

Boone County Conservation Board regular meeting
Monday, October 10, 2022
Swede Pointe Park shelter house

Members present: Jennifer Schieltz, Brandon Moe, Pat Hagan

Members absent: Greg Stotts, Marilyn Jordan

Employees present: Ex. Dir. Katie Healy, Rangers Blayne Sunstrom and Cooper Sanor,
Naturalist Kyle Neuendorf

Acting chair Hagan officially called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Moe made a motion to approve the agenda, 2nd by Schieltz. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting made by Moe, seconded by Hagan.
Motion passed.

Ex. Dir. Healy presented the monthly bills totaling \$23,275.50. Motion made by Moe to approve the bills, seconded by Schieltz. Passed.

Old Business

Ex. Dir. Healy gave a Boone County Trails Advisory Committee update. Section 1A of the new bike trail from Highway 210 up to the edge of Swede Pointe Park is complete. We could see it driving into the park today. The fence has been installed separating the trail from the adjacent field. Section 1B to bring this trail all the way into Swede Pointe Park is on hold until next year due to delays in approval for a Rec & Trails grant. The county supervisors have approved ARPA dollars to match a Fareway grant, so the trail will eventually come all the way into the park.

New Business

Bill Greiser gave an update on behalf of the Friends of Don Williams Golf Course group. They met last Wednesday at the clubhouse. They would still like a board member to visit with Randy Johnson, the clubhouse concessionaire, to do a year-end review and listen to his feedback and hear about how to help him. Two board members have been trying to get in touch with Randy and are having trouble connecting. The board will keep following up and hope to meet with him before the next meeting. Bill asked if there is any update on the clubhouse. Member Hagan met with one of the county supervisors to show a sketch of what we would like for a clubhouse building. The supervisor was supportive and took this to the assistant county engineer who will look at it and get back to us to let us know the next steps to move forward toward the bidding process. Bill also asked about irrigation on the course. Ranger Sanor noted that he had a consultant come out to the course and look at what we have and take measurements to prepare a quote for a new system, so the board can then consider this. We are still waiting for this quote. Our current system was working up until last week, but the mechanical seal at the pump went bad. Repairs on this are ongoing and it should be back up and running tomorrow. Bill requested that trash barrels in the cart shed be emptied and pin cups be changed out more often. Ranger Sanor said he will take care of this. He is still new to the job and has been learning a lot and is very optimistic that he will be able to hit the ground running next spring. The Friends group is trying to schedule a cleanup day on the course for October 29 to get out dead trees. They are also

willing to replace rotten bridge planks if we can provide new planks. They recommend we raise the rates on Wednesdays for next year to help cut back on unruly groups on the course, which has been causing issues lately, in their opinion.

Naturalist Kyle Neuendorf gave his quarterly naturalist update for June – August 2022. Summer Library programs went well. This year's theme was "Read Beyond the Beaten Path". Summer group programs ranged from fishing to archery to bird watching and hiking with various school groups. Summer public programming included reptile and owl programs. He attended a large number of outreach events such as Ogden Fun Days and the Boone County Fair. He also started some new events this year, including the "Rockin' in the Outdoors Day" at Don Williams and a booth at the Madrid Farmers Market. Altogether this served over 1800 visitors! He is continuing to promote our work via social media. In between education programs he has been working on prairie seed collection, invasive honeysuckle removal, and mapping bluebird houses. He noted that Mike from the bait shop has been donating bait for the derby, but is retiring. So if you know of anyone wanting to get into the bait shop business, let us know.

This past Saturday was Hawk Watch at the High Trestle Trail. Kyle also recently had ~400 4th grade students at Swede Pointe Park for Outdoor Classroom. Planning for fall into winter programming is ongoing.

Park Closure information: Randy and Mark are going to close the clubhouse a few days early this year on October 12. The last night for camping at Don Williams will be Saturday, Oct 15. We have a lot of ash trees that need to come down around the park and operations manager Zach will be winterizing water lines. Swede Pointe will stay open a bit longer. Notice will be posted a few days before closing once a date is determined for Swede Pointe camping.

Other Board Discussion: Ex. Dir. Healy shared a photo of the County Conservation Peace Officers Association (CCPOA) conference which takes place each fall. This includes firearms training and certification as well as comradery and sharing of ideas between members. The board looked over the county Outside Employment Policy. Employees have been made aware of this policy. One of our employees does have outside employment, but the Ex. Dir. is confident there are no conflicts.

Member Moe noted that he thinks we should move forward soon with auctioning our old or unused equipment to make space in the storage sheds and make a little revenue from them.

Motion to adjourn by Hagan, 2nd by Moe. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Pat Hagan, acting Chair

Jennifer Schieltz, Secretary