

**CARBON COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2021**

The September 27, 2021 special meeting of the Carbon County Parks and Recreation Commission was held at the Carbon County Environmental Center beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present – Thomas Wildoner, Chairman; Earl Henninger, Vice-Chairman; Richard Forgay II, Secretary; Robert Sikorsky, Member.

Park Staff Present – David Horvath, Park Director.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – Mr. Wildoner called the meeting to order and led the group in pledging allegiance to the American flag.

SPECIAL ACTIVITY REQUESTS – A request was submitted by Brandyn Miller, Treasurer & Lights Committee Chair, on behalf of Raising the House for a Lights in the Lake Holiday Drive-Through Light Display at Mauch Chunk Lake Park on November 26, 27, 28th; December 03, 04, 05, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 26th, and Jan 01, 02nd. Mr. Horvath reported that approval letters have been submitted from both Summit Hill and Jim Thorpe Borough, as well as, a Certificate of Insurance from Raising the House and Rileighs Outdoor Décor as required per Section 2 – Special Conditions of the Special Activity Request.

Mr. Wildoner stated to the board members that he had concerns with how much volunteer help and how many experienced fire police will be available for traffic flow and direction into and exiting the park especially given the time of year and with the lack of lighting along Lentz Trail and through the park. Mr. Henninger felt that flood lights and signage could possibly be used to alert motorists at night. Mr. Wildoner noted that temperatures will be low and felt that recruiting help around the holidays will be difficult. Mr. Wildoner stated that he would like to know how many volunteers and fire police have committed to the event thus far. Mr. Henninger felt that the collection of fees could occur at the end of the route and not the beginning to help alleviate traffic concerns coming off Lentz Trail.

Mr. Forgay questioned why the agreement includes Christmas Eve which was not supposed to be one of the dates requested. Mr. Forgay stated that he has concerns with how things seem to be changing from the original proposal that was presented to the board at the August meeting. Mr. Horvath noted that the Raising the House is also requesting use of electricity at the restroom/shower facilities and first two pavilions. Mr. Horvath reported that they would like to reduce the number of generators that are needed from eight to six if possible. Mr. Wildoner stated that he would not want the restroom facilities opened once winterized for the season. Mr. Henninger preferred that electric cords be run through the floor vents with the buildings locked in the event that electricity is provided. Mr. Henninger felt that fire extinguishers should also be on hand for the generators.

Mr. Sikorsky questioned whether Workers Compensation costs would be factored into expenses for the event should an employee be injured. Mr. Horvath stated that he was unsure. Mr. Sikorsky stated that he felt that the park was never intended for commercialized use by a for profit business. Mr. Forgay agreed with Mr. Sikorsky and was concerned with setting a precedence for other businesses and organizations to profit from the park. Mr. Henninger felt that the park should be receiving compensation from the lighting company and suggested that the County acquire a car counter to track nightly attendance. Mr. Sikorsky stated that he felt that the park should be strictly for the recreational uses in which the park was intended, such as camping, swimming, fishing, and boating. Mr. Forgay stated that he felt the same.

Mr. Forgay questioned whether the drive-through route in the park included the lower portion of the camping

area including the cabin loop. Mr. Horvath reported that the route through the camping area included only the top portion of the camping area. Mr. Horvath distributed a map for the board members to review. Mr. Forgay stated that he was more comfortable with only the top portion of the camping area, but would prefer if the route would stay strictly to the main paved road.

Mr. Forgay stated that although he would have liked to have additional information he would be open to approving the request with the understanding that the Parks Commission still has questions and concerns relating to several safety and logistical factors. Mr. Henninger and Mr. Wildoner agreed and would have liked to have more information available. Mr. Sikorsky stated that he was opposed to the request.

Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Forgay to approve the request based on strict adherence to the submitted special request and documented special conditions addendum with the understanding that the Commission does have serious concerns for several safety, security and logistical factors not clarified in documented form. The motion was seconded by Mr. Henninger. Mr. Forgay and Mr. Henninger were in favor of the motion. Mr. Wildoner and Mr. Sikorsky were opposed.

Mr. Wildoner advised Mr. Horvath to submit the board members positions and concerns to the County Commissioners for review.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion made at 3:50 p.m. by Mr. Henninger to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Sikorsky. All board members were in favor.

Richard Forgay II, Secretary