

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Department Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 12pm, AAC

In Attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Scott Rhodes, Jennifer Hensely, Sue Meyers, Elizabeth Moss, Terry Maybin, Tommy Laughter, Ralph King.

Meeting called to order at 12:08PM by Jeff. The minutes from the last meeting were moved to be approved by Elizabeth and Sue seconded.

Public Input: Katie Breckheimer from the Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway to give an updated on greenways in Henderson County. She expressed her continued interest in being appointed to the advisory board given that there are additional positions now added. One of the missions of the group is to promote greenways, which are heavily used and popular so they are successful there. The other mission is to grow greenways in the county, looking at connecting Jackson Park to Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC). They've done some landowner outreach, and there are a couple of issues along the proposed route. Now they are looking at how the greenway might go to the right of the Hendersonville Airport, near the Air Museum. A positive is the Board of Commissioners (BOC) request for funding from the French Broad MPO and NCDOT for funding for feasibility and planning studies for Jackson Park to BRCC as well as Berkely Mills Park to Westfeldt Park greenway extensions. There is regional interest in greenways as shown at a recent NCDOT meeting at the NC Arboretum on the topic. The group/Katie have spoken with Tim in the past about the possible greenway routes through the park itself but that hasn't progressed. Jeff asked about connecting to the Saluda Grade Trail project. Katie shared that all the counties that the rail line runs through have expressed their support and like the Ecusta trail the hold up is the rail line. The Friends are more focused on Henderson County projects.

New Business:

Program Updates—

Tim: Hiring freeze in place has prevented filling Diana's vacant position as well as one other fulltime and a part time position. The rest of the staff are helping out and filling in.

Karen presented an update on the programs offered at the Edneyville Community Center (ECC) and AAC. She and part time staff are also involved in other events and programs around the county like Be Active Day, Special Olympics. The ECC will be a summer feeding site for the 4th year to help keep kids fed while school is out. She is also hosting a Day Camp Reunion on July 17 at Jackson Park for any staff or campers that want to reconnect. One of the Senior Games participants, Pat Dockendorf competed at the State Games in swimming and won three bronze and one gold medal there.

Tim: Outdoors Camp led by Matt and Bridgette is this week. Kids are finding all the good water activities and ice cream in the area.

The upper tennis courts at Jackson Park have been rebuilt and resurfaced. The existing pavement and foundation was failing and failed to pass tests, so has been rebuilt. The next steps are the court coating and fencing.

Tuxedo Park: equipment has been ordered from the various vendors. Money was saved through purchasing agreements. There will be a 660 installation of American Flags on June 24 to be in place for a month to bring awareness to Veteran's PTSD and suicide risk.

Laura provided a soccer update: spring soccer has ended after a hard season with a lot of flooding and cancellations due to rain. Coaches were wonderful as program is very dependent on volunteers. Program is at a good size, much more growth will require more manpower. Registration is open for the fall season. There are three camps this summer: British Soccer Camp this week, an HFC run camp the end of the month, and Tetra Brazil in July. All will be at the AAC.

Tim: Adult softball is currently going on, Henderson County Youth Softball (HCYS) has district games at Etowah, Henderson County Youth Baseball (HCYB) has playoffs at Jackson Park.

Terry expressed her worry at the equipment for Tuxedo being stored once it arrives. Equipment will be stored as installation is coordinated between the many providers of equipment shipped from all over the US and the playground installation crew. Tim is also in touch with Colby, the sales rep from Superior Recreational of the Carolinas. Terry asked the amount of savings and Tim will send the amount to her after the meeting. Jeff asked for a drawing of the layout of the playground. Tim will provide him with that as well.

2017-18 Election of Officers: Jeff appointed Elizabeth Moss to chair the Nomination Committee for Officers. Jennifer Hensely and Terry Maybin volunteered to serve as well.

Unfinished Business

The BOC appreciated the feedback from the Advisory Board and has added two positions to the board that will be appointed at upcoming meetings. Elizabeth stated that it seems to be fast tracked so they may have the positions added at the next meeting later this month. Jeff asked if the bylaws will need to be rewritten. Tim said that they will need to be revised and the county attorney will assist with that. Jeff asked if as in the past the positions would be appointed based on area, Tim doesn't know but there are lots of interest groups seeking the spots.

Updated on Etowah Concessions: BOC is asking the Recreation Advisory Board and staff to research and create an MOU for the County and Etowah Lion's Club to clarify obligations and responsibilities and present to BOC in October. Jeff said that would require a committee of 2-3. Jennifer stated that there's no written agreement outside of the land deed. Terry said there used to be a written agreement, should be in the BOC meeting minutes from years ago. Elizabeth Moss will chair the MOU committee and, Jennifer and Terry volunteered to serve as well. Jeff will sit in. Ralph shared that Virgle McClure (not in attendance) would know. Jennifer shared that the county attorney, Russ Burrell, has researched this agreement recently but only found the land deed, isn't sure if he looked in the old BOC minutes.

MOU for Sports Groups: There is a need to create a MOU for outside groups and ensure that high standards are met by all sporting groups, internal and private sporting groups. Tim and Laura are both Certified Youth Sports Administrators through the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS). Laura is leading work to create and set the standards in place, as well as clear expectations, for example thunder/lightening, risk management, rules/regulations from county, as well as clear zero tolerance policies. The deputies provide the law enforcement part of standards. Jeff asked if there are existing agreements that sports organizations sign. Tim shared that this a reworking of that so that everything is

consistent. Jeff asked if it is up to the private groups guidelines to enforce policies when there are incidents? Tim replied that yes, it is our understanding that there are rules and policies in place and enforce when needed. In the past coaches have been banned, and there is an appeal process in place. Jennifer asked if Parks & Rec does background checks. Tim: Yes, there are extensive checks in place. Sometimes they require more info, sometimes there are things in individual's pasts that automatically results in them not being allowed to participate in the program. Outside organization are expected to run background checks in their charters. The new standards/MOU from Parks & Rec will help ensure high level checks. Jennifer was concerned about checks missing things and private groups being able to run their organizations. The standards/MOU will help with that. Jeff would like to see this fast tracked. Terry asked if the county attorney will need to get involved. Tim said he doesn't usually get involved, the standards are set and individuals respect that. The standards/MOU will be in place for the fall seasons. They may need to be made part of a policy through the BOC. Staff will update at next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 11.

Misc: Tim wrote a thank you letter to a large church that did a lot of work: mulching, pressure washing, etc.

Adjoined: 12:56pm