

**MINUTES
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
LAKES AND LANDS COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY April 21st, 2021**

A Regular Called Meeting of the Lakes and Lands Commission was held Wednesday, April 21st, at the Lawton Public Library, Meeting Room and was called to order at 4:15 p.m. Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall bulletin board as required by state law.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sean Fortenbaugh, Dustin Hilliary, Austin Rabon, Mark Scott, Donald Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: JC Grayson

STAFF PRESENT: Jeffery Temple, Parks and Recreation Director; Keith Neitzke, Parks and Grounds Administrator; Jim Bonnarens, Lakes Maintenance Supervisor; Katisha Wiley sitting in for Misty Roberts, Lakes Admin Asst. II; Juan Rodriguez, Campground fee collector/code enforcement

OTHERS PRESENT: NONE

Fortenbaugh asked for considerations of the minutes from the Regular Called Meeting January 15th, 2020 regular called meeting. There was no discussion and a motion by **Fortenbaugh and a second by Rabon to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously for the approval of the minutes above mentioned minutes.**

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote on Chair and Co-Chair: Chair – Sean Fortenbaugh Co-Chair – Mark Scott

1. Discuss codes pertaining to the boathouses and compliance inspections.

Bonnarens states that the new hire for the Lakes Division Juan Rodriguez was hired in October 2020 to replace Sonya Jones who had passes away in June 2020. He was hired to be the camping fee collector and do boathouse compliance inspections/code enforcement. All boathouse information has been handled in town at Owens, payments were taken but there was never any follow through with contractual owners or to see if the boathouses were up to code. Bonnarens states that in meetings with Bart Hadley, the assistant City Manager, made it very clear that we like codes and that we will be following the codes as outlined in section 19-5. Hadley stated that we are going to follow code as they are currently that have been approved by city council. Juan has spent numerous hours sending notifications to let boathouse owners know that as of starting this fall that boathouse compliance inspections will start. The inspections will run October – December by appointment and will be done in accordance with city code. In order for a permit to be issued a yearly boathouse permit which run Jan. 1 – Dec. 31st the boathouses will have to pass inspections. If the boathouse does not pass inspections the yearly permit will not be re-issued until it can pass inspection.

It was asked by a commission member if the codes were posted online anywhere.

Bonnarens stated that you could find the codes on the COL website – government – city codes - 19-5.

A commission member asked if we had problems that prompted that inspections start taking place.

Bonnarens stated that we have never been allowed to inspect. When we have been able get to inspect one due to it being in such poor repair, it is a safety hazard to our municipal water supply, and we end up having to fish something out of the lake. We give courtesy calls when we have high winds due to cables and walkways breaking loose and banging into other boathouses which is not the liability of the city. When we see something

that is really in need of repair, we have tried phone people give them a heads up that the boathouse needs major repair and have not been successful in the follow through according to the code.

A commission member asked if they expect a lot of problems with boathouses not passing inspections.

Bonnarens answered yes.

A commission member asked what happens if they don't pass inspection?

Bonnarens answered quoting city code 19-5-506 **"The city, prior to issuance of the dock unit permit, shall inspect each unit for fitness, safety, structural and electrical soundness, state of repairs and general appearance. When necessary, other inspections may be made by the city at any time and repairs may be ordered. The city shall have the authority to require reasonable repairs to be accomplished within thirty (30) days. Failure of the dock unit to meet requirements within the period outlined will result in an order of the removal or forfeiture conditions following procedures as outlined under subsection A of Section 19-504 of this code. In cases of emergency, where safety to the dock unit, other buildings or persons or property require that modifications or changes be made immediately, the city licensing officer shall have the authority to declare an emergency and order changes in a time period less than that outlined above."**

Bonnarens states that some of this is vague and that is what we are wanting to discuss so that we can get a clear idea of how to follow the code.

Temple states that if the board would like to look over the current code and make some recommendations we would look over at the next meeting in July.

Fortenbaugh asked if the lakes division was going to be flexible when scheduling appointments due to people working throughout the weekdays. Are there going to be weekend inspections.

Bonnarens stated yes one the camping season slows down; Juan will be making weekend inspections appointments.

2. Discuss and take action on allowing tent camping at RV spots during the off season.

Bonnarens stated that the last L & L meeting, it was discussed not having tents on the east campground. Only allowing a tent if the RV was there first. We have gone through one season seeing how that works and the results have been good. When the off-season hits in October we would like to have the discretion to allow tent camping on RV sites. If the tent campers are camping on an RV site, they will be charged the same price as the RV.

It was discussed if this would become a code or if it would be an administrative decision.

Temple states that this is an administrative policy and if the commission agrees, and it makes sense you use the commonsense law, and it doesn't need to go to council.

It must be made clear to the campers that the tents are still not allowed to hold spots but we allow them to camp with their tents during the off season on RV spots.

A motion was by Scott and a second by Rabon to allow tent camping on the RV spots during the off season. Aye: Fortenbaugh, Hilliary, Smith, Rabon, Scott NAY: None MOTION CARRIED

3. Discuss and take action on giving the Lakes staff the ability to have discretion during the camping season (March 1-October 1) to allow tents/RV's longer stays depending on occupancy.

Commission members discussed this item and if we would move the dates or call it "low occupancy, high occupancy" camping seasons. One member stated that you would then run into the problem with not setting a date. You can't set a date for discretion.

This item was not voted on and will be revisited later.

4. Only allowing 1 RV per spot at ALL of Lake Lawtonka and one tent but tent will pay what the site fee is.

Bonnarens states that you can bring 1 RV and 1 tent and not to exceed that limit. The RV must be on the site first to eliminate the holding of spots that the campers used to do. The one RV per spot is due to electrical issues that the campgrounds started to have when they could have 2 RV's and tents on site. Robinson's Landing did not have that issue due to how it was constructed and how close the pads are to each other.

A motion was made Fortenbaugh and a second by Rabon to allow only 1 RV per spot and 1 tent at all of Lake Lawtonka. AYE: Fortenbaugh, Hilliary, Smith, Rabon, Scott NAY: None

5. Discuss and take action on the kiosk project.

Temple states that he is trying to create a business enterprise at Lake Lawtonka recreations area. You go to any state, county or federal park, you are going to pay to get in. You may only pay \$5.00, or you may pay \$15.00 in

some places. Our goal is to be self-sufficient. We are making probably making a 1/5th of what we should be making at that facility just on camping. Temple explains that they are going to lock the two south gates going into the east campground and the third opening is where the entrance to the day use and camping will be at. The Kiosk will be placed at day use area and one going into the campgrounds. Eventually we are going to charge for every vehicle to enter the lake. \$10.00 per vehicle is what they will be asking, and think is fair. \$10.00 per vehicle going into the day use area. If camping with an RV you will pay the additional camping as you enter. If camping with a tent, the \$10.00 is included. The time expected to do this is by October.

Temple stated that this is going to be a recommendation to City council

Fortenbaugh asked where is the funding for this project coming from?

Temple answered that right now he must find it. Temple estimates this will cost between \$30-40,000.00.

A commission member asked if there would be a seasonal pass.

Temple answered that they would be looking into it.

Temple stated that this will be a process and that we are looking into taking reservations and having Wifi throughout the campgrounds. Temple stated that these are just a few of the improvements that they will be looking into for the future of the campground and the lakes division being self-sufficient.

A member asked how are the golf carts, etc. going to be controlled coming in from the south?

Temple states that there are going to be some stumbling blocks and kinks that are going to need to be worked out. Temple states that if you are going to use the lake you are going to pay to use it.

There was not a vote on this item, but Jeffery Temple stated that he would take this to the City Council as a recommendation from Lakes and Land Commission.

6. Discuss and take action on the new campground fees.

There was discussion on what the new camping fees would be and it was agreed upon on to raise the fees.

Camping fees have not been raised since 2015. Commission members stated that with the increase of fee's that they would like and campers would like to see improvements on the campgrounds for the increase of cost.

The new fees would be: \$25.00 a night for preferred spots, \$20.00 a night for non-preferred spots, \$15.00 a night for seniors/disabled on non-preferred spots only. \$10.00 per night for tents in the ponds/primitive camping field.

\$35.00 per day for the Group Use areas.

There was discussion on what the preferred (lake front) and non-preferred (off the lake front) sites were.

A motion was made by Fortenbaugh to raise the camping fees and a second by Hilliary.

Aye: Fortenbaugh, Hilliary, Smith, Rabon, Scott NAY: None

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Reports from Parks and Grounds Director, Jeffery Temple – No report

B. Reports from Parks and Grounds Administrator, Keith Neitzke – No Report

C. Reports from the Lakes Division Supervisor, Jim Bonnarens – No report

D. Reports from Lake Patrol Staff, Lt. Brad Davis – No report

-COMMENTS/DISCUSSION/ADJOURNMENT

There were no other reports, correspondence, or discussion and the meeting adjourned by unanimous decision of the Commission at 5:15 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE
LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, SEAN FORTENBAUGH