

Delaney Board fires manager

Written by George Browning
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The Delaney Creek Park Board voted to fire Park Manager Mo Burman effective immediately at its regular meeting on May 21.

The decision was made according to Park Board President Tim Rainbolt due to the fact that expectations were not being met.

Rainbolt, who made the motion, said he and board attorney Ryan Bowers met with Burman prior to the meeting and told him the issue would be discussed.

Five board members, Rainbolt, Rodney Coats, Scott Vannoy, Doug Hoskins and Lester Sowder voted in favor of terminating Burman.

George Browning and Danielle Walker abstained from voting due to lack of information.

The move came just before the park was set to get going in full speed on the holiday weekend. Rainbolt said the Park would not contest Burman's unemployment and he would have 30 days to vacate the Manager's house on the property.

"We did tell him that if he needed a little extra time, we would work with him on getting out of the house," Rainbolt said.

Rainbolt made a second motion to make current Assistant Park Manager John Burlington interim manager.

At that point a conversation ensued about whether or not to put the interim tag on Burlington.

"I don't like the interim tag," Hoskins said, "either we hire him or we don't."

That was a similar discussion to the one the board had last summer before hiring Burman.

In the end Rainbolt's motioned died, and the board voted unanimously to hire Burlington as park manager.

Burlington assured the board that the park would continue on the path its been on.

"I have some ideas that I want to implement," he said. "I will be bringing them back for your approval."

No decision was made on who will be the new assistant park manager.

Bowers said Burlington would make a recommendation, but the hire would have to be approved by the board.

Burlington said he felt like the park would be fine being down a staff member over the holiday weekend.

The board is scheduled to meet in executive session on Tuesday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m.

In other business, Burlington said the park was booked to near capacity for the Memorial Day Weekend and said the Fourth of July weekend is filling up fast.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, June 18, 2013.