

MINUTES

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board May 9, 2017

The Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board held their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 12:00 noon at the Athletics & Activity Center Conference Room. Board Members Present: Jeff Donaldson, Chairman, Elizabeth Moss, Vice-Chair, Jennifer Hensley, Terry Maybin, Corum Smith, Sue Myers, and Scott Rhodes. Absent: Virgle McClure, Ralph King, Tommy Laughter and Charlie Messer. Staff Present: Tim Hopkin and Diana Edney.

Minutes: Terry made a motion to approve the April 11, 2017 minutes. Jennifer seconded. Motion approved.

Public Input:

Mike Sampson, Henderson County Youth Softball President spoke to the Board with his concerns on the following:

- Fields not being prepared for their invitational tournament on the weekend of May 3rd. Mr. Sampson said this is a “big” fundraiser and last year they had over 5,000 participants and he knew the weather did not cooperate and that it would take a lot of work to prepare the fields due to the previous weather conditions.
- They had volunteers to help prepare the fields for the tournament and when they arrived only one maintenance staff was at the park and then the maintenance supervisor arrived.
- Nothing was held professional, and no effort was made to have the fields prepared for play.
- Jackson Park had fields prepared and ready for baseball games.
- Batting cages need nets put up
- Girl’s restrooms are not adequate, smells of sewage.
- Press box needs to be replaced.
- Field drainage issues need to be looked at.
- HCYS and HCYB needs to be treated the same.

Tim stated that the situation at Etowah Park was different than Jackson Park because the weather can be effected differently throughout the county and with several weeks of bad weather there was nothing that the maintenance staff could do to prepare the fields at Etowah Park for the weekend tournament. Mr. Sampson stated that he had to send out an email to his parents about the tournament being cancelled and why the tournament was cancelled. Mr. Mitchell stated that he was copied on an email and it is clear that HCYS is not happy, and from his stand point he does not like to hear that someone was agitated with them. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would like to meet with HCYS and Tim to [REDACTED]. Tammie Smith stated that the drainage issues are a concern and she would like to make it a better relationship with the department, and she is advocating for girls softball. Jennifer asked who sent the email and post on Facebook to the parents about the fields. Mr. Sampson said he did. Jennifer stated that she felt the email and post on Facebook was very negative and that maybe next time they should include pictures of the fields. Mr. Sampson said he did not feel that it was negative at all, just informative. Terry stated that she received an email as well and did not feel that it was perceived as negative at all, just stating what happened. Mr. Mitchell said he sent an engineer to

Etowah Park this morning to look at the fields this morning and he will wait and see what the engineer has to say about the drainage issues. Elizabeth thanked them for coming and stated that the Board cares about all parks and fields the same.

Mr. Wise from the Etowah Lions Club spoke to the Board about concession stand at Etowah Park. Mr. Wise stated that when Mr. Harmon was the Parks and Recreation Director he gave the Etowah Lions Club an option to operate the concession stand and be responsible of operating the concession stand only, not the upkeep of the building. Mr. Wise said that the Etowah Lions Club accepted and that they would operate the concession stand. Jeff stated that this discussion seemed to be between Mr. Wise and Jennifer and that the Board was not quite sure what was going on and he would like this to be tabled for the June meeting.

New Business:

1. **Request for the Possibility of adding Additional Recreation Advisory Board Members (Pros/Cons), Recommendation to the BOC** – The Board discussed the possibility of adding additional Board members. Jeff stated that each area of the County should be represented, as when he replaced Board member Dean Griffin, from the Edneyville area. Scott stated that the Board should consider how many special interest groups you can have, what is your purpose, once the door is open, then you open it to everything and there should be representation from different areas of the county. The Board said if additional members are added it is good to have representation within different areas of the County. Elizabeth made a motion to add none or no more than 2 additional Board members. Terry seconded. Motion passed.
2. **Setting/Proposing Term Limits on Recreation Advisory Board Members** – The Board discussed term limits. Terry asked Mr. Mitchell if other Boards have term limits. Mr. Mitchell stated said he is not sure, but that it is being looked into. Jennifer stated that she is on another Board and they have a two 4 year terms and that she is not opposed to stepping down. Tim suggested staggering terms, such as 3 years on and 3 years off. Scott stated that cohesiveness of a group is good to have and that the level of passion each of these members bring is great and he does not believe a staggered 3 years on and 3 years off would be good. Jennifer suggested to research what other departments are doing. The Board recommended tabling the term limits on Board members until further investigation is done and brought back to the Board.
3. **Programs and Parks Updates** – Tim stated that the weather has been the biggest problem with games and fields and asked the Board if they had any comments. Terry asked Tim about the playground equipment for Tuxedo Park. Tim said that the playground representative was on vacation and he is waiting on her to get back with him on the revised playground. Terry said that she was on vacation last month and that community would like the playground installed this summer. Terry stated that the Dana community has the playground equipment installed and that this equipment was to be ordered last summer. Mr. Mitchell stated for Tim to call the rep. today and if she is not available, then the name of her supervisor and find out the date this equipment is to be ordered and then send an email to the Board members with this information.
4. **Discussion of Memorandum of Understanding's (MOU)** – Tim informed the Board that MOU's are standard practices that are addressed and ways the department to look at, fairness and

equality in what the department is working towards in the different activities and facilities. Tim said he will bring this back to the Board for further discussion.

Unfinished Business:

There was no unfinished business.

Miscellaneous:

1. Jeff asked Tim if the department can send a thank you note to Biltmore Baptist Church for their labor in spreading out the mulch at Jackson and East Flat Rock Park. Tim said yes.
2. Jeff thanked Diana Edney, Clerk to the Board who is retiring at the end of the month for her years of service to the Board and to the department.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana L. Edney

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Clerk to the Board

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