

Abstract of the Minutes of the State Board of Conservation

ISSN 0003-4827

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Recommended Citation

"Abstract of the Minutes of the State Board of Conservation." *The Annals of Iowa* 13 (1923), 625-629.

Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0003-4827.4707>

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important public position was in 1890 when he was appointed the First District member of the Iowa Commission to the Columbian Exposition at Chicago. When the commission met in September he was elected its president, but died May 17, 1891.

The great influence that Mr. Johnstone attained in the territory when he was so young indicates that, as some of his friends have said, he could have reached almost any position in public affairs in state or nation if his tastes and ambitions had led him on. When but little over twenty-four years of age he became speaker of the lower branch of the legislative assembly, and at the same age by general consent it was he who led in the call for the first Democratic convention in the territory which soon became the state. When such leadership was freely given to so young a man it must have been, as Dr. Shaffer intimates, because of his commanding ability, character, and personality.

The next day after his death the eloquent Sam M. Clark said editorially in the Keokuk *Gate City*, "The kingliest man in Iowa is dead."

ABSTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF THE STATE BOARD OF CONSERVATION

November 10, 1922

Motions.—Motions in substance as follows were passed: That all plans for the restoration of the barracks at Fort Atkinson be referred to the Board before construction is begun; that Mr. Harlan be authorized to spend not to exceed \$30.00 in photostatting government records touching matters of interest to the Board; that the improvement of the tract of land owned by the state between East Okoboji and Spirit lakes be deferred until April, 1923.

Resolutions.—Resolutions were adopted in substance as follows: That the local committee of Eldora who desire to establish a golf course on the margin of Eldora-Steamboat Rock Park, using a few acres of the park land therefor, be allowed to proceed with their plan of organization, and that they submit to the Board their proposed rules and a map of the proposed course showing the location and amount of park land they want to use; that T. F. Lynch of Pocahontas who desires to put in a cement dam or bulkhead to prevent the run-off from Lizard Lake, so as to maintain the water and preserve the lake, if he procure plans and specifications and assure the state against damage by the construction, that he be allowed to proceed,

Miscellaneous.—W. G. Gordon and W. H. Biederman of Estherville appeared and reported that they had secured options on a considerable tract near Estherville for a park to be known as Fort Defiance Park and that they will contribute \$750 on the purchase price, as well as take care of numerous expenses; Mr. Harlan was authorized to ascertain the price of the Morehouse map of Backbone Park; Dr. Pammel was asked to try to get the authorities to build roads leading to Pilot Knob Park, and in case they are built then the state will build roads inside the park; A. M. Thurtle presented the claims of Dexfield Park; Dr. Pammel presented reports on Clear Lake and Sunk Grove Lake.

December 15, 1922

Motions.—Motions in substance as follows were adopted: That the secretary ascertain from the Fish and Game Department what work if any the state had done on the Morehouse map of Backbone Park; that Prof. Pfister's plans and report on the road system for Pilot Knob Park be approved; that Custodian Taylor of Pilot Knob Park be directed to make out a requisition for such tools as he needs, sending it to the secretary, who, when approved by the Board, will forward same to the State Highway Commission; that the employment of B. W. Preston, Jr., as stenographer in the secretary's office, be extended to December 15; that the secretary be directed to enquire if the owner of the land at the outlet of Lost Island Lake will concede the right of the state to enter on the same and construct a dam, and whether citizens of the vicinity will contribute to the expense of making a dam.

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That the Board approves the building of a tool house at Pilot Knob Park and that President Pammel and Professor Piester be asked to designate a location for the structure.

Reports.—Reports in substance as follows were made: Mr. Haskell reported he and Secretary of State Ramsay visited the Fort Defiance area and that he thought the Board should take over not to exceed fifty acres, ten acres of which was to be given the state, and the balance to be secured at approximately \$65.00 per acre, and the Estherville people to contribute one half thereof; Mrs. McNider reported concerning Fort Atkinson that in her opinion the Board should recommend to the Executive Council that the local committee be reimbursed for their purchase of the James tract, and the report was adopted; Senator Haskell filed a copy of a report on Lost Island Lake recommending the purchase of some twenty-seven acres on the east side of the lake for \$8,289, of which local citizens will contribute \$1,000, and also contribute land for a road to the park, etc.

Miscellaneous.—Messrs. Wardle and Hull inquire what will be the attitude of the Board toward an application of the Iowa Light and Power Company in its application to construct a power dam on the Des Moines River, which dam will overflow portions of Ledges Park, and

they were advised that the Board was making inquiry of the attorney-general as to what its rights and powers would be in the matter, and of engineering experts what would be the effect of the dam on the park property, but that it has not yet received sufficient information to answer the question asked.

January 12, 1923

Motions.—Motions were adopted in substance as follows: That the secretary be directed to transmit the draft just received for the rent of the Forestville mill property, Backbone Park, to the attorney-general for his advice as to its proper disposal; that the secretary be directed to forward Custodian Taylor's requisition for tools for use at Pilot Knob Park to the Highway Commission; that Dr. Pammel's action asking the Forestry Division of the State College at Ames to send some one to Dolliver Memorial Park to designate what trees should be removed, be approved, the party examining to report to the Board; that after an engineer of the Highway Engineering Department of Ames reports on the tracts of Ledges Park that will be overflowed if the dam is constructed by the Iowa Light and Power Company, that Dr. Pammel be authorized then to secure landscape authorities to examine the area and report; that Dr. Pammel be authorized to proceed further in plans for improving Theodore F. Clark Park; that the disposition of the buildings of Lacey-Keosauqua Park be deferred until a landscaping report is made; that the secretary be authorized to inform enquirers that the Board can not now employ a civil engineer; that the secretary be directed to ascertain if the tract near Eldora-Steamboat Rock Park containing the rare marginal fern and gray birch, is likely to be turned over to the state; Mr. Harlan was authorized to have the photostat maps of Fort Atkinson traced and blue prints made therefrom, also photostat copies of proceedings as to all Iowa power plants, plans, etc.; that the secretary be authorized to circularize the citizens who may be interested in exchanging certain tracts adjacent to state parks for certain portions of state park lands.

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: As requests are in to allow fox and wolf hunting in state parks, that it is against the policy of the Board to allow hunting in the state parks; that the secretary be directed to reduce to writing the plan for Professors Dodds and Fuller of Ames to take civil engineering students to Lacey-Keosauqua Park to camp and survey the park, and present the same to the Board.

Miscellaneous.—The lease for the Forestville Mill property, Backbone Park, was renewed for another year; landscape reports by Harold Pammel on Jones County Park were made and filed; Senator Haskell filed a report on Eldora-Steamboat Rock Park; E. B. Howard of Ames presented a request for a state park at Mormon Ridge, Marshall County,

February 9, 1923

At this meeting there was present a delegation of some thirty people, mostly from Boone, Madrid and vicinity, to take up with the Board the question of flooding portions of the Ledges Park by a dam on the Des Moines River proposed to be put in by the Iowa Light and Power Company. The report of L. L. Clement, engineer of the State Highway Commission, on the conditions that would follow such construction, was read. Statements were made by Mr. Wardle, engineer of the company, and by Mr. Hull, attorney of the company, and by many others present, both for and against the plan. The engineer's report showed that some 150 acres of the park would be flooded including the low lands along Pease Creek which have been used for camping, and from which the ledges of rock can be best observed. Much fine timber and vegetation would be destroyed. It was claimed by some that the loss of these features would be more than compensated for by the scenic and recreational value of the lake that would be formed by the back-water, while others thought not. A motion passed requesting the power company to prepare and submit to the Board a bill, which, if approved, is to be submitted to the Fortieth General Assembly by the Board and company, and that the company also submit to the Board such inducements as the company may see fit to offer in consideration for the ground to be flooded, and plans and schemes for altering the park from its present to its proposed condition, and with estimates therewith showing what, if any, expenditures will be taken care of by the company.

March 9, 1923

Reports.—Reports were made in substance as follows: A report by Mr. Harlan that he visited an area near Hamburg consisting of about 141 acres which the people there desire taken over as a state park and he recommends that if the tracts can be secured at their true value, and if local citizens will contribute 40 per cent of the cost, that they should be acquired at a cost not to exceed \$25,000, and the report was adopted; a report by Mr. Harlan on Crabill Lake at Clarinda, that he visited it, that it is an artificial lake, that some 100 acres ought to be developed, that it adjoins the Page County Fair grounds and the Chautauqua grounds, but the report makes no recommendation and is placed on file; Mr. Harlan reported on Starr's Cave that he consulted with local citizens who say they will secure options on the lands, or will provide funds to assist in case condemnation is necessary, and the report was placed on file; Mr. Harlan reported on Fort Atkinson concerning illustrated and historical matter issued without authority of the Board, on landscape features, etc., and the report was received and the landscape features referred to Prof. Cornell; a report from L. L. Clement concerning Silver Lake, Delaware County, was received and referred to Senator Haskell.

Motions.—Motions in substance as follows were adopted: That Dr. Pammel be requested to secure the technical description of lands on Wood Lake and on Eagle Lake which is desired to be exchanged, so as to get authority from the General Assembly; that the bill for the balance of expense in auditing and arranging of the funds of the park areas be allowed and that the secretary be authorized to cause to be made at least five additional sets of each report; that the petition of the Board to the Executive Council of August 11, 1922, to proceed to acquire by purchase or condemnation the Beaman park area, be now certified to the Executive Council.

Resolutions.—Resolutions in substance as follows were adopted: That W. H. Biederman be requested to forward the abstracts to the lands being taken over at Fort Defiance Park, and the cash they were to contribute to complete the transaction; that Prof. Piester be requested to examine and report on the feasibility of the plan of connecting the north and south portions of Backbone Park with roads; that the matter of the Clinton Merrick Park be held in abeyance until parties at Forest City appear before the Board.

Custodians.—There were present at this meeting the following park custodians:

Ellet Lepley.....	Conrad.....	Lepley Park	
C. F. Henning.....	Boone.....	Ledges Park	
H. L. Taylor.....	Forest City.....	Pilot Knob Park	
W. H. Morehead.....	Maquoketa.....	Morehead Caves Park	
J. M. Folck.....	Onawa.....	Lewis and Clark Park	
C. N. Douglas.....	Lehigh.....	Dolliver Memorial Park	
H. E. Rees.....	Keosauqua.....	{ Lacey-Keosauqua Park Farmington Park Oakland Mills Park	
L. Y. Trower.....	Lamont.....		Backbone Park

They met with the Board in the morning when President Pammel explained that the purpose of the meeting was to become acquainted and to give the custodians information concerning their duties in order that the administration of the parks may be made as useful as possible to the public. Secretary Harlan told them the program was for them to retire into another room with Assistant Secretary Mott, who would help them to formulate into questions those problems that they desired information upon, and return to the Board's meeting in the afternoon. This they did, while the Board proceeded with its business. They then met with the Board in the afternoon and took up the various questions they had formulated, such as those relating to partition fences, badges for custodians, authority of custodians, rules in parks, roads in parks, disposal of old buildings on park lands, the erection of shelters, rest houses, toilets, etc., labels for trees, machinery and tools, garbage disposal, etc. These questions and many others were discussed and answered, making of the meeting a kind of school of instruction.

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