

COBB-HIGHLAND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes from December 11, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Al Kosharek, Al Linscheid, John Kreul (arrived at 6:52 pm), Laura Anderson, Bret Barr, Tom Jenks, and Steve Holmes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gail Richgels, Dan Baker and Ryan Shemak

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Michek, Park Manager
Morgan Shemak, Assistant Park Manager
Don Leix, Iowa County Board Representative
Lisa Riley, Bookkeeper

Meeting was called to order by Al Kosharek at 6:34 p.m.

Meeting notice was legally posted on Monday, December 9, 2024

Public Input – Don Leix stated that he had sent a text to County Administrator Larry Bierke regarding Al Kosharek’s question last month if the dam fund monies were earning interest at the County. It was confirmed by Bierke that the funds are in a non-interest bearing account.

Steve Holmes informed the Commission that Bill Polkinghorn will donate cow mats for use under the pontoons, approximately 60 of them. Steve will connect with Bill to organize pickup and will inform Tom Michek of the arrangements.

Review and Approve Minutes – Minutes from the November 13, 2024 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Steve Holmes, seconded by Tom Jenks to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer’s Report – Reviewed financial reports. Bookkeeper Lisa Riley stated that Johnson Block was able to just get back to working on the bank reconciliations.

Maintenance/Equipment –

- A new mower will be coming in. Tom Michek talked with Joel Hamilton regarding tree removal. There are three pine trees to be removed, by the beach pavilion. Two of them are rotten and will end up on the building if not removed. The quoted price is \$500/tree, which includes stump grinding/hauling away for a total of \$1,500. The shelter roof quotes are not solidified yet and Tom hopes to have something for the February meeting. Tom would also like to haul in more sand for the beach wall while it is frozen. Tom discussed with the Commission that he would like to attempt buying replacement logs for the pontoons, approximately \$2,500+ per set. The pontoon rental income is up approximately \$7,000 and he wants to add some improvements to the pontoons. The policies/protocol procedures are a work in progress. We hope to have something for approval at the February meeting. The office equipment is working well. Commission members stated they receive lots of compliments on the FaceBook page. The pictures that are uploaded are really nice. It was suggested to send items to Dona Peterson at the Chamber to put into area magazines. Morgan Shemak stated Blackhawk Lake is featured in several magazines already.
- **2025 Rates** – Bret Barr informed the Commission he had called around to check prices and people are staying at the same prices for the upcoming year. It was discussed that

the cabins have received quite a few improvements and the need to increase the 2025 rates for the cabins. A motion was made by Steve Holmes, seconded by Laura Anderson to increase the Large 12-Person Cabin (#3) to \$125.00/night (currently \$95.00/night) and the Small 6-Person Cabins (#1, #2, #4, & #5) to \$100.00/night (currently \$75.00/night). Motion carried by unanimous vote.

A motion was made by Al Linscheid, seconded by Steve Holmes, to increase all camp sites by \$1.00/site. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The Commission suggested to keep track of rate changes in an easy format for the Commission to be able to look at in the future.

2025 Budget Discussion/Approval - Tom Michek presented the proposed 2025 Budget, bringing attention to a few items. The sealcoating is in need of being done, along with the shelter roofs. Funds were budgeted again for fish stocking. A motion was made by Laura Anderson, seconded by Tom Jenks, to approve the 2025 Proposed Operations Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously. The Payroll Budget was then reviewed, followed by discussion. Tom Michek mentioned they would like at decreasing some of the summer staff expenses, as that had gone over the projected amount. The Commission also recommended not cutting staff too thin. Al Kosharek and Al Linscheid both addressed the Commission on the need to compensate the managers for all of their hard work and time being put in as Blackhawk Lake looks awesome and many compliments are received regarding the wonderful condition of the park. The extra time and work put in by Tom Michek and Morgan Shemak, Blackhawk Lake has saved a lot of money which was previously being spent on outside contractors. Different compensation proposals were discussed. A motion was made by Steve Holmes, seconded by Al Linscheid, to increase Park Manager Tom Michek's salary to \$74,000 from \$61,900 with a 10% retirement contribution. Motion carried by unanimous vote. A motion was made by Steve Holmes, seconded by Al Linscheid, to increase Assistant Park Manager Morgan Shemak's salary to \$65,000 from \$54,900 with a 10% retirement contribution. Motion carried by unanimous vote. A motion was made by Laura Anderson, seconded by John Kreul, to approve the 2025 Payroll Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member/Manager Discussion – Not for Action

Nothing new reported.

Set Date/Location for Christmas Party – The Christmas Party will be held at Tower Junction on Friday, January 24th. Tom Michek will let people know the time via text.

Next Meeting Date – The next meeting date will be February 12, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. There is no January meeting held.

Adjournment - A motion was made by Al Linscheid, seconded by Tom Jenks, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

X

Commission Secretary

X

Commission Clerk