

MINUTES

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF HENDERSON

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARCH 27, 1995

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a Special Called meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room of the County Office Building. The purpose of the meeting was a joint meeting (work session) of the Henderson County Board of Commissioners and the Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Those present were: Chairman Renee Kumor, Vice-Chairman Vollie G. Good, Commissioner J. Michael Edney, Commissioner Bob Eklund, Commissioner Don Ward, County Manager David F. Thompson, Assistant County Manager David E. Nicholson, Clerk to the Board Elizabeth W. Corn and members of the media.

Also present were the following members of the Recreation Committee: George Cagle, Richard Rhodes, Beth Carden, Katharine Adams, Steve Norwood, Dean Griffin, Chip Gould, and Director of Parks & Recreation Larry Harmon.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Kumor called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Chairman Kumor reminded those in attendance that this was a work session and there would be no public input.

Chairman Kumor explained the relationship of the County Commissioners to the Recreation Advisory Board. The Henderson County Board of Commissioners appoint the members to the Recreation Advisory Board. They are volunteers and they act as advisors to the Commissioners in the area of recreation and park development. The Advisory Board has requested that the Commissioners meet with them and discuss recreation and parks ideas and give staff some direction. Chairman Kumor stressed that every member of the Advisory Board is a volunteer appointee who works for the Board of County Commissioners.

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

George Cagle thanked the Commissioners for setting this meeting and thanked the Commissioners who were on the Board twenty years ago who had the foresight to acquire the land for Jackson Park and for everyone along the way including the current Commission, who allow them to develop the park into the recreation park it is today. "It

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is time to start looking forward as we need to get out farther than Jackson Park. We did a comprehensive study of the needs of parks and recreation for Henderson County starting back in 1992 and naturally you can't get everything at one time so we've been setting up a plan to go by and that's what we're here for, to see where we're going to need to go. We figure we need, right now with the plan that we have, some regional parks. We've identified four regional parks" according to Mr. Cagle. They proposed regional parks for: Fletcher, Etowah, Tuxedo, Edneyville. Currently people drive 20-25 miles to Jackson Park to practice ball. He stated that these regional parks would cover basically all four corners of the county. Sometime in the future they would recommend adding mini parks. They would like to come up with some staple funding, funding they could count on and plan for the future with.

Mr. Cagle stated that they would like to see something done with consolidation of city/county services. They would like to see a final decision made on surplus school properties. Most of all they would like to keep an open line of communication with the Commissioners and County Manager.

Possible Inter-Local Agreement between Henderson County and the City of Hendersonville for a Basic Level of Parks and Recreation Services

The possible inter-local agreement was reviewed and discussed at the Board Retreat in February. David Thompson stated that his Board charged him to look at various county departments, Recreation, Maintenance, Planning and Zoning, etc. as far as a merger or an inter-local agreement between the city and the county. The proposal was specific for that charge. At the same time the Board was discussing a Capital Improvements Planning Retreat.

David Thompson emphasized that the possible inter-local agreement was a **DRAFT** document. It was presented as a single scenario. The scenario was proposed with the hope that it would be a beginning point for discussions on the specific issue of consolidation of recreation and the future delivery of recreation services county-wide.

The basic concept of the scenario presented was that Henderson County would offer basic services in the City of Hendersonville but Hendersonville would pay for it. As the level of services increased to the rest of the community, the costs that the City of Hendersonville contributed would decrease.

Larry Harmon, Director of Parks & Recreation

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Mr. Harmon stated that we currently need additional fields and tennis courts but cannot maintain additional services or maintain fields or parks without additional staff.

Mr. Harmon stated that if the City of Hendersonville shuts down recreation service July 1, as proposed, it will definitely impact the county recreation department.

There was discussion that the recreation department should develop a philosophy of what is the normal service they would provide.

Following discussion, it was the consensus of both Boards for county staff to go back to the City of Hendersonville regarding discussion of merger.

It was the consensus of both Boards that the services provided to the city of Hendersonville by Henderson County must be the same as the services provided to other parts of Henderson County unless fully compensated for. Possible in-kind compensation was discussed.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) for Parks & Recreation

The County Commissioners have instructed staff to work on a five year capital improvements plan. The Recreation Advisory Board has been working on the same thing.

David Thompson asked Larry Harmon to review the working draft of the CIP for Parks and Recreation with the Board of Commissioners.

Larry Harmon first reviewed the Henderson County Land Use Plan regarding Recreation:

- Expand public facility consistent with existing population and future growth projection

- Insure appropriate neighborhood park space to serve new residential developments

- Provide new parks and recreational facilities in the county that are dispersed to better serve the existing population and develop to meet the needs of the people for rural recreation

- Provide new facilities to meet the cultural and civic needs of the community

A second goal is to preserve and protect the environment for future generations:

- Create recreational facilities that serve to protect the natural environment and provide a program of cultural heritage and develop a greenway system in the county.

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Under Social and Economic considerations, one of the goals of the land use plan is to provide for quality of life activities and programs. The objectives are develop educational programs and activities to strengthen the multi-cultural heritage enjoyed by Henderson County and its residents and also to identify and collectively promote the unique natural resources of Henderson County.

Under Public Facilities recommendations, the recommendations were public parks are needed to serve populated areas, particularly in the Horse Shoe/Mills Rivers community and east of I-26. Another recommendation was the county should commence with the development of parks and recreation facility master plan, building for the efforts initiated by the Henderson County Parks and Recreation Department with a needs assessment recently completed. This was completed in 1992. It was recommended that this effort include an evaluation and adoption of service standards which would be used to determine deficiencies as to area facilities. Another recommendation of the Land Use Plan was to establish a park and greenways development program. One last goal is to adopt a beautification enhancement program.

Larry Harmon stated that these are all excellent goals and would fit in with what he would have in mind for a park master plan for Henderson County.

Mr. Harmon quoted national standards on what is needed for park and recreation resources. In Henderson County we need to double to triple park lands to match our population figures. We currently have 249 acres in our county park system, 212 acres in Jackson Park alone. We currently have 73,500 residents. The standard is 10 acres per 1,000 population, therefore, Henderson County should have 735 acres of parks.

Larry Harmon reviewed the draft Master Capital Improvement Plan for Parks and Recreation regarding Proposed New Park Development, Existing Park Improvements, and Land Acquisitions adjacent to Jackson Park.

Rough estimates presented by Mr. Harmon for parks and recreations:

Developments	\$1,025,000.00
Improvements	660,000.00
Acquisitions	1,064,150.00
Grand Total =	\$2,749,150.00

There was much discussion of the needs for parks and recreation. Mr. Harmon agreed that the Recreation Board needs to develop a mission statement. They also need to set priorities, goals,

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objectives and work on a time line. They need to work on a policy regarding the incorporated areas of the county.

There was discussion of funding possibilities. There was discussion of neighborhood parks versus regional parks versus community parks.

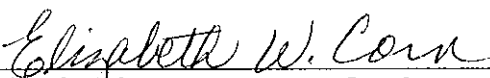
The Board's Commitment to Recreation - They realize the value of recreation as an alternative mechanism for crime prevention as well as the improvement of the quality of life.

It was the consensus of both Boards that priority should be given to the surplus school properties: Edneyville, Tuxedo, and East Flat Rock.

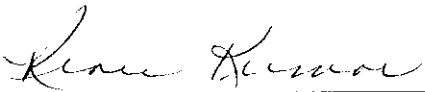
There was discussion regarding hiring a professional consultant to look at the recreation/parks needs of the entire county.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:



Elizabeth W. Corn, Clerk



Renee Kumor, Chairman

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