

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Meeting – Camp Hawk

January 25, 2016

Members present: Carolyn Schwab, Jim Lasiter, Pat Jackson, Carol Buller, Brandon Wills, Zack Phillips

Members Absent: Cynda Conrade

Staff Present: Parks Director, Kass Miller & Operations Supervisor, Derrick Richling

Minutes: November minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Operations Report – Derrick Richling:

- Working on new radio system. Have installed radios in park vehicles – but not operational yet. There was some ice damage to towers during recent storm – repairs have been made.
- **East Park:** New tower is up. Water all shut down for winter. With extra time due to cold – staff been completely reorganizing shop at East Lake – much more efficient work place. Plan to do the same at West Park.
- Have run electricity at the horse trail head at East Park. They have 4 50-30 amp & 110 boxes. They plan to have 4 camping pads – 2 on south side and 2 on north side. Want to utilize the road that is presently there (that used to go around the old shop). They plan to put up a small building in the area. Working on ideas/designs that will best suit the area. They have purchased material (corrals panels etc) to complete this project.
- Advertised for bids to tear down the old barn at horse trail head at East Park – did not receive any offers. They do have a company interested (they came in after bid timing had expired). Received permission from commissioners to work with this company directly.
- Been working on making new “extra” pay stations to make more accessible to campers for all the parks. Hope to make more user friendly for campers/users of the park facilities.
- **West Park:** Have torn down the bath house in the Walnut Grove area – just have concrete pad at present in preparation for new bath house.
- Plan to replace culvert that runs from the lake to the swim hole.
- **Camp Hawk:** Recently had a frisbie tournament that was very successful.

Carol has been replanting some trees in the West Park area around the camp sites. They have also ordered about 40+ more to be planted in and around the park.

Directors Report – Kass Miller:

- **Conquer the Gauntlet:** This event is being planned for April 16, 2016 at East Park. Kass explained this is a 4 mile long obstacle course – will cover 100 acres of the park. This has been done at the coliseum in Park City & draws a lot of people. They expect around 1500 people. The group will prepare all the obstacles – this is a one day event - &

they will leave the grounds like they found them when the event is over. The park will receive a fee for allowing the group to use the park. They charge each participant & there is also a charge for spectators. Kass commented this is the first time for the parks to offer this & based on the success, hopes to continue in the future. Kass urged the members to go on internet & look up their website.

- **West Park:** They would like to build some sort of small building (Nature Center) for Carol to use near the area of the new culvert (between swim pool & lake).
- **Trappers Rendezvous:** This event was held January 15/16, 2016 at West Park. At first count, they had 5567 registered campers, with 12 troops that had not registered yet. All went well – very uneventful – with exception of minor electrical fire in the Stone building that was used for first aid (too many heaters). Coleman company had their big tent as usual. Nothing was done regarding any type of reimbursement from Coleman Company to the parks for use of the area. Park Staff has been told that Coleman was bought out by Rubbermaid. They (Park Staff) will meet with the new owners (Coleman) the first of next year to discuss this issue. Harvey County Parks will not receive any monies this year.

Park Staff are searching for new skid steer machine. They sold the “non-working” tractor for \$4,070 to a gentleman from Paola.

They are working on a different approach to the educational program (fireside chats) they had offered last year. Sometimes a lot of people would show up – other times hardly anyone. This year they are going to work with the Junior Ranger/Outdoor Explorer Program. They will divide meetings between East Park & West Park depending on the topic of discussion. Plan to hold twice a month & after each meeting, offer “Movie Under the Stars”. Carol will once again host these meetings.

Old Business:

- **Horse Trail camping:** Have materials purchased – plan to have 2 sets of corrals (panels already purchased) and they will be big.
- **East Park Tower:** Tower is up & should be functional by March. **Note:** This is not a cell tower. There is a lot of room for a company to install a unit for cell service – perhaps in the future.

New Business:

- **Park Board Applicant:** Bill Kiehl has applied for membership to the Harvey County Parks Advisory Board. He was recommended by former member Larry Schmidt. Kass read his bio & presented his application to the board members present. Kass feels he would be a good addition to the membership. Zack reminded members to be diligent in their search/approval of board members to be sure they are interested in the parks as a whole – not particularly for one personal agenda. **Carol Buller moved, and Jim Lasiter seconded that the board recommend to the County Commissioners that they approve Bill Kiehl as a member of the Harvey County Parks Advisory Board. No further discussion – Motion carried.**

- **Calendar of Events:** Kass gave members an overview of events planned for the parks through September. He also presented 2 copies of how the calendars will be printed & asked members opinion on what design they preferred. Instead of the larger calendar used last year, he plans on using 8x10 which will be less expensive & easier to distribute.

Board Member Comments:

- Carolyn Schwab asked if the staff had done anymore thinking about the Bird Nature area/bird watching stations. When they do, she has the plants & will be ready to assist. Kass commented they want to do that in the future & he still has the plans she provided earlier.
- Carol Buller – Kass has asked for assistance from the horse riders for an event planned on June 11 – horseback obstacle course. Carol stated glad to help & should get started fairly early to work on this.
- Pat Jackson asked about assistance from board members on stuffing easter eggs for the easter egg hunt. Kass assured the members that this will be on the agenda for one of our meetings.

No further discussion – Carolyn moved, Jim seconded that meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 22, 2016 at West Park 7:00 PM

Respectfully,

Pat Jackson, Secretary.