

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Meeting – East Park

September 21, 2015

Members present: Pat Jackson, Carol Buller, Brandon Wills, Zack Phillips

Members Absent: Cynda Conrade, Jim Lasiter, Carolyn Schwab

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

NO QUORUM PRESENT – NO VOTING.

Minutes: August minutes were reviewed by not voted on – tabled until October meeting.

Operations Report – Derrick Richling:

- **Camp Hawk:** Frisbee golf tournament will be held 10/3/15. There will be 40 teams of 2 and as of 8:00 AM 9/21, Kass advised there were only 3 spots left.
- Zach asked about the spillway repair (for farmer to cross). Derrick advised they added more rock & now area is large enough for farmer to get his equipment across into his field.
- **East Lake:** Working on horse trails – trimming trees, etc. Carol Buller commented there was an area she felt was overgrown & dangerous over in Osage Trail area. Derrick felt this had been corrected. Zion Mennonite Church group are coming out to do community service work & plan to work on the trails.
- Been doing maintenance work on equipment.
- **West Park:** Got the dock installed that was removed from Camp Hawk. Where the old dock was that was destroyed – they removed the “t” section and now have a straight walk on where at one end they have installed the fish cleaning station. Easier to maneuver around.

Directors Report – Kass Miller:

- **Indigent Memorial:** This will be located at East Park in the Osage Nature Trail area. They have poured a 14x12 platform & plan to have a monument placed on top. This will conclude the park department’s portion of the memorial. Chaplain Jason Reynolds will handle disposing of the 7 unidentified cremated remains on the site when it is ready. (Kass brought new member Brandon Wills up to date on this project).
- Another tree limb fell over the top of a camper at West Park, but did not do any damage. They plan on getting more tree limbs trimmed when weather & time allows preventing any further damage to campers.
- For the past 2-3 years, Harvey County Parks has participated in the Newton Halloween Safe Walk & plan to do so again this year. It will be held October 31 from 5 – 6:30 PM. They do not have a location yet. He invited any park advisory member to participate if they wanted to – just let him know & he will advise more information later.

- Kass will attend the B.E.O.S. seminar again this year which will be held in Overland Park October 13 – 15. They are focusing on trail development. There is another similar event scheduled sometime in February they may look at attending. Kass commented he would like for Operations Supervisor, Derrick, to attend one of these seminars in the future.
- Bait shop is closed at West Park as is Hunters shop at East Lake. Kass commented he had received many compliments on the management of the West Park bait shop & how well it looked and was run. The same employee has asked to return next year.
- The park department will participate again this year in the Harvey County clean up; but will not accept any tires this year (too expensive & hard to dispose of). They will accept appliances, yard waste, scrap metal plus clean up around the park.
- Berean Cross Country Team will hold a meet on 10/1 at East Lake & Burton Cross Country Team will hold a meet at West Park on 10/8.

Old Business:

- **FEMA update:** The parks department has been accepted into program to cover storm damage from Mother's Day 2015 to just before Memorial Day, 2015. Previously you could only claim overtime reimbursement – but the new program allows claiming straight time for cleanup. Since cleanup was completed in a timely manner by the department, Harvey County Parks will be reimbursed for 95% of cleanup time. Depending on the monies received, any extra money will be used for park department expenses, improvements, etc. That being said, if grant does not cover all the cleanup costs, the park department will have to absorb the shortage.
- **Indigent Memorial Update** (see Directors Report above).

New Business: Kass

- **2016 Trappers Rendezvous:** Getting ready for this event at West Park (weekend prior to Martin Luther King Day in January). Kass plans to meet with the coordinator to discuss the event. The remodeling of the restrooms/bath house in Walnut Grove will be started & wants them to be aware of the construction area. Kass noted that the Coleman Company always attends this event & sells a tremendous amount of merchandise during the weekend. They set up a large tent by the stone shelter. The parks department does not receive any monies from Coleman & he did not think the scouts did either – he wants to clarify this with the coordinator. He feels some sort of compensation should be given by Coleman. Coleman has asked for more security from the parks department to avoid shop lifting. He will keep the board advised as to what he finds out.
- **Storage area at West Park:** They have kept this area mowed & clean for storage. However, at present they only have 2 campers stored there & did not feel it was worth it to continue to offer this area for storage. He is suggesting this area could be offered/rented for use & increase revenue.

Zach asked if there was any more new business. Kass commented they have 2 major projects planned for next year..(a) Restroom/shower house remodel at West Park. He mentioned that to be considered a storm shelter, additional material could be added on top of the structure – they

are looking into this & the added cost. (b) Camp sites at the old ranger station/horse trail head at East Park.

Board Member Comments:

- Carol Buller mentioned she had ridden with a group at West Park – trails need cleaning up – but mainly felt the trails needed to be marked better. Had a group get lost & spent time finding their way back. Kass advised he needs to be more familiar with the West Park trails. He has a GPS on his phone & felt he just needs to walk the trails & map them out. Carol offered to go with him – just let her know. Kass did say he visited with a group of ladies that had ridden West Park trails & felt they were the best they had been on in a long time. Kass also said they plan to burn that area next year – they have mapped out the area for an effective & safe burn pattern.

Zach & Pat will not be at the October meeting.

Zach also commented this October meeting is the meeting that Kass would like board members to give comments/suggestions for park events in 2016. He asked members to bring their ideas to the meeting & if they cannot attend, to email them to Kass prior to the October 19th meeting.

Meeting was closed at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully, Pat Jackson