

## **Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

**June 14, 2022, 12:00pm, Athletics and Activities Center, 708 S. Grove St.**

**In attendance:** Robert Smith, Katie Breckheimer, Milton Butterworth, Terry Maybin, Tricia King, Doug Moon, Hunter Marks, Corum Smith, Ralph King, and Jeff Donaldson.

**Staff in attendance:** Carleen Dixon, Megan Burnette, Jason Kilgore, Autumn Radcliff, and Chris Todd.

**1. Call to Order:** 12:06pm

**2. Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the May 2022 minutes was made by Terry Maybin and was seconded by Robert Smith. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. New Business**

**a. Voting for New Officers**

Jeff Donaldson was re-elected as Chairman for the Recreation Advisory Board. Milton Butterworth is the new Vice Chairman for the Recreation Advisory Board.

**b. Edneyville Community Center Association**

Carleen attended the Edneyville Community Center Association (ECCA)/Grange meeting where they discussed the formal merging of the two organizations. The ECCA has a sum of money from fundraising that they need to spend before dissolving the organization. They would like to use this money to improve the facilities at the Edneyville Community Center (ECC). ECCA is interested in using the money to build a covered basketball or multiuse court. The original plan for this facility was to build an indoor gymnasium. In lieu of that, the county chose to build a larger gym at Edneyville Elementary School that would be shared by Parks and Recreation. The parking lot at the ECC is currently gravel and the ECCA is also interested in having that paved to help with the many issues that come with a gravel parking lot. ECCA does not have enough money for both projects so they would like feedback on how the money should be used.

Jeff asked when the stream bank restoration project will start at the ECC. Carleen stated that they are struggling with increasing costs and are looking at additional grants to fund the project. Milton asked about the possibility of using the ECCA money for the trail at ECC, but that will also be a part of the stream bank restoration project. Doug added that if we put a new trail at the park, flooding needs to be accounted for and the trail needs to be properly maintained or it will be a waste of money. Doug also noted that there are already two other basketball courts within a mile of the ECC, so the parking lot or better lighting may be a better use of money.

The original plan of these organizations was to build an indoor basketball court, but they also talked about the need for a commercial kitchen for small businesses to use. Carleen will take feedback to the groups. Milton supports anything that makes it easier to physically stay active.

The goal would be to have a multiuse court that can be used for many sports not just basketball, similar to the court being built at Tuxedo Park.

#### **4. Unfinished Business**

##### **a. Tuxedo Park Upgrades**

Terry gave an update on the Tuxedo Park upgrades. No paving has been completed at this time. They will have to regrade the top before they can do the paving. The funding has been deposited. When the court is complete, there will be pickleball stanchions with wheels that can be moved to the side. Futsal goals will stay fixed to the ends.

##### **b. Jackson Park All-Inclusive Playground Update**

Carleen and Chris will be presenting an update about the playground to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) tomorrow (6/15/22). The design started at \$500,000, through fundraising, County, and TDA commitments. The Commissioners put in \$250,000 for the playground. With donations to date, the fund is slightly over that amount. There are still a number of donations that are coming in. The original playground design has been adjusted to an \$800,000 playground design. This information will be presented to the BOC at tomorrow's meeting to get their input on what level playground they want to aim for. The design is not final yet. The youth advisory committee for this playground will be invited to help with the design. Pardee is paying for five pieces of adult fitness equipment around the playground for a total of \$25,000. Carleen noted that Milton helped advocate for and thanked him. The playground is expected to be complete around December. Carleen is proposing a spring ribbon cutting event once it warms up.

##### **c. Subcommittees Update**

###### **i. Soccer Update**

Soccer Subcommittee Recommendation to the Board regarding ABYSA proposal: **Appendix A**

Summary: We do not think this is the right time for HCPRD to turn over management of Henderson County Recreational Soccer to ABYSA.

Jeff asked about the relationship between Henderson County and ABYSA.

Milton stated there are two recreational soccer programs currently allowed to

operate in Henderson County and an attempt made to encourage youth at the recreational level to advance above the recreational level. Parks and Recreation is not currently providing soccer above the recreational level, but ABYSA is. We could improve this relationship by actively forming a collaboration with them to support youth at all levels. There was not a cross over in recreational soccer before the pandemic, so this relationship is relatively new.

Katie asked about next steps. Milton stated that there is not an official recommendation from the subcommittee on that yet, but he would love to see a convening of stake holders once we have a new soccer facility. There is a lot of opportunity to align efforts with schools to youth soccer.

HCPRD has hired a programmer who will run the fall soccer program which will help with staffing issues, though these are ongoing.

Robert made a motion to support the Soccer Subcommittee's recommendation with the stipulation that we communicate it to ABYSA. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **ii. Mobile Food Vending**

The BOC has provided feedback on the mobile food vending policy. Carleen will meet with Terry and Katie to review the BOC's concerns. They will bring another recommendation to this board to bring back to the BOC.

Food Trucks and Flix event had a great turnout, and the food truck was popular. It had to be delayed a week because of the weather.

Jeff and Milton stressed the importance of highlighting the amount of people who show up to events to the Board of Commissioners.

## **iii. Dog Park**

There are two vested volunteers who have been working on cleanups at the dog area in Jackson Park. They have created a contact list of all the users and have been great about advocating for the area. HCPRD continues to look for ways to improve that area. Jason and his staff have added additional picnic tables for people to sit at. The location is challenging because of the floodway which limits potential improvements.

## **d. Greenway Discussion on Ordinances and Etiquette**

Ideas for Greenway Etiquette: **Appendix B.**

The Rail-Trail Advisory Committee (RTAC) would like this board to propose recommended rules/etiquette for the Ecusta Greenway. This list should allow each municipality that the greenway runs through to work together, so the rules are the same across the board.

Key things:

- For sheriffs and police to enforce something it has to be in an ordinance (just a rule we make does not qualify). Current ordinances are addressed in this list.
- User groups: want this to be open to all abilities and all ages. There should not be limiting rules that would discourage anyone from using the greenway.
- Focus more on etiquette instead of rules to help people be neighborly on the trail.
- Hours of operation: Trail may need to be open 24/7 since it is being built using DOT dollars. These are transportation corridors, not just for recreation.

Chris would like the Greenway Etiquette List complete and on the record by the time people are able to use the trail. The emphasis should be on etiquette, safety, and respect.

Greenway Etiquette Subcommittee: Milton, Tricia, and Phillip

## **5. Staff Updates**

Jason: Staff are very busy with events. Lots of community participation with events and park use. Shorter disc golf tees are being put in place to allow for greater usage.

## **6. Adjourn: 1:19pm**

The next Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held July 12, 2022, at the Athletics and Activities Center located at 708 S. Grove St., Hendersonville, NC.

## Appendix A

### Henderson County Recreation Advisory Board (HCRAB) Soccer Subcommittee Recommendation 6/14/2022

This subcommittee was created to consider a proposal that was presented to Henderson County Parks & Recreation Dept (HCPRD). That proposal was brought by Stacy Marlowe and the proposal suggested that HCPRD allow Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association (ABYSA) to take over all recreational soccer programs that the county was currently offering. The proposal was presented to HCRAB by Stacy and a subcommittee was formed to explore the proposal. The subcommittee is made up of HCRAB members Milton Butterworth, Stephanie Cantwell, and Philip Ellis. Bruce Gilliam, HCPRD staff provided subcommittee support.

This proposal, presumably, would address a couple problems with the HCPRD soccer program, including:

1. Confusion and frustration from parents about which recreational soccer program (HCPRD vs. ABYSA) they had chosen.
2. Professionalizing the program. Notable issues here are training for coaches and advanced skill development pathways (on-ramps) for the more serious / higher skilled children.

This subcommittee is in agreement regarding this recommendation. We do not think this is the right time for HCPRD to turn over management of Henderson County Recreational Soccer to ABYSA.

Some supporting bullets for this recommendation:

- Turnover at the county has been a problem, but Bruce and Carleen currently have a steady hand on HCPRD programs. And, notably, Bruce's efforts this past season have made incremental steps towards professionalization.
- We believe the two problems above (1-confusion, and 2-advanced skill development) could be addressed by HCPRD and ABYSA working more closely together, perhaps incorporating some kind of liaison network. The subcommittee also noted that Henderson County youth soccer stakeholders, like parents and school coaches should also be engaged in such a joint effort to improve youth soccer in Henderson County. Confusion can be reduced in various ways, such as through aligning marketing strategies, avoiding competition, and strengthening advanced skill development on-ramps in order to encourage individual youth to pursue the appropriate level of their training to match their potential and motivation, ultimately for a smooth transition up from recreational level soccer. Working together, all stakeholders could be united to improve youth soccer development in Henderson County.
- Another benefit of a liaison network would be the positive effects realized from a strengthened relationship between Henderson County (staff, stakeholders, and elected officials) and ABYSA (leadership and paid coaches/staff). One such positive effect would be increased readiness to consider/implement a recreational soccer management

proposal in the future, when environmental changes might make such a proposal more viable and implementation more smoothly accomplished because we will all have already been working with one another.

- We also note that recent new momentum toward a centralized location for soccer programs to play/practice in Henderson County will impact the landscape, including both of the problems detailed above. Efforts should be united to take advantage of this momentum in the near term.

Respectfully submitted by subcommittee members Milton, Stephanie, and Philip.

## Appendix B

### Ideas for Greenway Rules/Etiquette/Policies/Etc.

#### Things to consider:

User groups - All abilities and all ages

Etiquette Focus and only Ordinances are enforceable by Sheriff/Police

#### Suggest breaking them into categories:

Hours of Operations

Safety

Etiquette

Pets

Prohibited Activities

#### Ideas to consider in each category

<b>Hours of Operation:</b>
Greenway trail is open at all times, except for floods or repairs (NCDOT requirements)
Parking lots are open from dawn to dusk
No parking in non-designated areas
No loitering between dusk and dawn
Bicycle lights are required from dusk to dawn
Report any suspicious incidents or activity by calling 911
Please report any vandalism, storm damage, or unsafe conditions immediately to Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department by calling 828-697-4884.

<b>Safety:</b>
Secure valuables out of sight in your locked vehicle
Respect nature, trail surfaces are slipper when wet
All users are encouraged to wear a helmet and protective gear. Children 16 years of age and under must wear helmet when riding bicycles, scooters, roller blades or skateboards
Be Alert!
Do not block greenway
For your safety please bring a friend
Speed Limit 15 mph and slower when around others and/or congested areas.
Maintain safe speeds and Heed all posted speed limit signs.
Use caution at street crossings; come to a stop and use caution when proceeding into the intersection
<b>Etiquette: (maybe a fun sign that says STOP and then offers etiquette education in a fun manner)</b>
Pedestrians have the right of way; slow when approaching pedestrians and yield to them
Travel on the right, pass on the left; Give audible warning before passing
Share the trail
Slow and Say "Hello"
Stay alert/Listen for approaching traffic; Decrease volume of audio device and keep one ear open
<b>Pets:</b>
Pets must be on a leash 6 ft. or shorter at all times

Pets must be kept on the right; pass on left
Pick up after your pet and deposit in trash can

<b>Prohibited :</b>
Littering
Swimming & Golf Practice
Killing, trapping, or harming wildlife (current ordinance)
Fireworks (current ordinance)
Possession of weapons (checking current ordinance)
Posting commercial or political signs(current ordinance)
Selling, soliciting or exhibiting materials without a Parks and Recreation Issued Permit (current ordinance)
Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages (or any intoxicants) on trail is prohibited(current ordinance)
Collection, removal, damage or disturbance of any trail property, natural or cultural object (current ordinance)
Airborne vehicles of any type
Fuel-powered vehicles of any kind
Tobacco use of any kind
Horses
Camping
<b>Rules:</b>
Fishing allowed in accordance with NC state rules and regulations
Stay on the trail at all times and respect private property
Obey posted rules and signs
<b>Motorized Vehicles:</b>
E-Bikes Class I and II are allowed on the paved greenway surface
E-Scooters (don't have classes but most go up to 15 mph)
E-Skateboards (don't have classes and these vary more, but recommended that they just follow speed limit)
Individuals with a mobility disability have the right to use an OPDMD (Other Power-Driven Mobility Device)