

Barnes County Park Board Meeting  
May 21, 2024  
Barnes County Courthouse

The Barnes County Park Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 21, 2024. Scott Kohler, Bill Carlblom, Tyler Jacobson, Dallas Dockter, Pete Paulson Shawn Olauson, were present. Scott Tichy was absent.

Park Board Manager Scott Kohler called the meeting to order at 6:45 a.m. Tyler Jacobson moved to approve the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 minutes. Dallas Dockter seconded the motion. Motion carried upon roll call vote with all present members voting yes.

Jamie Smith was in attendance reporting that Bobby Koeplin was contacting her staff regarding the Highway Department providing work. He contacted staff asking if they would work after hours using highway equipment on the water trail. Jamie works with Scott as the new manager. It is not acceptable that Bobby reaches out to county staff asking them to work after hours without contacting Jamie prior to asking them to work. The Highway Department will work with Scott and help at the parks as time allows. The Highway Department will not provide work in the river channel. Jamie won't respond to Bobby but will work with Scott. Bobby wants things done that Jamie is not comfortable with doing. There is no proof of 404 permits among other things. That could jeopardize other projects. There is a rock in the river channel that Bobby would like removed. She will go in, when they are in the area and remove snagged trees but will not be removing the rock being referenced. Jamie is very upset Bobby contacted Ryan Metcalf before contacting her. There are liability issues that would be a great concern. Jamie does not want to jeopardize the working relationship with the park and other departments. Scott appreciates the working relationship between the water trail and Bobby and will address the issue with Bobbie.

FEMA is providing help with the tree damage cleanup from the ice storm. FEMA pays 75%, the state pays 15% and the county's share is 10%. ACB has the project and is approximately 80% complete. Jamie and Jessica helped with the FEMA application for this project. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of trees have been removed between the two parks. Scott estimates the completed project will run \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00.

When the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheyenne River Water Trail was signed, there was a new position being proposed to try to pull everything under one umbrella. The Board of Commissioners decided the new position was not the best direction to go. Bobby was asking when projects for the water trail would be completed. Scott was not aware the projects for the water trail were the priority over the park projects and work. Bill Carlblom stated if everything went as presented, then the park would help take care of it. If the time didn't allow, the water trail projects would be put on the side. The county's priority is the county's two parks. If the time constraints allow the time, then work at the other entities and water trail will be worked on. Bobby wanted to retire. He did ask if he could help finish up the grant projects, which is great. What does the park board want to handle when another project comes up? We take on the other projects from other entities as we can. Trees at Monson Park are required to be maintained. The expectation is to mow more than one path in and out of Monson Park. Pete is fine with a path in and out. Jamie Smith reported Bobby wanted the highway department to bring the dozer, bobcat and do excavation and leveling. She doesn't want to start opening a hill slide. Kathryn Dam bathroom has been cleaned and trash has been taken out from all winter. There isn't a lot of clarity as to what to commit to. Park staff can help install kayak launches at County 46 and Kathryn Dam but then are roped into maintaining bathrooms and keeping it in prime condition and mowing. Staff may not always be available to provide work cleaning the areas during the prime season. We will have a better idea after partnering through the summer. The county will make priorities for the parks first and sometimes priorities need to change according to the traffic coming and going through the parks. Sometimes priorities change daily. Water trail projects will be completed as time allows. When Caden goes back to college and Jason goes back to teaching and it's just Scott, it's going to take more time to get things done.

The majority of Little Yellowstone is 100% open with a small portion of fine cleanup to finish up. Clausen Springs is approximately 80% open. Tree piles are there waiting to be removed or burned. The bathroom facility opened with no damage or issues.

Equipment maintenance has been done and the supply order should be here this week.

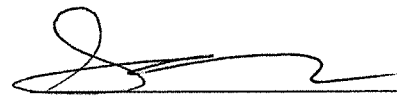
Trees not hanging over roadways or campsites had to be left. Wood stumps had to be ground to ground level. The wood burn pile had to be surveyed for cultural or historical values.

Duane Peterson has been in to do some maintenance. There is a bill for skid steer use putting docks in and pushing tree piles together.

Scott would like to plan to replace the tractor that was at the park with another tractor. Tree removal this year was done with a pickup and trailer. Scott will do some research. It is the park's responsibility to install the launch at Faust Park and Clausen Springs Park.

With no other business, Dallas Dockter made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Shawn Olauson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 am.

  
Julie Mindt  
Barnes County Auditor

  
Scott Kohler  
Barnes County Park Board