

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 11th, 2018, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Charlie Messer, Phillip Ellis, Jennifer Hensley, Scott Rhodes, Tricia King, Hunter Marks, Ralph King, Katie Breckheimer, Ken Wise

Staff present: Carleen Dixon, Erin Hendrix, Casey Conner, Autumn Radcliff, John Mitchell, Bridgette Galloway.

Meeting called to order at 12:03pm. Minutes taken by Erin Hendrix

Katie makes a motion to approve minutes from September, Jenn seconds. Approved by all.

Public Input

Dennis Justice with Blue Ridge Pickleball wants covered pickleball courts and a red scoreboard at Jackson Park for Hendersonville High School.

John Mitchell mentions the executive summary for the Greenway Plan.

Autumn Radcliff mentions the website and survey and reminds the board of the public input sessions for Greenway feedback.

Trips to Visit parks - Carleen Dixon

The Department would like to take the board out to key parks to spend time and really see the facilities and needs of the county. We will be looking for suggestions of dates in the spring for this trip.

New Edneyville Elementary School Gym Proposal - August 2019

We have a draft for the new elementary school which is slated to be opened for Fall of 2019. We have been working closely with Scott Rhodes to come up with a schedule for gym availability. We are looking at additional programming, additional open gym time, camps and other possible programs. We will also be seeking additional staff to maintain this facility in the upcoming budget cycle. Ideally, we would like to have an additional programmer to manage and program this facility.

NYE Event - Youth Ambassador for GMT Countdown - Bridgette Galloway

For the NYE event, there are two sessions, the first is a family-oriented session with a GMT countdown and apple raise for those whose children cannot stay up as late. For the later session, there is a designated Ambassador for the midnight countdown that is appointed by the County Managers Office. For the earlier session, we would like to appoint a Youth Ambassador by reaching out to the schools to select a special nomination or potential youth celebrity. We would like your support in seeking this new appointment for this event. Jenn talks about how much her children loved the previous year's event despite the cold and ice. Jenn makes a motion to support appointment of a Youth Ambassador for this New Year's Eve event. Tricia seconds, all approve.

PARTF Consideration - Carleen Dixon

The upcoming PARTF consideration information has just been released. The deadline for this is May 1st, the same as last year but of course a lot of work needs to be done before this date. I have included our SMART goals in your packet, but I would

also like you to work through your top suggestions for PARTF funds so that we can have a general idea of our direction in the upcoming cycle. Katie says that she would love to see us receive a PARTF grant but she asks if the board can be reminded of what happened the last time the board took public input and asked the county commissioners for PARTF. Phillip says he would like to remind the board. Phillip says that, after the school shooting in Florida, politicians decided to put available funding into security and hiring new school resource officers. At this point, PARTF was tabled until the county had more funding to allot. Charlie Messer disagrees. Charlie states that there were fundamental issues with the application itself and that they did not approve it moving forward because of the plan for the funding. He states that no money was taken from one area and allocated to another. The money was there and should be used moving forward. We just need everyone on the same page before we can approve the application.

Phillip asks if Charlie can clarify and speak to Katie's original question about why the grant was not approved the first time. Charlie says that the Board of Commissioners did not want to spend \$500,000 on a project when different groups of people all were wanting different things and there was no consensus. Jenn says that that confuses her because the Advisory Board had large community-based meetings where we determined the community priorities, we submitted a large plan with economically feasible amounts of dollars that it would take to not only meet the community needs but also increase tourism and tournament play like you requested. Then the board decided not to do anything with that. Charlie states that the opposition came from turning baseball and softball fields into soccer fields and that

there was not adequate time to revise the plan before the deadline for the grant. Jenn states that she told the Advisory Board that the Board of Commissioners would not approve the conversion of baseball fields. She also says that she disagrees with not at least applying for the grant because it is essentially free money that could have done a lot for our community.

Jeff suggests that the Advisory Board take this as a learning experience so that we can provide the commissioners with plans that will be more successful in the future. Charlie warns that more time is necessary for applications like these and that the commissioners need time to adequately review the plans. Charlie suggests getting coaches and parents involved in the PARTF process. Ralph suggests having more meetings in the evenings when more families can be involved. Katie asks if we are focusing on Jackson Park again. Carleen says that that was the intention last year but that this year we can consider whatever the board would like.

Memorial Discussion - Carleen Dixon

The Board expressed interest in having a memorial for Virgil McClure but was not sure if the Lions Club was already planning something that the board could participate in. Ken answers that they have reached out to Virgil's wife asking what she would like the club to do but that she has not yet responded. Carleen asks that he keep us updated on this subject so that the Advisory Board can do their part to honor him as well.

East Flat Rock Park Community - Interest in upgrading park amenities

In last month's meeting, Ralph asked about East Flat Rock Park upgrades. A couple of years ago, the community group has asked about ways to upgrade the park and has raised some money in order to do so. Carleen invites Ralph to give an overview. Ralph says that the community group would like to donate up to 30,000 for special needs programs. The idea is that the community group would like to upgrade the lower field but would need the county to upgrade the parking so that it is usable. Ralph indicated that some programs have been neglected and that special needs groups should be included in more ways than they current are.

Carleen invites Donnie Jones, organizer of the majority of special needs programs in the county, to speak to that offer. Donnie say that he started the baseball program in 2011 and that they do not limit the programs by age or ability or residence. Currently, there are individuals from 6 different counties in the area. We play on Saturday mornings at Jackson Park on fields 8 and 9. He says that they county has improved fields 8 and 9 for their use as well as for others, and that the rest of the facilities they have been able to make work. Donnie says that he doesn't know of anything currently in the county that is just designated for special needs and that he would never want it to be. He would like parks and facilities to be open and used by all and not just his programs. Since Donnie is using Jackson Park and now Patton Park, he is unsure how much use he would actually get out of East Flat Rock. He says that he could not justify to himself asking the county to pay for \$100,000 worth of upgrades to East Flat Rock Park for something that they would only use 8 Saturdays per year. He would much rather see the money spent updating what we currently

have at that park to bring it back up to par than to add additional facilities. He says that he really appreciates the offer but that he cannot ask the county to do that.

Charlie asks if there is anything that Donnie needs or wants at fields 8 and 9. Donnie says that, with the upcoming laser grading on those fields, they have it pretty good. Carleen mentions the locations of the bathrooms and their accessibility, but that the participants make it work. Scott states that he appreciates Donnie's gracious attitude and that he sets an example for how ever one should behave. He isn't asking for anything selfishly and not asking for anything that isn't beneficial to everyone in the county. Scott says that, no matter which program we're promoting, baseball, soccer, or pickleball, we should be conscious of the needs and wants of the entire community and not just our own interests. Ralph asks for something specific from the board for East Flat Rock Park that he can take back to the community group. Carleen says that they can look at some options for that. Jenn says that the best way for us as a board to honor Donnie and his program and participants would be to ensure that ADA standards were met throughout all of our parks and allow access to all the fields and facilities.

Ralph says that he would like Donnie to take the lead on suggestions for these upgrades at East Flat Rock Park. Carleen shows the board a new cut through at East Flat Rock Park that they have just completed that allows access from the parking lots down to the restrooms. She asks for any other suggestions for this park and potential upgrades.

Invitation to Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Carleen would like to make sure everyone got the invitation to the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. It will be at the Hendersonville Country Club. If you have not RSVPed, please let us know.

Member Comments:

Adjourned 1:21pm

Motions:

Katie makes a motion to approve minutes from September, Jenn seconds. Approved by all.

Jenn makes a motion to support appointment of a Youth Ambassador for this New Year's Eve event. Tricia seconds, all approve.