

Minutes of the Meeting: March 7, 2024

Board members present: Brian Wetcher, JoAnn York-Gilmore, Tabb Stringer, Nathan Schwarck

Staff present: Bob Vaux, Jamie Burroughs, Darby Jordan

Meeting held in person and via Zoom and called to order at 6:01PM

Minutes: February minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comments:

Mark Nihart asked about the timeline for the Board to review the ACFL budget and project list. Bob responded that the budget is about \$1600 per year for supplies. The budget goes through the council approval process which is all open for public review and comment. Mark feels that if the budget had been reviewed, there would not have been the questioning and speculation about the Little Cranberry project. Mark requested that the budget be reviewed quarterly and give the public opportunities to fundraise for projects.

Mark also asked about the Heart Lake master plan and why there has been no movement on this project. Bob shared that for that project to get started there needs to be grants and available matching funds. At this time, the parks department are using reserve funds just to keep staff employed. There are no excess funds available.

Brian shared that there was no taxpayer money used for the Little Cranberry project and that had been shared by staff and the Board numerous times previously.

Marlene Finely shared a handout (attached) with her suggestions for organizing the new Forest Plan as well as a proposed structure for the Forest Board meetings going forward. She suggested that the Board review other existing plans for other local municipalities.

2026 Forest Plan Update Discussion:

Bob shared that staff has reviewed all comments received and moved all plan based information to a matrix. This matrix was shared with the Board and the public in attendance. It is posted to the Parks website under "What's Happening".

The Board expressed thanks for the presentation and then discussed the next steps needed. It was decided that the Board will each review the comments and come to the April meeting with thoughts and concerns. Bob will come to the April meeting with options for the next steps in the process as well.

Friends of the Forest Update:

Katie shared that they completed their second stewardship hike with an invasive species pull. The next work party will be on March 23rd from 9-noon

with Parks staff. The Naturalist Club just started and have 18 people enrolled. They are also starting the Forest Camp for kids.

Staff Reports:

Bob had nothing to add to his report. He mentioned that the upcoming work parties are March 9th with the Fidalgo Trail Riders, and then the 23rd with the Friends of the Forest.

Parks Commission Report:

JoAnn reported on the Parks Board meeting. She shared that the agenda packet has the most up to date information. The March parks Board will be taking public comment on the NW corner of Storvik park.

Other Business:

None

Adjourn at 8:06pm

Respectfully Submitted by Darby Jordan