for Hiring Meetings on January 13th, 15th, and 17th, 2020.

A motion to approve the November and December Financial Report was made by Claude Worrell and seconded by Jim Hutton. The motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

A motion to approve the November and December payroll was made by Jennifer Berry Blankenship, seconded by Claude Worrell. The motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

Old Business:

1. Electrical project update was mentioned in Michael’s report above

New Business:

1. Washington County Park Authority Manager Update: The board is still working hard to hire the new manager.
2. 2020 Rules & Regulation Changes:
 - a. Discussion and Approval to the 2020 Rules and Regulations
 - b. A motion was made by Keith Owens to remove the 2019 rule 38 from the 2020. The motion was seconded by Claude Worrell. The motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.
 - c. A motion was made by Jennifer Blankenship to accept the 2020 rules and regulations. The motion was seconded by Helene Holbrook. The motion was passed, 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

3. Current Camping Prices:
 - a. Spots are from \$145-\$175. They have not been raised since before 2010. With inflation and the cost of supplies, camping spots should be raised. The camp spot that received sewer at the end of 2019 needs to go up in rent to equal those campers around it.

A motion was made by Claude Worrell to raise rates across the board \$20.00 a month and winter retention to \$225.00. The motion was seconded by Keith Owens. The motion passed 5-1-1, 100% of members present.
4. Current Camping Waiting List:
 - a. We currently have nine spots open, three are the current temporary spots.

A motion was made by Keith Owens, Starting February 1, 2020 any campsite that comes vacant will revert to a temporary site with a limit on stay to fourteen calendar days and camper must be vacated after the fourteen days. Limit to a two week stay in a thirty-day period provided availability. Discussion was made about the motion and the motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.
5. Emily Mayo contacted Helen Holbrook letting her know that Friends of Southwest Virginia was awarded a large grant for the Mendota Trail and feels that The Washington County Park Authority may be able to work together on this project. This allows the Park Authority to work – Helene Holbrook
6. Washington County IT reached out to the Park Authority and said they did not feel comfortable doing an online reservation form on the county website, they do not mind posting rules, etc. but the Park Authority needs to invest in having a private website designed. A motion was made to hire Mikki Barker with Web Concepts to build a new website with online reservations by Jennifer Berry Blankenship, seconded by Keith Owens. The motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

Next scheduled meeting is February 27th at 6:00 pm at the Washington County Building

Jennifer Berry Blankenship made motion to adjourn at 9:41 PM. The motion was seconded by Claude Worrell. Motion passed 6-0-1, 100% of members present.

jbb