

## **Big Prairie Township Parks Commission**

Tuesday September 22, 2020

**Meeting Called to Order:** 2 P.M.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Clark, Ruehmeier, Ryman, VanDam and VanderGalien present.

**Public Input:** Terry McFarland – stated his son is not the person involved in a reported incident. His son is not allowed to hang out with or be around the person who actually did the verbal incident. Does not know who this other person is as he does not belong to lot at the park. Allegedly, this person comes by boat and is dropped off. Stated he would like to be allowed in the parks and not banned for three years as stated in the letter he received from the board.

Mike Long – stated he doesn't know about the first or third firework that was set off but knows that the second one was not set off by Jeremy or Matt. Was not happy being told by a park employee "I best hear a pin drop at 11 PM." Stated he tries to control the loudness and non-sense at the Point in Big Bend Park.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion by VanderGalien, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**Camp Host:** Big Bend – September 18, 2020 – Loud Music, September 19, 2020 – Partying, fireworks being set off and thrown on other lots. Police were summoned. Numerous reports of screaming obscenities, loudness, beer cans being thrown and fireworks being set off. Was decided to allow two (2) guests remain in the park. A lot of "he said, she said" back and forth therefore not able to pinpoint the violators.

**Maintenance Report:** Picnic tables aprox. 10 have been finished. Backhoe is in need of repair or replaced. Hydraulics' are deteriorating. Cabin from Newaygo County Vocational school will not be ready until the spring due to Covid shutdown. Waiting for Greg's return to move ahead with the rebate, Oxbow Bathhouse and invoice for CE barge. Greg is hoping to return next week.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Ruehmeier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to approve the minutes from September 8, 2020 as written. Motion carried.

**Board Reports:** Chairman – 0

Vice Chairman – full set of Rules & Regulations still not on the webpage. Teresa to look into this.

Secretary – Attended Tourist Council Zoom meeting. They have submitted for a grant with FACF. Final two (2) bridges going in on the Dragon Trail that will connect Consumers Beach to Big Bend Park, hoping to be done by November. Trails slated for grooming this winter for Fat Tire biking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing. Sandy Beach will post at sign at the entrance, once closed for the season, redirecting trail users that there is parking across from the County Marina at Hardy Dam.

Treasurer – Chase Credit will first apply the credit refund to the bill and then to the account if necessary.

**Treasurer Report:** September 4-10, 2020 = \$9,616.24 September 11-17, 2020 = \$8,774.91 Total = \$18,391.15

Motion by Ryman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clark to approve the Treasurer report as presented. Motion carried.

**Present and Pay Bills** - Motion by Ryman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to pay the bills as followed; Gross Payroll week ending September 17, 2020 - \$14,538.88. Bills - \$35,277.81. Motion carried.

**Office Report:** Aspira has a new camper discount program where guests who have joined the program would receive a 10% discount when choosing our parks. Board not interested.

Hot Boat Concessions – Food Truck - \$200.00  
Special T's - ~~\$690.00~~ \$691.00(15%)

Annual Camper Appreciation Picnic – canceled due to Covid. However, the raffle will be held for each park.

**Old Business:** Parking for Trail - Pending approval from Consumers Energy.

**New Business:** Employee Reprimand – Employee asked for Closed Session.

Motion by Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruehmeier to enter into closed session at 3:04 P.M. for employee reprimand. Motion carried.

Motion by Clark, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to close Closed Session at 3:21 P.M. Motion carried.

Employee Reprimand – Motion by Clark to place written warning of discipline per action of said employee during closed session. Motion carried.

**Miscellaneous:** After discussion, review of incident reports and letters of support and non-support, board has decided to further investigate the McFarland Incident before making any changes to the ban for three (3) years.

After discussion, review of incident reports and letters of support and non-support, board has decided send a letter to both Martin and Wightman that due this last incident, they are not evicted nor banned from the parks, however, any further incidents which includes their names or guests on their lot, they will be banned for three (3) years.

October 20, 2020 – Meeting to take place at Big Bend Park Office due to township hall having floors conditioned.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ruehmeier, 2<sup>nd</sup> by VanDam to adjourn this meeting at 4:03 P.M. Motion carried.

Next regular meeting to be October 6, 2020 at 2 P.M. – Big Prairie Township Hall

Submitted for Approval

Colleen Ryman  
Secretary

Approved 10-6-2020