

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Minutes – Meeting October 20, 2014

West Park

Members Present: Pat Jackson, Zach Phillips, Jim Lasiter, Greg Brenzikofer, Cynda Conrade

Members Absent: Derrick Richling, Terry Gowin, Carolyn Schwab

Staff Present: Director, Kass Miller

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved as written.

Operations Report – Kass Miller:

*Camping has been busy – weather has been nice.

*Bait shop at West Park has closed for the season.

*Mowing is done for the year; some areas where the grass has grown up. If weather continues, may have to contact mowing people – but for now, no mowing will be done.

*Second week of October, they held a music jam at West Park. 5 people came to plan & enjoy the campfire; one of which was/had been a professional performer. Plan to do this again the first week of November at the West Park Shelter.

*Had cross country meets at East & West Park – both were very successful.

Directors Report – Kass Miller

*Will be meeting with the mowing company to discuss/improve on how this was handled & ways that can be improved. They will probably bid out this again; they did not have to hire 2 part time people to do the mowing – but felt it was about a break even proposition.

*CFAP report being completed.

*Kass learned a lot at the outdoor trail seminar he attended & hopes to put to use some of the ideas in Harvey County Parks. He learned more about using his GPS on his phone & how to do some maps of the trails. He is working with Carol Dilts on putting together some interpretive trail maps.

Old Business: Kass

- A. Harvey County Clean Results: He had a good group to work with on this project; overall good results throughout the county. They cleaned up the area around the old ranger home at East Park trail head. They received approximately \$200 for old scrap metal that was sold. Still more to move. They took 9 trailers full of old tires that had been gathered to the old golf course by Propane Central as the tires can be utilized in a paint ball course that is being planned there.

- B. Rod Nickelson from Prestress Concrete is very interested in helping with replacing shower houses at West Park. Kass found some old plans that will be beneficial in ideas for this project.
- C. Applications have been closed for a full time maintenance person & Kass will begin interviews shortly.
- D. Duck/Goose season: Due to lack of participation last year (sold only 1 permit) Kass recommends that we do not offer this activity this fall/winter. They receive \$30 per blind for 4 people or less. Feels it is not profitable due to insurance costs (around \$500). He commented we had done better in past years, but could not offer an explanation as why it was slow this year. Jim moved the board accept this recommendation of not having duck/goose hunting this year. Greg seconded. Kass advised he will post that this will not be offered this year. Motion carried. Chairman Zach commented he did not like to see an activity be discontinued that brings people into the park. He would like to see this discussed next year & perhaps offer it again.

Greg asked Kass to check out other parks (Marion, Cheney, Kingman, etc) and see how they handle insurance for hunting. He is concerned that this might be an unnecessary cost, if it is not required or if we are covered under another regulation from the state/federal.

New Business: Kass

- A. Jessica from KDWP&T spent a lot of time at East Park – they pumped out all the excess water from the pond behind the dame twice & moved all the good fish back into the main lake. She also did some sampling of fish in the lake – lot of catfish, white bass & saugeye. She was happy with the results. Kass commented fishing has not been good at either of the parks.
- B. Festival of Lights – A plan to utilize unused pads in Campers Row at East Park: Kass would like to partner with the Chamber of Commerce to ask businesses/individuals to “purchase” a pad & decorate for Christmas. Revenues received would go toward July 4th fireworks that they plan to hold next year. Perhaps non-profit groups could decorate & visitors driving around displays could drop in donations at a pre-determined location. There would still be camping pads for those wishing to camp during this time (although water would be turned off).
- C. Extension Office Partnership: Ryan Fleming , Ag Extension Agent, would like to put a food plot for birds in different areas of the parks. Kass mentioned there is a “hidden” bridge at East Park where a food plot could be planted & possibly have a “blind” for people to come out & do some bird watching.

Board Member Comments:

Zach reminded members to bring ideas/suggestions/improvements that they would like to see happen for Harvey County in 2015. Also, to bring finger foods for all to enjoy.

Kass commented that the November meeting scheduled for the court house, MAY have to be somewhere else due to the construction going on. He will notify members if a change of venue needs to be made.

Zach commented that the signs leading into West Park are in need of replacement. Kass advised that new signs are in the budget for all the parks in 2015.

Greg asked about the trailers/boats that are stored at East Lake. Kass advised they receive \$20 per month to leave boat or campers and are charged extra for each day they are late. There is no security. Greg commented the area does not always look nice/neat.

Jim asked about burning the jetties as they are over grown. Kass says they plan to burn as soon as it is dry enough – they have tried, but not successful due to moisture.

No further discussion, Cynda moved, Jim seconded meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Next meeting: November 17, 2014 –Court House (pending)

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Jackson, Secretary