

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Meeting – East Lake (change from Camp Hawk)

April 17, 2016

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

Members Absent: Jim Lasiter

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

Zach welcomed new members Jack Bender & Brittany Welch & thanked them for volunteering to be a member of the advisory board.

Minutes: Minutes of the March meeting were approved after a wording correction regarding the inspection of the Dam.

Operations Report – Derrick Richling:

West Park:

- Working on trimming trees along the horse trails.
- New bath house still in working stages – have surveyed & are working on a site plan.
- Field trips are planned for Newton School District in the near future.

Camp Hawk: No Report

East Lake:

- Working on horse trailhead area.
- Roads/pads are fairly well done – using recycled material supplied by Road & Bridge Department make nice solid areas. Plan to check after ground settles from the recent rains & pack down where needed. New building almost finished. Plan to also put in a fire pit. Corrals are up.
- Burn ban has been lifted at the parks.
- Boat has been de-winterized and ready to use. They did go out on lake to try & move buoys – but too windy – lot of white caps.
- Have started to patrol on weekends
- New sign is up at entrance to East Lake work shop – really looks nice – used some tin from the old barn at horse trail head & also has LED lights that show up at night.
- Unfortunately, they have to lock the toilet paper dispensers in the bath houses to keep the toilet paper from being stolen. In trying to save a little money, they opted out of the lock/key locks & purchased 14 new combo locks which they felt would work a little better & and not have the expense of re-keying all the other locks alike. However....all 14 combo locks were stolen.

Directors Report: Kass Miller

- **Easter egg Hunt** – Was a big success – they had 3,000 plastic eggs plus some “golden” eggs that had coins in them & were larger. Said it took the kids about 10 minutes for gather all the eggs. Lot of fun – the bounce house made for a good time. Thinking of having it a week earlier next year due to other Easter egg hunts going on at the same time. Weather also cooperated which made it nice.
- **Conquer the Gauntlet** – Was also a success. The park staff did not have to do anything (except for contracts) – the organizers set up all the obstacles, etc. and made all the arrangements. Kass said he thought at one time there were 800 cars parked in the area. Said there were 1200 people registered, and this did not include the spectators. He heard a lot of great comments & they want to come back. Started at 9:00 – ran a wave of 100 people every 15 minutes, with the last one at noon. Note: Kass also participated in this event, along with his kids.
- **Fish stocking** – they stocked at East Lake & West Park. During this stocking, they discovered an albino catfish. They are running a contest – anyone catching this fish – bringing it to the rangers, alive and allow them to release it back into the lake, will receive a free season pass. If they already have one, they will give them one for the next season. To be fair, they are not giving out which lake this fish is in. The State stocked 172,000 Saugeye at East Lake - these are very small but they estimate a 20% survival rate. The lake has lot of habitat that they can hide from other fish species.
- **West Park Bait Shop** - Two people have passed their back ground checks & should be able to start working early next week; one is a student & the other runs latch key program.
- Since the burn ban has been lifted, they plan to start burning an area of the Osage Nature Trail on Wednesday (4/20).
- **Debris Management Course** – Lot more involved then thought – long couple of days but now both are Emergency Management certified. At the time this was going on, they were also dealing with the fire near Burrton.
- Congratulations to Derrick, who passed his water/waste management tests from KDHE.
- Mowing started at Camp Hawk/West Park last week. East Lake will be done shortly – rain slowed them down.
- **Westar Energy “Green Team”** – Kass has been in contact with Ben Postlethwait regarding assisting with a walking bridge behind Stone Shelter #2, east over the river to the “south loop” on the walnut grove side. The plan is to erect a small building there for the parks nature programs.
- Pope Construction has agreed to do the work on a patio behind volunteer hall; we just have to furnish the concrete. Jessica has taken over the Angel Camp – which is associated, but not funded by the girl scouts. This has been held for around 25 years at East Lake.

- **Skid Steer Machine** – Zach asked about some type of safety policy the staff has in place to make sure anyone operating this machine (possibly seasonal hire, etc.) knows what they are doing. Kass said they are in process of developing a check list & maintenance schedule & will address this safety policy at that time.

Old Business:

- **Calendar of Events** – Kass passed out the new brochure of events planned for the parks this season. Very attractive; easily handled & folds for mailing. He did comment that 2 late added events were not on it. He pointed out the ads on the back of sponsors that have given \$100 or more towards the events. Asked members given the opportunity to thank them for their support.

New Business:

- **50 amp fee consideration** – Kass passed out a 2015 Utilities Fee Summary. He said they are in the process of gradually converting to add 50 amp service to more camping areas, which is expensive to do. The report shows we are in the black for utilities (income – vs expense) but would like the advisory board's comments/suggestions if they should consider raising the utility fees for next year. At present we charge \$10 for camping & \$10 for electricity. Kass checked around – the State charges \$9 for one utility; any additional is another \$9. Some others - \$12 for electricity in addition to a camping fee. Brandon asked how they controlled who was using 50 amp or not. Kass said they patrol the camping areas & check that way. Kass would like suggestion/opinion from the board by the end of the year in raising utility fees.

Board Member Comments:

Cynda commented her phone number was not correct on the membership list. Kass will get that corrected & get everyone an updated list.

Ron Hoffman thanked Kass for taking him & Cynda on a tour of the parks. He was on the park board many years ago & it was enlightening to see all the changes/improvements that have been made. Cynda echoed this thank you to Kass.

Zach commented on the Conquer the Gauntlet event. He had brought his kids out & also visited with one of the organizers who definitely want to return. They really liked the venue – the parking was great & everything went smoothly. A great time!!

Jack asked what revenue the parks got from this event. Kass commented since it was new to them, they asked for a flat fee of \$3,000. Plus they asked for a \$2,000 damage fee that will be returned if the area is restored as it was before the event. They are thinking of asking for a percentage if they return next year.

No further discussion. Cynda moved, Bill seconded that meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully, Pat Jackson, Secretary