

## **Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

Tuesday, October 8th, 2019, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Terry Maybin, Ralph King, Katie Breckheimer, Tricia King, Jennifer Hensley, Corum Smith, and Scott Rhodes.

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

**Speakers in attendance:** Gayle Merrell

**Call to Order:** 12:04pm

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve September minutes was made by Katie Breckheimer, seconded by Terry Maybin and unanimously approved.

**Public Input:** None

**New Business:**

### **1. East Flat Rock Park - Gayle Merrell**

Gayle is not in attendance so Chair notes that we will move on and come back if she comes in late.

### **2. New Board Members - Carleen Dixon**

Two new members were added to fill our vacancies at last night's Board of Commissioners meeting. Stephanie Cantwell and Robert Smith were appointed. They will receive all the details soon and hopefully can join us at the November meeting.

Though it is not on the agenda, Carleen asks the board to think about the December Advisory Board meeting. Typically, there is no business held during the December meeting and we have a luncheon and appreciation of service instead. However, last year's turn out was low and Carleen asks what participation is set to be like this year and if the Board would like to continue to hold this luncheon. Katie says she feels appreciated each month and does not think it necessary. A brief discussion continued, and many will not be able to attend. Terry makes a motion to suspend the December meeting and reconvene in January. Tricia Seconds the motions. Unanimously approved.

**Unfinished Business:**

### **1. Hola Community Arts Update- Carleen Dixon**

Carleen lets the board know that the lease to Hola Community Arts for space in the Jackson Park House was approved by the Board of Commissioners at the Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. In November, there will be a chance for the public to voice any objections to this lease which is required by North Carolina State law. Should the item pass public hearing, and the Board make final approval Hola Community Arts will be able to finalize their lease.

## **2. Gymnasium Work Update - Carleen Dixon**

The gym floor is finished after several weeks and a few setbacks. However, the community is pleased with the finished product. It was noted that a member of the pickleball community spoke at public comment during the Commissioners' meeting about how nice the new lines and floor were for the community. There will be a brief tour of the gym at the end of the meeting.

## **3. P&R Comprehensive Plan Update - Carleen Dixon**

The Community Needs Assessment was bumped from the agenda for last night's Board of Commissioners meeting but will hopefully be included on the upcoming mid-month agenda. Should this be approved, the turnaround for sending out the survey should be short, around two weeks, and we are excited for this important step in the P&R Comprehensive Plan. As you will recall, this survey was scrutinized and approved by the Advisory Board in the Spring of 2019 and will be a key aspect of our Comprehensive Plan. Katie ask if the Comprehensive Plan will revise the mission statement for the department. Yes, Carleen answers, we will create a new statement that reflects our current values and goals. Carleen has also begun to create a Transition Plan based on the feedback from the ADA Assessment. All of our parks will need some updates and the transition plans give priority to needs as well as a timeframe for completion. Having a plan in place is not just important for planning purposes but also protects the department and the county should anyone file a formal complaint.

## **Revisit New Business #1 as speaker came in late: East Flat Rock Park - Gayle Merrell**

Gayle owns property behind East Flat Rock Park and has concerns about safety in the park. She says that, for the safety of the children and adults in the park, she believes the park should be clear cut from the front to the back to provide full views front one end to the other. She says that this increases the ability for traffic on Spartanburg Highway to see into the park and report problems. She would like the bushes in front of the fence to be removed, the trees to be cut back, and the fence between her property and the park to be replaced. She also asks that baseball diamonds be added to the field at the backstop so that children can play baseball in the park. Fencing and gates should be added to the entire park, she says, so that the park can be locked up at night to keep unwanted people out.

Carleen explains to the board that the bushes growing on the outside of the fence that Ms. Merrell is referring too were planted by the Department of transportation on their right-of-way so, the County cannot do anything except request the NCDOT to address Ms. Merrell's concerns. We have been in contact with DOT about this issue, but we cannot remove the bushes ourselves. Ralph agrees that the bushes were planted by NCDOT and says that the fencing in the back that was removed was owned by the county and existed before the park did when the property

was still a school. He believes Duke Power should replace the fence. Jenn disagrees and asks how fences and visibility equate to safety. Gayle replies that if someone were to be molested, then someone driving by could see it and report it. She then says that fences keep vagrants from walking through the park and into neighboring property like hers. Scott says that he agrees in part with the fencing between properties. His property borders Edneyville Park and says that it was placed there to keep people from crossing from public property into private. Jenn asks if the fence were to be removed, would Scott take it upon himself as the homeowner to replace it? Yes, Scott answers. Katie voices concern about removing trees from a public park stating that she likes growth in the park. Jenn agrees saying that she runs there regularly and is thankful for the tree cover on hot days.

Carleen explains that, even if the fence were to be replaced, it would not be able to be placed in the same location. Since Duke Power upgraded their power lines, there are new stipulations involved and a fence could not be placed within 25 feet of the line due to the electric charge that can potentially be transferred. Carleen shares the Duke Power guidelines with everyone. Jason states that the new line is cut across the right-of-way and not parallel, which further increases the amount of space needed for a fence placement. This places the fence line well into the park and away from a desirable location. Carleen says that they will continue to work with NCDOT regarding the bushes by the Spartanburg Hwy and understands the issues brought up. The Parks staff will keep the trees limbed and be conscious of visibility. Jeff says that there can be no action from the board at this time and suggests waiting until NCDOT has responded.

#### **4. FY21 Budget Items - Carleen Dixon**

Carleen calls attention to the 4-year budget that the Commissioners requested from departments last year. In it are the majority of the capitol items the park has prioritized for the future. The Board of Commissioners approved two parks positions that were requested for Fiscal Year 20, but we were not awarded a Parks Tech 2 and Recreation Programmer position to fill the new Edneyville School Gym. Carleen believes this to be due to the delayed opening of the gym. The gym is set to open in January, so we will be in need of staffing for that space soon. We also requested several capitol projects that were not funded for this fiscal year. We will be requesting these again as well as the requests we had projected to request for Fiscal Year 21. Jeff asks if there is a priority for these projects. Carleen explains that the year in which they were to be requested is the indication of priority. Some projects or items are more urgent and some need to be completed before others can be started. These were requested first. Katie clarifies that there was no capital money awarded. Yes, Carleen answers. We did not receive capital funding for Fiscal Year 20.

#### **Staff Updates:**

##### **Parks Update - Jason Kilgore**

Jason gives a brief update of the tournaments held in Jackson Park and Etowah Park. He says that the restrooms at Etowah are roughly 60% completed. Farm City Day had a

good turnout, especially with regards to the weather being colder and damp. He shows the board some drone footage of the event, highlighting parking and scope. Carleen notes that \$905,000.00 worth of impact to Henderson County from Tournaments in 2019 so far.

### **Recreation Update - Casey Conner**

There is an upcoming Nocturnal Animals event at Edneyville Community Center as well as Fall Festival at ECC. Our annual Halloween event will be held downtown and is expected to have a large turnout. It is in partnership with Hola Community Arts and the City of Hendersonville. We are currently looking for a few more vendors for the event if the board knows anyone who would like to be involved. In addition, we will be starting an adult indoor tennis program, Youth Basketball registration has started, Adult Basketball will have a program in January and we are currently looking for basketball officials.

**Member Comments:** None

**Dismissed:** 1:10pm

### **Motions:**

1. Katie makes a motion to approve minutes, Terry seconds, unanimously approved.
2. Terry makes a motion to cancel the December Advisory Board Meeting, Tricia seconds, unanimously approved.

**Minutes** taken by Erin Hendrix