

MEEKER COUNTY PARK BOARD COMMISSION MINUTES

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Present: Braden Piram, Lorlane 'Butch' Schmeling, Paul Fank, Bob Pederson, and Roger Ekert

Absent: Kim Ertl, Don Konietzko

Butch Schmeling called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

A motion was made by Roger Ekert to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, meeting, with one clarification point about the Stockade loan total being \$6,000.00, seconded by Paul Fank. Motion carried.

1. Stockade Operation Discussion

- a. Brady is planning to invite some of the key volunteers from the Stockade in May. This gives both the group of volunteers and the county a chance to get a few details figured out and key questions identified before meeting jointly.
- b. A few areas of concern, need for further clarification, or topics to address with the Stockade volunteers, are as follows:
 - i. School tours: Someone with a solid knowledge of the Stockade and the time period needs to be identified. Possibly, Dale Root would be a good option to approach.
 - ii. Who the vendors for events typically are.
 - iii. Do volunteers sign an insurance liability waiver, or do they take out any type of additional insurance policy for events and or volunteers?
 - iv. The remaining \$6,000.00 loan balance.
 - v. Ongoing project and maintenance needs.

2. Koronis Staff Update

- a. The advertising for the position was extended due to a low candidate pool and applicants not meeting the requirements.
- b. Brady will be interviewing candidates on Friday.
- c. The pay rate is low for the expectations of the position, and the lack of health benefits due to the seasonal employment.
- d. Depending on interviews, the position may need to be readvertised.
- e. If a candidate is not hired soon, the Meeker County Parks staff will have to add Koronis into their rotation and/or work with Stearns County to help provide joint coverage. There is also the possibility of billing Stearns for additional time and equipment expenses incurred by Meeker County.

3. Campground Opening

- a. \$31,000.00 on opening day in reservation sales. This is a new record, but in part to the new price increase.
- b. Seasonal sites are sold out.
- c. Brady is exploring the possibility of putting all shelter reservations online, including Koronis and all other parks in the county.
- d. The new mower is planned to be purchased, a JD X738, for \$16,130.27
- e. We are still waiting to hear from the DNR on the proposed boat landing contract. The current delay may be regarding rumors of ancient Indian burial grounds on the property.

4. General Park Updates

- a. Started spring cleanup with usual tasks.

- b. The dock at Spring Lake Park will be re-decked.
- c. The new tables have been built and are being switched out.
- d. Some of the swimming buoys had to be replaced due to theft and damage.
- e. The shelters and restrooms will be washed out.
- f. The new JD Gator was delivered to Koronis, and the old Koronis one was relocated to the park shop, with the oldest one being used for trade-in.
- g. The new play structure for West Ripley is currently on hold while groups are identified to try to secure donations to help offset the cost.

5. Disc Golf Statistics

- a. Shane shared some statistics with Brady from a disc golf app that tracks course and user statistics.
- b. The course at Thompson Park is rated "high," 264 out of 430 courses in the state.
- c. 670 players have used the course this past year, according to the app.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:19 a.m. by Roger Ekert, seconded by Paul Fank. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Braden Piram, Meeker County Parks Manager