

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 10th, 2019, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Terry Maybin, Ralph King, Phillip Ellis, Jennifer Hensley, Corum Smith, and Scott Rhodes.

Staff in attendance: Carleen Dixon, Brittany Williams, Casey Conner, Jason Kilgore, and Erin Hendrix

Speakers in attendance: Denise Pesce and David Hill

Minutes taken by Erin Hendrix

Called to Order: 12:05pm

Dismissed: 1:15pm

Public Input

None

Minutes from June and August were approved by Ralph first, seconded by Terry.

The Mountain Community School - Denise Pesce

Denise shows the board the plans to renovate the back portion of the Mountain Community School that will include a new playground, play features, garden, and eco/wetlands area. The construction has already begun on this with bushes and overgrowth already removed and cleared from the area. The school received a 50,000 grant and plans on raising additional funds in order to complete this project for the next few years. A small section of land that they are working on is owned by the County and John Mitchell has given permission for this.

Turf Field Work - Carleen Dixon

Carleen shared the slides and information that was presented to the Board of Commissioners after they requested quotes on possible soccer field improvements. The Commissioners authorized improvements to the AAC turf field, but they did not

want to spend money on Jackson Park fields that are located in the flood plain due to the flooding that happens numerous times a year.

Summer Camp Debrief - Brittany Williams

Brittany gave the board an overview of how our new summer camp program went this year. We had 3 adventure camps, 7 sports camps, and 8 half day camps with a total of 175 registrations. The Advisory Board suggests presenting this overview to the Board of Commissioners and congratulates Brittany and Recreation Staff for a successful launch.

Lighting Challenges at Jackson Park - Carleen Dixon

Carleen informed the board of some lighting challenges on fields 8 and 9 at Jackson Park. The previously installed systems are antiquated, and they do not make the parts needed to replace necessary pieces anymore. The quote to fully re-lamping these two fields \$285k but in the meantime we will be spending around \$3-5k to get the lighting to a safe level for short term use.

Recreation Advisory Board Vacancies - Carleen Dixon

The Recreation Advisory Board has two vacancies currently. Tommy Laughter and Ken Wise have been unassigned from the board due to scheduling and obligatory constraints. There are no recent board applications on file at this time and Carleen suggests that if members know anyone who would be interested in filling a board position to direct them to our website or to Carleen.

Tuxedo Park Memorial - David Hill

David came to speak to the board as a representative from the Green River Valley Association and to answer any questions about the Tuxedo Park Armed Forces Memorial. There will be plaques representing all branches of the Armed Forces as well as a POW/MIA memorial. These will be imbedded in black granite and surrounded by concrete, located adjacent to the currently standing stone memorials. The board was all supportive and would like to be invited to the grand opening.

Refund Policy - Erin Hendrix

The Board was presented with a refund policy for the Parks and Recreation Department at the last meeting, but it was unable to vote due to no quorum. Erin

asked the board for a review and approval of the Refund Policy. Jenn makes a motion to approve, Philip seconds, unanimously approved.

Hola Community Arts Potential Update - Carleen Dixon

Carleen presented the Hola Carolina Community Arts partnership proposal to the Board of Commissioners and they seemed favorable to the idea. Next steps will need to be taken and the contract vetted, but staff are moving forward under the assumption that a partnership and tenets in the Jackson Park House are likely as soon as October.

Gymnasium Work Update - Carleen Dixon

The gymnasium work has taken longer than expected due to unforeseen damage, but we anticipate the gym reopening to be September 19th, 2019. The floor itself is looking good and the tape has been placed for painting lines. We have updated the lining design and are excited for the finished product.

Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Update - Carleen Dixon

Carleen let and board know that Henderson County did not receive the PARTF grant that we applied for in the spring. The state had numerous requests and also significantly depleted funding this cycle as they allocated funds to many projects outside of the grant process dropping the available funds for the grant significantly! Jenn commented on the effectiveness of the grant processes if the state legislature is not going to follow the process and wonders if the commissioners would address this at the state level.

Parks Update - Jason Kilgore

Jason gives a brief overview of the work being done around the parks. It is the beginning of sports season, so soccer, flag football, softball, and baseball fields need lots of attention.

Recreation Update - Casey Conner

Casey quickly lets the board know that there is a new soccer program this year, Soccer Sprouts, for 3 to 5-year-olds which had a wonderful turn out for it's first year with 49 registered and 6 on the wait list. He also shared that the Fall Recreation Guide is out next week, the youth soccer leagues is in full swing with about 430

players, that youth basketball registration will be starting soon and that we have one more movie in the park coming up on Sept 20!

Member Comments:

Jenn would like to take a moment to discuss the child that was hit with a softball this past weekend at Etowah Park. She asks if we were aware of it and if anything had been done to reach out to the family. Carleen says that the incident was not reported to law enforcement or EMS and we just learned about its occurrence. The incident happened during a field rental, so it was not a County Program so our staff were not on hand to witness the situation. As Carleen understands, the child was 3 weeks old and the family was sitting under a tent down the 3rd base line. Jenn states that the lack of netting has been an issue at Etowah Park for years and asks that someone look into safety upgrades for that park. Carleen responds that the netting is not any different than our other parks however, funding was requested to update the backstops to improve safety. You can never protect everyone in a ball park from fly balls, but updated fencing and netting would help. Jenn thinks the situation is too urgent and noted that she will be reaching out to the County Commissioners directly.

Motions:

Jenn makes a motion to approve the Refund Policy, Phillip seconds, unanimously approved.

Ralph makes a motion to approve minutes from June and August, Terry seconds, unanimously approved.