

**Kickapoo Reserve Management Board
Meeting Minutes for May 16, 2024**

Kickapoo Valley Reserve Visitor Center

In Person Attendance: Scott Lind, Julie Hoel, Reggie Nelson, Joel Charles

On Zoom Attendance: AJ Mann, Barb Sarnowski

Staff in Person: Jason Leis, Jackie Yocum, Christian Malanka

Audience: Lonnie Muller, Episcopo

I. Open Session – Call to Order 6pm by Chair Scott Lind: 6pm

Approval of Agenda - **Motion by Charles, 2nd by Nelson; All in favor – motion carries.**

Land Acknowledgement Statement – Read by Lind

Public Posting Compliance – Leis: It was publicly posted as required.

Public Input: No requests.

II. Consent Agenda

Minutes from April 16 meeting - **Motion to accept as written by Hoel, 2nd by Charles; All in favor - AYE– Motion carries.**

III. Decision/Discussion Items

1, Decisions brought forward for the use of Friend of KVR money. Discussion and decisions listed on each individual item.

- A. Electric Car Charging Station: Discussion. Leis: Per statute - SOW can own but not charge money for an electric car charging station. Lind: Vernon Electric may be the entity to place and maintain the station. Nelson: Request to have an agreement or MOU with Vernon Electric Cooperative to ensure precedence isn't set pertaining to for profit entities allowing for the ability to conduct business and profit off the KVR. Charles: Rural Cooperatives like Vernon Electric may require a different agreement than for profit business.

Motion by Hoel: An electric vehicle charging station project be taken off the Friends of KVR funding list and supported by KRMB with the stipulation that the unit is owned and operated by Vernon Electric Cooperative and that KRMB incurs minimal cost for installation. 2nd by Charles, All in favor – AYE – Motion carries.

Discussion

- B. Website Upgrade: Leis: Estimate of \$15,000 total (+/- \$7,500 per website) to redesign KVR and Friends of KVR websites. Best practice, bids should be obtained from 3 different providers even though FoKVR would be funding the project.
- C. Set aside Habitat Improvement grant matching funds to be made available as grants are identified and become available for habitat improvement and invasive removal projects identified by staff.

- D. Hwy 131 Widening: Not appropriate for Friends of KVR funds. To be supported by KRMB.
- E. Visitor Center Roof: Not appropriate for Friends of KVR funds. To be supported by KRMB.
- F. 24 Hour Reservation Kiosk: Not a priority currently. Upgrade on website may improve any customer access issues.
- G. Bus Scholarships: Hoel: Need to stabilize staffing instructors before providing bus scholarships to increase program numbers. Remove from list.
- H. 2nd Intern for Education Program: Charles: Is this needed? Hoel: One time use of funds, not a good use. Remove from list.
- I. Bike Repair Station: Keep on list.
- J. Dark Sky Exhibit Improvement: Funds held by Friends already allocated for this project. Additional funds are not necessary currently.
- K. Visitor Center Pollinator Project Interactive Kiosk: KRMB supported.
- L. Addition to the list, Dark Sky Lighting Upgrade: Lind: Outdoor lighting and fixtures at Visitor Center need to be upgraded to be dark sky compliant. Approximate cost \$3000-\$4000

Motion by Charles to move forward with the following:

Websites (KVR & FoKVR): \$15,000 total

Habitat Improvement and Restoration Matching Funds for grants: \$10,000

Dark Sky Lighting Upgrade: \$4000

Bike Repair Station: \$2000

2nd by Nelson. All in favor – AYE- Motion carries

2. Campsite unit capacity limit policy

Discussion: Land Management recommendation: To define campsite size including dimensions and require all camping units stay within the designated boundaries of the campsite.

Motion by Hoel to define campsite size including dimensions and require all camping units stay within the designated boundaries of the campsite. 2nd by Charles. All in favor – AYE – Motion carries.

3. Campsite D Reorganization

Discussion: Reconfigure existing area to add 4 sites to the existing 4 sites – total of 8, 10-person max self-contained unit campsites to the existing space. Better define site dimensions.

Motion by Charles to reconfigure existing area to include 4 additional sites to the existing 4 sites – total of 8, 10-person max self-contained unit campsites. 2nd by Nelson. All in favor - AYE - Motion carries

IV. Friends of KVR update –Meeting is Tuesday May 24. No Friends members present for update.

V. Education and Tourism Committee Update – No meeting since last KRMB meeting. No update.

VI. Finance Committee- No meeting since last KRMB. No update.

VII. Land Management Committee – Recommendation for the ability to charge a cleaning fee for campsites left unclean or damaged. **Add item to the next KRMB agenda.**

VIII. Law Enforcement Update – Leis: Emergency operations policy in draft form. The policies will be presented at a future meeting. Officer Kahabka resigned, took a position out of state. Position is advertised and no applicants so far. Camera equipment has arrived, and training is underway. Patrols are increasing with the busy season as more people frequent the property.

IX. Other Issues/Future Agenda Items: Hoel: Request for update on land swap on Lisney Road. Leis: Attorney Nate has not moved forward with any decisions. Plan to hire an assessor because it will need to be done to forward the process. Lind: No response from attorney on Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) land requisition, Ad Hoc questions, KRMB should explore alternative legal advice. Leis: MVC transfer is close to being complete. Hoel: Has more construction work been done on Lisney property after KRMB directive to stop construction on KVR land. Malanka: Work has been done on personal property. Would a lease be appropriate? Charles: Maybe more challenging to enter a lease than to just finish the transaction. Lind: Asked Jason to reach out to attorney supervisor and see what additional resources are available for KRMB to move project along. Nelson: Request for KRMB annual Field Trip at June 2024 meeting. Lind: June meeting will need to include election of officers in short in session prior to the field trip. Leis: Downing will not be available on the 20th, requested to move meeting to 6/13 or 6/27. Lind: Will not continue serving as an officer. Suggests moving the meeting to 6/27 at 6pm. Election of officers to be held prior to the field trip.

Motion to enter closed session by Lind, 2nd by Charles. All in favor – AYE- Motion carries

Convene to open session. Motion to adjourn by Charles, 2nd by Nelson. All in favor – AYE- Motion carries

Minutes transcribed by J. Yocum 6/21/24