

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

September 13, 2022, 12:00pm, Athletics and Activities Center, 708 South Grove Street

Board members in attendance: Philip Ellis, Stephanie Cantwell, Terry Maybin, Scott Rhodes, Katie Breckheimer, Doug Moon, Jeff Donaldson, and Ralph King.

Staff in attendance: Bruce Gilliam, Megan Burnette, Jason Kilgore, Autumn Radcliff.

1. Call to Order – 12:05pm

2. Approval Of Minutes: August 2022

Stephanie Cantwell made a motion to accept the August 2022 minutes as presented. Doug Moon seconded the motion. There was unanimous agreement to approve the August 2022 minutes.

3. New Business

a. PARTF Grant Acknowledgement of Award

Henderson County Parks and Recreation (HCPRD) received the PARTF Grant of \$286,125 for “Redefining Etowah Park”. This is a 50/50 match. The grant will provide funds to improve the accessibility of the park in addition to improvement of key features of the park like the playground and basketball court. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) have three years to match it. Philip Ellis mentioned he may be able to help with the drainage issues in the park.

b. Bench Memorial Request

HCPRD received a memorial request to add a bench along the bike trail of Jackson Park. Board members suggested that the department should be cautious of any names going on memorial plaques. A background check will be completed for any memorial requests to ensure there are no concerns. Doug Moon advised that the bench should only go in a location that the department already had in mind for a bench. There will be a vote at the next meeting regarding this issue. Terry Maybin made a motion to accept the request for the bench donation contingent on a background check coming back clean. Philip Ellis seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval by the board.

4. Unfinished Business

a. Jackson Park All-Inclusive Playground Update

The department is still in the process of finalizing quotes. Chris Todd is speaking with the BOC to finalize the dollar amount they will give for this playground project. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony at Jackson Park on Saturday October 8th at 12:15pm to commemorate the start of construction. This will be open to the public.

b. Tuxedo Park Update

The basketball goal has been put up. They are putting the surface on the court next. Jason expects the court to be complete by this Friday, September 16th. Fencing will be put up in November, which has been donated by a family. Terry Maybin announced that the Green River Community Association received \$40,000 from the Community Foundation. There will also be a shade structure added to the park.

c. Ecusta Trail Updates

The Rail-Trail Advisory Committee will meet tomorrow morning, September 14th. Last month they got a review from the engineer about the first phase of the design and this meeting will look at cost. The planning department has been working with the Department of Transportation and other partners to go in on a grant together.

5. Staff Updates and Events

Bruce Gilliam has been working hard to get more people hired. Edneyville Community Center is staffed so it can be used for pickup volleyball, pickleball, and basketball. Bruce is meeting with Charlotte Hornets on Thursday to talk about youth basketball program. The youth basketball program is HCPRD's second most popular. There will not be youth soccer the weekend of October 1st to accommodate Farm City Day.

Jason Kilgore stated that fall sports have been more popular this year than in the past. His staff will need to work on the fields at the end of the season to prepare for the next season. More mulch is coming in. The new shade structure has been put in for the dog area in Jackson Park. Jackson Park will be hosting the Mountains to Coast Ride soon where the participants will be staying the night in the park.

Megan Burnette gave an update on mobile food vending – there have been no applicants so far. A flyer has been made to promote it which has been posted on the website and posted to social media by PIO. The front office assistant positions are both full now.

There will be a public input meeting on October 4th at East Flat Rock Park. Children are encouraged to attend to give their input on the playground design.

6. Member Comments

Philip asked about the state of the soccer fields and emphasized the need for more facilities. Autumn Radcliff let the board know that the BOC has stated a sports complex is still one of their priorities.

Jeff commented on the good work ethic of HCPRD and how people feel good about coming and using our facilities.

7. Adjourn – 12:59pm

Our next meeting will be held October 11, 2022, at the Athletics and Activities Center located at 708 South Grove Street, Hendersonville, NC.