

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

May 9th, 2023, Jackson Park Shelter 4

Board members in attendance: Terry Maybin, Stephanie Cantwell, Corum Smith, Doug Moon, Milton Butterworth, and Robert Smith

Staff in attendance: Bruce Gilliam, Jason Kilgore, Cory Blackwell, Lynn Metcalf, and Brooklyn Bishop

Public in Attendance: None in attendance.

1. Call to Order: 12:07

2. Approval of Minutes: April 2023

Terry motioned to approve minutes at the next meeting. All present members agreed.

3. Public Input

No formal public input.

4. New Business

a. Jackson Park Playground Tour

The Ribbon Cutting ceremony will be this Saturday at 10:30am. Facility services is currently installing the handrails for the stairs and ramp. We are still working on the net, one piece that was sent to us was the wrong size. The correct net will be installed this week. For the ceremony, we will block off the tennis courts for county commissioners and other important individuals. The community is very excited for the opening, and we have been having to rope off the entrances to keep the public out until it is officially open. Four different nights last week, we had staff and HCSO deputies guard the playground to prevent individuals from entering the playground while the surfacing cured.

Around the outside, there is exercise equipment from Pardee and 13 laps around is one mile for walking. There is a seat wall but no benches yet. The playground is completely accessible with interactive panels, musical instruments, and more. All landscaping was done through the

beautification project in partnership with the FFA groups from East, North, and West High School's.

b. Ribbon Cutting – EFR Park New Land Acquisition

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the 13 acres attached to the East Flat Rock Park that the county has purchased. Looking at possible dates later in May depending on Ralph's availability. Corum asked where the property was located. Bruce confirmed the land is behind the park. There have been discussions to possibly turn this land into a mile and a half walking trail and a 9-hole disc golf course. We would like to level the field to use for soccer programs as well.

c. Introduce Cory Blackwell – Supervisor

Cory is joining us as the recreation supervisor. He previously worked for HCPRD as the administrative assistant and has returned for this role. He will be supervising the programmers and starting his own programs targeted toward outdoor recreation.

d. Introduce Lynn Metcalf – Special Needs Coordinator/ Senior Activities

Lynn comes from an extensive school system background with special needs experience. Her position will be working alongside Donnie Jones for special needs programs as well as doing senior activities.

e. Mobile Vending

Jackson Park has been extremely busy recently and we would like to add more mobile vendors in the park. The policy currently allows one truck during the week and two on weekends. We would like to increase this to two during the week and 3 on weekends. The fee for vendors is \$25 for weekdays and \$50 for weekend dates. Corum asked if the vendors are responsible for cleaning up themselves. Bruce confirmed they are responsible for their own cleaning, and they have been very reliable. Little League Baseball runs their own concessions during their practices and games, and we would like to keep vendors separate to avoid competition and allow them to make profit. We would like to add vending at the AAC as well to help accommodate the turf field.

Terry and Milton agreed that when vending was originally voted on that the board would be okay with any HCPRD facility. Terry asked how many vendors we currently have, and Bruce confirmed there are four vendors approved. Terry mentioned that we may not need to vote. Milton appreciated that we are not trying to compete with Little League. We have assured that vendors will not sell the same items as their concessions as well as placing vendors at separate areas.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. ECC – Sport Court – Jason

The parking lot paving has now been completed. The sport court has now been paved and we will be installing a concrete walkway from the existing walkway to the court and to the covered area at the back of the building. This will be a huge addition with 2 basketball goals and 3 pickleball courts. The asphalt will need to cure for 30 days before surfacing can be placed. We should be ready to use the court by end of June. Terry asked if this was all paid for by the Edneyville Grange and Jason confirmed that the parking lot funding came from the county, but all additional funding was from the Grange. Thank you to Doug for providing update photos for the progress on this project. Milton asked about the restoration of the stream. Bruce believes this project may be at a halt currently.

b. Etowah – PARTF Grant - Jason

We have put this in the fiscal year 24 budget so work will not begin until after July. We will get with an engineer to get drawings done and get real cost estimates. With this grant and the manufacturers grant that match dollar for dollar on playground equipment, we should be able to create a nice playground.

6. STAFF UPDATES and EVENTS

Jackson Park Playground Ribbon Cutting will be this Saturday May 13th at 10am. Movies in the Park will begin May 19th starting with East Flat Rock Park.

Our July 4th festivities will take place downtown with fireworks being shot from Jackson Park.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS

The members toured the Jackson Park playground and were very pleased. Milton and Terry both mentioned the excitement they have heard from the community for the opening.

8. ADJOURN: 12:36