

COBB-HIGHLAND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes from December 13th, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Gail Richgels, Laura Anderson, Tom Jenks, Bret Barr,
John Kreul (arrived at 7:04 pm), Steve Holmes, and Ryan Shemak

MEMBERS ABSENT: Al Kosharek, Al Linscheid and Dan Baker

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Michek, Park Manager
Morgan Shemak, Assistant Park Manager
Lisa Riley, Bookkeeper
Darrell Kreul and Don Leix

Meeting was called to order by Bret Barr at 7:01pm

Meeting notice was legally posted on Monday.

Bret Barr introduced new Board members Steve Holmes and Ryan Shemak. Both are representatives from the Village of Cobb.

Public Input – A couple of board members stated they had been approached by some people about the possibility of a dog park at Blackhawk Lake. Tom Michek commented anything like a dog park would need to be at least 75' from any shoreline. Discussion followed of who is going to clean it up and the cost to install fencing and other expenses. Tom Michek and Morgan Shemak explained that a lot of dog related issues happened this past year, more than in the past (i.e. dogs running loose (Iowa County Sheriff's Department contacted), dog bites, camper complaints about dog poop on the camp sites and in the fire pits, sometimes as many as 6-8 dogs per campsite, people trying to take pets where they were not allowed such as the beach, and disrespectful pet owners). They informed the Commission that the new software allows registration of dogs. A 2 dog limit per site has been implemented with registration of dogs at time of reservation. There will be a \$2/dog fee over the 2 dog limit. Steve Holmes questioned if a person could charge for having dogs on the sites, to help control the issue. The other suggestion was having the site inspected for any animal cleanup need at checkout, like is done with the cabins, and implement a littering fine.

Morgan Shemak informed the Commission that people really like the new reservation system. The staff loves it also. They will start taking reservations in person on January 13, 2024. Morgan is hoping they can get the quirks out and hopefully be online by February. Tom Michek stated that Morgan Shemak has spent a lot of time preparing for and implementing the change and deserves a lot of credit for all her hard work.

Tom Michek updated the Commission that the Beach Shower House has been gutted. Tom explained the current \$200,000+ Beach Shower House project and the Beach Retaining Wall project, along with explaining the County grant monies, to Steve Holmes and Ryan Shemak, since they are new to the Commission.

Tom Michek reminded Bookkeeper Lisa Riley to make the \$1,000 budget contribution to the Iowa County Dam Fund in January of 2024. This is an annual set aside, which Iowa County also contributes to the fund.

Review and Approve Minutes – Minutes from the November 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Laura Anderson, seconded by John Kreul to approve the meeting minutes. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report - The November 2023 monthly report was presented. A motion was made by Laura Anderson, seconded by John Kreul, to approve the Treasurers Report, as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Maintenance/Equipment

- **Beach Retaining Shower House** – Tom Michek provided an update that the beach shower house has been gutted to the stud walls. The flooring still needs to be removed.
- **Boat Mooring Issue** – Tom Michek brought an ongoing issue to the Commission regarding a customer that has been tying up an additional tow behind in their mooring site. In June of 2022, Tom approached the customer informing him that he was not allowed to have the tow behind tied up as it was causing damage to the neighboring boats and only one boat is allowed per site. The customer confronted Blackhawk Lake staff inappropriately, complaining about him. A letter was sent out before last year's agreement stating only one watercraft is allowed. From mid-August to October, the tow-behind is still there and the customer does not respond. The rental agreement has been broken two years in a row, so Tom was looking for direction in how to handle the situation. Steve Holmes questioned if a policy should be put into place. The Iowa County Ordinance 350.06 provides guidance on this matter. A motion was made by Steve Holmes, seconded by Tom Jenks to send a letter from the Blackhawk Lake Commission, signed by the Chairman, to send a letter stating this will not be tolerated.

Review/Approve 2024 Budget

- Tom Michek presented the proposed 2024 Budget, bringing attention to a few items. He increased the sand/gravel expense due to the beach wall needing some additional materials to finish the project. 2024 is the State's year to stock the fish, but in conversing with the DNR Fish Biologist it was not included in their budget. A fish study was discussed to see what the impact is if one year of stocking is skipped. Tom also reminded the Commission there are two CD's that will mature in the Spring and one in October that are approximately \$30,000 each.
- Discussion followed regarding payroll salary increases and a 3% increase was initially proposed (approximately \$1,800 for Tom Michek and \$1,600 for Morgan Shemak). Tom Michek asked the Commission that the same raise be given to both him and to Morgan, as when using percentages the higher paid person receives more and the gap between the two positions keeps growing. He stated they are a team and split the duties and responsibilities.
- A motion was made by Laura Anderson, seconded by Ryan Shemak, that both Tom Michek and Morgan Shemak receive the same raise of \$1,800. A roll call vote was taken: Laura Anderson – Aye, Tom Jenks – Aye, Gail Richgels – Aye, Steve Holmes – Naye, John Kreul – Naye, and Ryan Shemak – Naye. Brett Barr broke the tie by voting – Naye. Ryan Shemak clarified his motion was in agreement to Tom and Morgan receiving the same increase, but not the \$1,800 increase amount.
- A motion was made by Steve Holmes for a 5% wage increase for the Park Manager and Assistant Manager. The motion died for lack of a second.
- A motion was made by Bret Barr, seconded by Steve Holmes, that the Park Manager will receive a \$2,900 increase bringing him to \$61,900 for 2024, and the Assistant Manager will also receive a \$2,900 increase bringing her to \$54,900 for 2024 with the 10% salary retirement benefit and Tom and Morgan will work with Bookkeeper Lisa Riley to set her salary as she is considered an employee of the manager. Motion carried by voice vote 6-0.

Set date/location for Christmas Party

- The Christmas Party has been set for Friday, January 12, 2024 at Tower Junction starting at 5:30 p.m. with eating at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Date –There will be no meeting in January. Due to the normally scheduled date for the February meeting is Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday, it was decided to move the meeting to the

first Wednesday in February which is February 7th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The Commission asked that a reminder be sent a week in advance to remind them.

Adjournment - A motion was made by Gail Richgels, seconded by Laura Anderson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

X

Commission Secretary

X

Commission Clerk