

Minutes of the Warren County Conservation Board

- i. The Warren County Conservation Board held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. The meeting was held electronically. Meeting called to order by President Kickbush at 5:58 p.m.

Those present:

Absent:

Mark Kickbush, President
Ace Hendricks, Vice-president
Ron Miller, Secretary
Sue Boll
Joe Schettler

Comprising a quorum of the board,

Also present:

Jim Priebe, Director
David Youngblut, Op Coordinator
Karen Johlas-Szalkowski, Naturalist II
Mark Wilson, Natural Resource Specialist
Kelsey Longnecker, Naturalist I

Guest(s): Kevin Hensley, City of West Des Moines, Iowa

- ii. Reading of Minutes.

Minutes of the July 2020 Warren County Conservation Board meeting were reviewed. Ron Miller moved to approve minutes as printed. Seconded by Sue Boll. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

- iii. Staff reports for July 2020 were discussed.

- iv. Business Agenda (New Business 5 was taken before Old Business items for the convenience of guests):

a. Old Business:

1. Friends of Warren County Conservation report:

As printed.

The 2020 Prairie Picnic virtual auction is being prepared.

2. Annett Nature Center Lodge update:

Floor sealing, patio installation, siding installation, and fire ring finishing are coming up soon, fireplace is finished inside.

Scheduling a limited dedication was discussed. President Kickbush tabled the item until the September meeting.

3. Annett Nature Center open/closed Status:

After discussing the recent decision of the Board of Supervisors to open the county administration building to the public September 15, 2020, Sue Boll moved to open the Annett Nature Center to visitors, by appointment only, beginning September 15, 2020, with masks required inside the building. The rental portions of the ANC will remain off limits to renters, while the Lester Davison Memorial Pavilion is available for rent. Motion was seconded by Joe Schettler. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

b. Public Hearing regarding lease/purchase of new vehicle:

President Kickbush opened the public hearing. The lease/purchase documents were reviewed. Hearing no public comment, President Kickbush asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Ron Miller moved and Sue Boll seconded a motion to close the public hearing. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

c. New Business:

1. Consider lease/purchase of new vehicle, possible action:

Joe Schettler moved to approve the lease/purchase and authorize the President to sign. Motion seconded by Ace Hendricks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

2. Consider name of new lodge at the Annett Nature Center Park, possible action:

Jim Priebe asked the Board to approve the donor's request for the name of the new lodge. Mrs. Geyer has requested the lodge be named the James I & Geraldine A Middleswart Lodge. It would commonly be called Middleswart Lodge.

Joe Schettler moved to approve the name as requested. Motion was seconded by Sue Boll. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

3. Consider rental packet, including contract of new lodge at Annett Nature Center Park, possible action:

The contract proposal was reviewed. Several inconsistencies resulting from porting the Annett Nature Center rental contract were noted. Making the damage deposit uniform through all rentals for simplicity was discussed. Discussion was held regarding wood fire in the fireplace and if that could be allowed for rentals. Gas fire will be looked at as an alternative. President Kickbush asked the Naturalists to develop a plan for blocking dates for programming by the September meeting.

4. Consider water line easement for new lodge at Annett Nature Center Park, possible action:

Staff requested approval of the Lodge water line easement. Joe Schettler moved to approve the easement as presented. Motion seconded by Sue Boll. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

5. Request from City of West Des Moines regarding maintenance of Veterans Parkway right-of-way parallel to the Great Western Trail, possible action:

Kevin Hensley, City of West Des Moines, discussed mowing of Veterans Parkway from the curb to the to the light poles and fire hydrants, something that is City policy. This would be three to five times per year.

The Board expressed concern about another new responsibility being thrust upon them by West Des Moines, and noted the difference between someone in residence or business mowing what is adjacent to them versus approximately 1.5 mile of right-of-way.

Jim Priebe was directed to work with Mr. Hensley on more specific information.

6. Director's job description, application process, possible action:

A bylaw change in the Director's job description was presented to the Board by Ace Hendricks and Joe Schettler. Bylaw changes not made in January require two readings and two approvals.

Sue Boll moved to accept the bylaw change with the addition of requiring a valid driver's license. Motion was seconded by Ace Hendricks. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

President Kickbush outlined posting the Director's position after the September meeting and leaving it open for 60 days.

d. Discussion Items:

The condition of the Great Western Trail was discussed, specifically between Martensdale and Cumming. President Kickbush directed Staff to develop information on possible corrections for the September meeting.

v. Financial reports were distributed.

vi. Bills. Ron Miller moved to approve the list of claims totaling \$24,324.75. Seconded by Sue Boll. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

vii. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by President Kickbush at 7:25 p.m.

Ron Miller, Secretary
Warren County Conservation Board