



Natrona County Parks Department

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Minutes

Natrona County Parks Board

March 21, 2017

The Natrona County Parks Board met at the Roads, Bridges and Parks Dept. office. Members in attendance were Brian Stack, Stuart Hill, Roy Buck, Jim Miller and Steph Connolly. Matt Buhler and Glenna Nash from Parks Department also attended.

Brian called the meeting to order. Jim motioned to accept the February 16, 2017 minutes, seconded by Roy. Motion carried.

Administration Items

- Jim would like to have a camp host at Beartrap Meadow this summer. Steph said usually in other places hosts get a free campsite and their propane provided. It was also discussed that there are no sites with full hookups or shower facilities so there would be some additional logistics to consider in order to have a host on the mountain.
- Matt advised the Board that there have been some internal issues going on within the Casper Water Ski Club and Pathfinder Boat Club. The Ski Club has terminated a persons' membership and The Pathfinder Boat Club changed some of their requirements of membership.
- Matt reported that the budget requests are due in April and we are looking at a status-quo budget. Stuart mentioned that we need to include money for a new webcam at the Lodge. Jim suggested looking for a grant for grooming. The board agreed it may be time to increase ski pass fees because of the increased expenses associated with the additional trails and grooming. May want to look at a year round pass for users of the trails during all seasons.
- The Parks rules and regulations were last updated in 2012. The Biathlon area and the use of drones need to be addressed in the rules. There are safety issues with bikes and Roy said that the use of E-Bikes will soon be an issue as they grow in popularity. The Sheriffs' Department is going over them to see what needs changed for the rules to be enforceable. The board will get their comments to Matt.

Lakes Concession Bid discussion

- Matt said the BOR is reviewing it now and then it will go to the office in Billings. The two Marina extensions end at the end of March and may need another short term extension. These will be 25 year agreements with 5 year intervals.

Lakes Update

- Matt reported that most of the new leases have been returned, still waiting on the last two. It looks like one tenant will be evicted due to non-payment of lease.
- Matt updated the Board on the construction application process. Applications come to Matt and he will forward any permits that need BOR approval such as soil disturbance. Building permits go through the County Development. The Parks Board does need to approve the Construction applications and sometimes timing can be an issue. If an application need immediate attention Matt will email the board. If he does not get a response back in 5 days then it will be considered a yay vote.
- The following Construction applications were approved by the Board. Ellbogen, Sneesby, Vinich, Pathfinder Boat Club, Frieberg, Speas, Pavelka, The request from the Casper Boat Club is on hold waiting for their master plan. The Casper Water Ski Club request has to go through BOR. Steph noted that on the Fat Fish race application at Black Beach that if they are also cross BLM land they will need an permit from them and that can take up to 180 days.
- Matt reported that beginning April 1st the water at Alcova will start rising 5” per day and will rise 10’. Pathfinder is expected to spill again this year.
- The Alcova Marina is currently updating electrical problems.
- The Casper Boat Club is updating their master plan.
- CEPI campground update is in progress with the County Legal.

Mountain Update

- Biathlon operation agreement update is with County Legal and will forward to the BOCC. It will spell out what both the County and Biathlon are obligated to. Range Safety Officers have to be on site whenever there is live fire.
- We are in the final month of trail grooming for this ski season.
- The contract with Townsquare for the Beartrap Festival is in process. Dates for the festival will be August 4th, 5th & 6th.

Rotary Park

- Bridle Trail – Matt is expecting more of the same issues after the article in the Star Tribune.
- The road barrier that was put in at Rotary was moved and several people went in and got their vehicles stuck.
- Matt is still working on getting prices for solar gates at Rotary. Rotary Club wants to put in a restroom at the North parking lot.

Eclipse Update

- Our reserve spaces on the mountain and at Alcova are filling up. Townsquare Media has agreed to do some PSA’s for us during that time.

Adjournment

- There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting date is Thursday April 13th at 6:30 am.