

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Meeting – East Park – Volunteer Hall

September 19, 2016

Members present: Carolyn Schwab, Zack Phillips, Cynda Conrade, Bill Kiehl, Jack Bender, Brittany Welch, Brandon Wills and Carol Buller

Members Absent: Ron Hoffman, Pat Jackson

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

Minutes: Minutes for the August meeting were approved with the correction of Bill Kiehl was not at the August meeting.

Directors Report: Kass Miller

Conquer the Gauntlet – They have indicated wanting to come back next year. Kass is now in negotiations for a date for next year. Kass indicated that the best time would be in April or no later than May 7th.

National Parks Association- There are education opportunities if we should join. They have webinars and on-line classes, grants available, professional development and certifications available. You must test out and be certified to continue to be a member in this organization. The cost is expensive but would be a wealth of available help for us. Also thinking of joining the Kansas State Association.

Advertising - We received a free ad for one month on the internet through major search engines such as Google & Yahoo for purchasing ad space in the Newton Kansan tourism guide. We also registered the parks on tripadvisor.com, The site has a place for people to give reviews of their visit to the parks.

Mowing -We have the last cycle of contract mowing coming up. The plan is to mow it ourselves when it needs it after this last contract cycle. A cost analysis of gas, labor and time will be done to see which is the most cost effective way to mow the parks, continue to use contract mowing or to hire summer help to do the mowing using our own equipment.

Scout Program 661- We will have a scout group painting the #2 stone building at West Park next weekend. It is 6 chapters-6 weekends-1 lodge. This programs goes all over doing these kinds of projects donating their time and labor to help others.

Reservation Policy Change- No date will be held until the full fee is received. If the date is canceled before 30 days, you get a refund of all but \$50.00 per each day rented and if within the 30 days the whole amount is kept. There is a \$200 clean and damage deposit required at least 30 days before the event date.

Operations Report: Derrick Richling

Camp Hawk- in the building they have cleaned from top to bottom and painted the cabinets.

West Park- South loop on the Walnut Grove side of the river they have mowed it down. They may have to burn it to maintain the area. The stubble in that area makes it difficult for the scouts to camp during the Trappers Rendezvous

Main side the burn pile east of the shower house has been burned.

Road and Bridge dumped KG&E rock on the road on the west side of the river from 36th street into the park.

Prepping the foundations for sealing in the new shower house on east side. They will be using air compressors and blasting into the seams cleaning them out so the grout can be put in. Need to fill joints in walls on inside and out with special caulking (2-part epoxy) and seal roof.

East Lake- They had the 3D Bow Shoot last Saturday. Think there were participant from ages 6 to 60. There was a father and daughter team and a family with 2 kids and individuals. It was muddy from all the rain made it work as best could. Not only were targets provided but also youth bow and arrows. They did have a safety meeting before the event started. Next year they hope to have 30 targets a longer walk and separate zone for some who want to just try and shoot a bow and arrow. Everyone had lots of fun and the plan is to do it next year.

There is a tree down on the horse trail that will be taken out.

Going along the shoreline with 2-4-D and spraying to kill the vegetation so it can be burned off.

The bridge that has been out due to flooding on the nature trail has been replaced. Thanks to West Star for the telephone poles to help with this project.

Old Business:

Utility costs- Kass said that taking the cost of utilities for last year and the income from the utility fees we charged we are under the \$10.00 fee we charge. We are not making a lot of

money but we are not losing either. He believes we should not change the fees for next year on the utilities.

Activity Fee- Kass has checked with Lake Afton, Winfield and Wellington about activity fees they charge. Each one charges a daily recreation fee for just using the park. He is asking us to think about doing this as a means to bring in more money for the parks. This would also help keep us from having to raise the utility fees at some point and generate more income. People come out to the parks to swim or do various parties or activities and do not have to pay anything. They still use the bathrooms, create trash and it costs them nothing. It will require more checking with people on the part of the rangers to keep track of everyone. We need to take time to think about this and discuss it further. Zack asked Kass to e-mail us the spread sheet of information on each of the parks he had talked to so we could do an analysis. Kass stated if we had any questions please call him – do not wait for the next meeting to get your answers. The park fees can be changed at any time with a resolution and it published in the paper.

Jack Bender made a motion that we maintain the current utility fee structure. Cynda Conrade seconded. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Camp Hawk- Commissioners are considering selling Camp Hawk. Newton Kansan article passed out to each from county commission meeting. We were given a heads up by e-mail from Kass on September 7th. Brittney said that the disc golf people are really upset about this as it is a place they utilize a lot. They have 2 tournaments a year – the next one is Oct. 1. There will be 40 teams = 80 players. It is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the 6th year for it. It is a 24-hole course tournament. They have had people come to these tournaments from all over including out of the states. This is the most accessible place for them and there are other people that come out there and bring their kids just for an evening. We would be amazed at how much the park is really used. She does not think that we would get as many disc golfers if a course is setup at East or West park. If we have any questions or comments, we should ask Kass or call the commissioners. Should the county sell Camp Hawk the monies are to come back for the other two parks to use for improvements and upgrades. We need to be thinking of how that money could be utilized for the parks.

Jack Bender thought the county should think about utilizing Camp Hawk as a camping area if the county is still planning on using the land they bought for a new fair grounds at the corner of 36th south and Kansas Avenue.

It is believed that as an advisory board this idea of selling Camp Hawk should have been brought to us first. It is our duty as a board to bring recommendations to the commissioners on park items. It should be open and transparent communication between the board of commissioners and the advisory board.

There is a 45 day protest period after the resolution is published where people can sign a petition and make this go to a public vote.

New Business:

Horse trail scavenger hunt- was postponed again. The committee will get together and decide on a new date.

2017 budget – The parks budget was approved for 2017.

2017 - replace 2 vehicles, hydraulic dump trailer

Longer term major items:

2018 – replace 2 mules, a truck, track loader attachments (turbo tree saw, box grader, grapple bucket, pallet forks and an auger), rehabilitate Walnut Grove well house, replace playground equipment at Campers Row and Walnut Grove

2019 – replace JCB Site master, replace West Park roof on residence garage and concession stand in metal to match house, playground equipment at Willow Bend, install 40 and 50amp service points to camping areas at Eastlake and West Park

2020 – replace a tractor and truck, pave with asphalt all roads, level and pave all camping pads with packed, crushed concrete, lake side shower house @ WestPark

2021 – replace 2 trucks

Kass asked the board to look over the budget and if they had any questions to call him.

Board Member Comments:

There were no comments.

Carolyn Schwab moved the meeting adjourn and was seconded by Bill Kiehi. Motion carried.

Next meeting – October 17th – at Camp Hawk

Submitted by:

Carol Buller