

**Le Sueur County Parks Board**  
**January 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Mark Volkenant, Steve Rohlfing, Charles Richter, John King, Larry Maruska, and Brigid Tuck

Parks Director: Tyler Luethje

Absent: Mike Schultz

1. Call to order – 5:10 pm
2. No additional agenda items or changes
3. Approve October Minutes, motion by Charles, second by Mark, motion carries
4. Elect Officers – 1 Year Terms – President, Vice President, Secretary
  - a. Review of Parks Board Organizational Structure
  - b. Review of Parks Board Members and Terms
    - i. Motion to retain existing slate of officers for an additional year by John King, second by Mark, motion carries
    - ii. President – Larry Maruska
    - iii. Vice President – Mike Schultz
    - iv. Secretary – Brigid Tuck
5. Lake Washington Regional Park & Campground
  - a. 2020 Camping Breakdown
    - i. April and May, no camping allowed due to COVID, Memorial Day is typically a big weekend for parks
    - ii. June down slightly compared to 2019, shower house was not open
    - iii. July and August up slightly
    - iv. September and October about the same
    - v. COVID will likely influence start of 2021
  - b. 2020 Campground Users/Distances
    - i. Gives sense of where guests come from; where to market
    - ii. Drawing from a fairly local area
  - c. 2020 Miscellaneous Revenues
    - i. Firewood, ice, shelter revenues
    - ii. Use firewood from within the park
    - iii. Limited community building rentals, also affected by COVID
  - d. 2020 Revenue & Expenses
    - i. Revenue down slightly from 2019
    - ii. Expenses were roughly the same
    - iii. Camping fees are \$25/night for electric site
6. Clear Lake Campground
  - a. Camping 2020 Data
    - i. Camping revenue and nights stayed were up in 2020
    - ii. Stronger enforcement this year on the number of people camping on any given weekend
    - iii. Yet, number of nights remained fairly steady
7. Richter Woods Park

- a. 2020 Barn Rental Report
    - i. Revenues were down; no rentals in May and June, which is a popular time for graduation rentals
    - ii. COVID really affected barn rentals
    - iii. Rentals are \$75/day
      - 1. Look at a system of charging based on type of use, ex. weddings might be higher
  - b. 2020 Revenue / Expense Report review
  - c. Charles comment on trail systems
    - i. Richter Woods has excellent trail system
    - ii. May need additional trail checks; Tyler walks trails about once per week; Tyler and Charles to connect further
8. 2020 Budget
- a. Budget - \$326,628 Rev / \$326,628 Exp
  - b. Actual - \$361,138 Rev / \$343,374 Exp
    - i. Overall, fairly successful year for the parks
    - ii. The revenues and expenses are higher due to donations/grants/payments that matched expenses. Ex. Ney Center got a FEMA payment, donation of fishing dock
9. 2021 Budget
- a. \$334,916 Rev / \$334,916 Exp
  - b. Budget was approved by County Commission in August
10. Camping / Registration Software
- a. Currently we are cash/check only and reservations are made via telephone
  - b. Have identified a company would like to partner with
    - i. Need to find a credit card company
    - ii. Get laptop or tablet for the caretaker
    - iii. Will be a one-time fee to start up – website development and training
  - c. Planning for 2022 to have time to set up and implement
    - i. Would need to provide internet to the Lake Washington campground hosts
      - 1. CARES act dollars should provide a hotspot to the park this summer
      - 2. Caretakers can test out internet strength/reliability this summer
11. Geldner Saw Mill
- a. MN Historical Society has a small grant program for under \$10,000
  - b. That money can be used for a condition assessment
  - c. Deadline is April; Tyler to apply for that small grant
  - d. Condition assessment will provide us with insight on how to use the site
    - i. Can then look at applying for a larger grant in 2022 or 2023
12. Other
- a. Legacy funds grant for Lake Washington
    - i. Still working on grant contract; need to complete an archeological site study
  - b. Ney Center is offering great programming
    - i. Day camp during Christmas vacation
13. Plan for next meeting
- a. Plan on using WebEx for now; return to in-person when appropriate

14. Future meetings – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month; 5:00-6:00
  - a. February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21
15. Adjourn at 6:10 pm, motion by John King, second by Charles Richter, motion carries