

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, March 14, 2022
Boone County courthouse 4th floor conference room and via Zoom

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Greg Stotts, Marilyn Jordan, Pat Hagan, Brandon Moe
Employees present: Ex. Dir. Katie Healy

Chair Jordan officially called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Ex. Dir. Healy requested to remove agenda item #11, approval of an MOU, as we are still waiting on this item. Stotts then made a motion to approve the agenda as amended (with the item removed), 2nd by Moe. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of previous meeting (March 7, 2022) made by Stotts, seconded by Moe. Motion passed.

To accommodate the guests in the audience, the board then proceeded to agenda item #6 next – discussion of the public forum scheduled for April 5 at 6pm – location change. The Leonard Good Community Center in Ogden is available that day and is a bigger facility than the Don Williams Lodge by the Lake. Due to high interest shown in the event and expected attendance size, the Board approved the location change to the Leonard Good Community Center.

Audience member Kevin Porter then presented an updated potential Don Williams clubhouse design by R.H. Grabau Construction company. The original design was done a few years ago in 2017. Mr. Porter noted that this is a concept drawing only and could be further changed. Changes made from the earlier design included: the lower level (basement) “community room” will not be finished (can be finished at a later date) – it will be one big open room with plumbing rough-ins. This removes part of the cost from the earlier design. The new, updated price comes to \$729,500. There is an option to not include a kitchen, but that will mean no concessionaire; the county would have to run it with just county employees as a golf clubhouse (for cart rentals/ paying for golf) only. There are a few other options to lower the cost slightly using volunteers to do things like the painting. A 3rd option is to remove the bathroom accessories to cut a few thousand dollars from the price. These prices do not include any costs for demolition of the existing building. The idea is to build the new building in a slightly different location and keep the current building operational until the new one is finished. We would then need to figure out demolition of the current building.

Mr. Porter also presented an idea for additional new infrastructure – the construction of an additional cart shed. He noted that there is a long waiting list for the current cart shed and presented a plan to build a new cart shed for \$87,650. If filled, this would generate \$5700 per year income to the county.

Options for moving forward on something like this include: 1) use this design, 2) pay a design company to design what we want then put that out for bid to construction companies, or 3) solicit bids for design and construction and then choose from the designs/prices that each company quotes in their bid.

Mr. Porter advocates for the board presenting the full \$817,000 for the clubhouse and cart shed to the board of supervisors at Wednesday’s meeting.

Move to Open Discussion – Audience members asked about the status of the clubhouse for this year. Ex. Dir. Healy shared that so far we don't have any applicants for the clubhouse concessionaire. A question was asked about the status of an operations manager/ greenskeeper for this year. Ex. Dir. Healy stated that we have someone in line to be hired for Park Ranger that will oversee the golf course. Our operations manager just resigned, so we need to hire a new one. The audience and board then discussed/shared ideas about options for if we can't find a concessionaire. This could include hiring seasonal staff to just take money for golf/carts and only have a few snacks for sale, no alcohol. The group discussed having volunteers run tournaments. One visitor noted that several city-run golf courses don't have full kitchens. More discussion of the golf course continued with the suggestion from the Board to have volunteers form a committee/ "friends group" to help with course maintenance and fundraising. Another visitor wanted to talk about dock rental fees and how they went up significantly this year. She also had complaints about weeds not being trimmed along the docks. A request was made to add a 2nd porta-pottie by the docks/ boat launch by the lake. Ex. Dir. Healy will look into this. An audience member stated that a state-wide golf group that travels around to different courses is scheduled to come to Don Williams twice this year. Ex. Dir. Healy was not aware of this and asked for contact info of the organizer to be shared.

Following the conclusion of open discussion, the Board then returned to our outstanding regular agenda items:

Ex. Dir. Healy presented the monthly bills totaling \$6,416.80. Motion made by Stotts to approve the bills, seconded by Moe. Passed.

New Business

Operations manager Eric Fisher resigned to take a new job in Greene County. We will need to have interviews to hire a new Operations manager.

The board reviewed the final language for Resolution-2022-1 to implement a wage step increase to salaries and a protocol for county-owned residences. The county attorney has now reviewed and approved this language. Moe made a motion to approve and Stotts seconded. Motion passed.

We have selected a Naturalist candidate and a Park Ranger candidate to hire. The park ranger candidate is not yet certified for law enforcement in Iowa and will need to go thru the academy next January-April.

Motion to adjourn by Stotts, 2nd by Hagan. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Marilyn Jordan, Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary