

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Minutes – Meeting June 16, 2014

East Lake

Members Present: Cynda Conrade, Terry Gowin, Pat Jackson, Jim Lasiter, Zack Phillips, Derrick Richling, Jerry Vetter, Carolyn Schwab, Greg Brenzikofer

Members Absent: Libby Albers

Staff Present: Director Kim Rowley, Operations Manager, Kass Miller

Minutes: The minutes of the May meeting were approved after minor spelling corrections.

Operations Report – Kass Miller:

*Shelter #1 at West Park – renovations have been completed.

*Water project at West Park has been completed. They appreciated the help they received from Westar.

*New signage is being installed at East Park.

*C.A.S.T. event was a big success again this year. There were around 40 special needs kids attend and had around 10 on a waiting list. There were 17 boats to help in getting the kids out on the water and fishing. Derrick Richling helped with the event.

*There was some flooding at the parks from the recent rains. East Lake is okay now. However, at West Park, the bridge on 36th street to the East of the park entrance was damaged & will be closed for an indefinite period of time. It may be a year before repairs can be completed.

*Repairs are being made to picnic tables & fire pits at East Park.

*One summer maintenance employee will not be working this summer. At this time there are no plans to replace him.

*The new logos have been installed on park vehicles & equipment replacing the old logos.

*Fishing futures event at Camp Hawk was a success. Stu did an excellent job hosting this event. They had around 18 kids that attended.

*They partnered with KDWPT at East Lake for removal of carp from the lake. There were around 628 fish weighing 932 pounds removed from the lake. They hope to do this again in July. There were 4 boats assisting with this operation.

Director Kim Rowley:

Kim reported she had recently taken two weeks off due to husband being ill. He was in the hospital for about 8 days, but is doing okay now. During her absence, Kass handled park duties.

Because of this time off, the budget hearings were moved to Monday, June 23rd.

She reported that the Camp Host at West Park has resigned. His last day will be Tuesday, June 17th. They already have new hosts on board. Jackie & Patricia Cartwright will assume these duties.

The campfire sessions at West Park are doing well as is the bait shop. They are having some problems getting live bait as the person they deal with is not very dependable. They are working on other options.

It was reported that a lot of fish were being caught in the spillway due to the recent flooding. Jessica Mounts came out and as soon as some of the water in the spillway recedes, KDWPT will come remove the “good” fish similar to how the carp were removed from East Lake, and relocate back into the lake.

Old Business:

Kim reminded board members to still be looking for 4 more members to fill the vacant spots on the board. She has not done any advertising in the paper at this time, so if anyone knows of someone, please encourage them to apply.

New Business:

Kass introduced the Camp Hosts for East Lake, Brian & Janet Moore. They are returning as camp hosts for a 3rd season. They have been long time campers & their work at the park is very much appreciated. Kass said they are good “eyes & ears” for the park in assisting with general maintenance & people not abiding by the rules. They do not handle anything that might require law enforcement. Janet & Brian police the area day and night – they feel this has helped keep vandalism down to a minimum... They check the bathrooms constantly, especially on weekends. Janet commented they had received a compliment from a camper regarding the cleanliness of the bathrooms, especially for a campground.

Agenda:

Chairman, Zack Phillips, explained the change in the agenda for park board meetings. Since the “committee reports” for individual park activities were really not “active” committees, he felt the need for a change since meeting minutes are on the web site for public viewing. Therefore, he is asking Kass to give an Operations Report at each meeting, such as he did for this meeting. He felt this would give an overview of all the park operations and cover all aspects of the parks.

Zack then presented Jerry Vetter with a plaque for completing 3 – 3 year terms with the advisory board and thanked him for his service.

Board Member Comments:

Zack commented this portion of the meeting will be for members to express concerns, make comments or suggestions for the parks.

Greg commented his concern over the amount of trash that seems to collect around the dam. He said the lake looks good, but still needs work in the dam area. People come in to fish around the dam, but leave their trash. He wondered if Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts could use this for a project & clean up around the dam. Kass said there would be a lot of liability to have young kids around the dam area. Community Service workers would be covered under workman's comp, but both he and Kim stated it is hard to get service workers. The parks cannot go looking for them; the workers have to come to them. Kass commented they have tried many ways to deter people from leaving trash; signs saying they will be prosecuted for leaving trash; passing out trash bags (which eventually ended up blowing all over the campground . They do have trash bags with them when they patrol & if they see camp site with trash lying around – they stop and offer the bags to encourage clean up. Kass said they do not tend to the dam area as much as they should and will be more diligent in checking the dam for trash. Cynda asked if the camp hosts could help with that area; but Kim felt that would be a lot to ask of them.

No further business, Jerry moved, Jim seconded the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Next meeting July 21, 2014 at 7 pm at West Park.

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Jackson, Secretary