



Natrona County Parks Department

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Minutes

Natrona County Parks Board
February 21, 2019

The Natrona County Parks Board met at the Roads, Bridges and Natrona County Agriculture Resource and Learning Center. Members in attendance were Roy Buck, Stuart Hill, Jim Miller and Tina Kruse. Matt Buhler, Parks Dept., Eric Nelson, County Legal along with several mountain residents and trail users.

Call Meeting to Order

- Roy called the meeting to order. Jim made a motion to approve the minutes of January 24, 2019. Tina seconded, motion carried.

Administration Items

- Trails Pass increase was passed by the Board of County Commission at their meeting. The increase will not take place until the 2019-20 season. Fees will increase from \$35/individual to \$50 and children will be \$25/child. Estimated revenue should cover the cost of grooming at approximately \$75,000 annual based on snow accumulation.

Mountain Update

- Water supply system update- 609 consulting and the Parks Department submitted an application for a SLIB grant. The grant would cover 50% of the cost associated with replacing/repairing the water system on Casper Mountain. Preliminary options including drilling a new water well next to the existing well, installing a new storage tank and booster station. The tank system could be housed in the booster station building along with chlorinator system or remain outside. If the tank is outside, it will need to be heated. Total cost will be approximately \$268,000 - \$300,000.
- Trail Etiquette Discussion. Discussion centering on trail etiquette to determine future plans, rules or regulations. Goal is to have multi-trail use with all users being able to utilize the trail system. Parks Board welcomed comments from those attending. Several on several items including: better signs; more education including videos, signs, Parks Department website, social media, pamphlets give out with trails pass and blogs; and MOU with groups to encourage "ownership". Other items discussed include: when should people not use the trails (i.e. when bike tires leave more than 1 inch deep tracks, snowshoes walking on classic ski tracks), having ski conditions listed so people know what to expect, allowing dogs on a few trails, expanding number of trails, having trails designated to single use to eliminate conflict between user groups.
 - Parks Board comments include that Department has been working on signs and have actually put up several and in process of putting up more. Funding of Parks

Department is limited for signs, advertisement, etc. There is a need to have a meeting with user groups and get all their comments to provide etiquette guidelines. There should be two separate meetings for summer and winter users respectively. There is a need for greater dissemination of information and will look into various ways to do it for etiquette, ski reports, grooming reports, etc.

- Mountain Budget Discussion. All agreed that the Mountain budget has suffered in past years and one of the areas of concern is maintenance of existing infrastructure. Matt asked the Board members to identify project areas where there is a need for increase budget. Comments from each Board member were:
 - Jim Miller – water system, campgrounds and signs.
 - Stuart Hill – Signs, campgrounds, grant writer for County and Ponderosa Park.
 - Tina Kruse – water system, campgrounds and shelter.
 - Roy Buck – water system, campgrounds, parking areas and grant writer for County.

Lake Update

- Alcovia full-hookup campground update – Matt reported that the contractor has made good progress and that the project is on schedule. The second phase of the project will be the bath house and paving.
- Alcovia Marina Master Plan – Razi Saydjari, owner of Alcovia Marina, gave a presentation to the Board on his plans for the marina. Mr. Saydjari has extensive plans that include tearing down existing marina building, leveling the area where the current building is located and building a new building closer to the lake, improving all trailer spaces, upgrading utilities, building a maintenance/storage building, etc. Mr. Saydjari stated that he may be able to get the funding sooner and may tackle the majority of projects all at once to save money, possibly as early as 2020. The only concern was if there would be any period of the summer season where they would not be open due to construction. Mr. Saydjari stated that the plan would be to start construction right after the closing and work through the winter so any delay would be minimal. Stuart made a motion to accept the plan as described and Tina seconded. Motion passed and the next step would be to forward to the Bureau of Reclamation for their approval.
- Construction Applications. The Board reviewed several construction applications for compliance with Natrona County and Bureau of Reclamation guidelines.

Public Comments

- Douglas Irvine made a request for the board members emails to be listed on the County website. Matt explained that he could use the “parks link” and the chairman would get his email. Douglas also recommended that we should work on getting a social media account since most people do not read the newspaper anymore.
- Nicole Kramer gave an updated on the Biathlon activities. The CMBC recently hosted the Cowboy State Game ski race for junior and high school athletes. There was an estimated 350-400 participants. It was a very successful endeavor and she thanked all those who volunteered or contributed. She also thanked Joe with Parks Department for his grooming of the area.
- Mary Peterson asked for clarification about the new Alcovia full-hookup campground concerning the trailer dump station. Matt discussed that the new dump station will have two sides for trailers and will include a water fill station.

Board Comments

- Tina thanked the public for their comments and agreed that there is a need for greater education on the mountain.
- Roy would like to have a mountain subcommittee meeting to better discuss issues such as trail etiquette, needs, etc.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday March 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Adjournment: Stuart made a motion to adjourn, Tina seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.