

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Minutes – Meeting September 15, 2014

East Park

Members Present: Pat Jackson, Zack Phillips, Derrick Richling, Carolyn Schwab, Jim Lasiter, Greg Brenzikofer

Members Absent: Cynda Conrade, Terry Gowin

Staff Present: Operations Manager, Kass Miller

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

Operations Report – Kass Miller:

- * Things are slowing down – Shelters have been busy.
- * West Park bait shop will remain open until the end of the month.
- * They will begin deep cleaning shelters to end the season.
- * Been spraying vegetation around the parks. Jim mentioned he had received some comments/complaints of grass overgrowth around the jetties – made it hard to get to the water.
- * Continuing to trim trees, especially around the horse trails.
- * Working on roads & filling in pot holes.
- * Still doing mowing – due to rainy weather, mowing has been necessary. The mowing company is on a month to month basis. Kass commented they will probably go over the estimated cost for these services this year.

Directors Report – Kass Miller

* Kass will attend outdoor trails summit this week in Wichita. He has also started on line course through Fort Hays University on grant writing.

* Capital improvements: Researching the use of prestressed concrete to be used in replacing the shower houses at West Park; Walnut Grove shower house is in especially bad shape. In using this type of building, it is possible to be used as storm shelter also.

* Labor Day – This was the best “Labor Day holiday” for the parks that he has seen in the 6 yrs he has been with the parks department.

* Park Staff toured the new camp grounds that just opened at Sand Hills outside of Hutchinson for possible competition with Harvey County Parks. Kass commented it could compete in the future, but at present did not feel there would be competition. The camping area does not have any trees, which will soon be planted.

*The staff also toured Marion County Reservoir to observe their picnic tables & rest rooms. They were especially interested in the design of the rest rooms/shower houses for ideas when replacing the ones at West Park.

*Looking to put concrete pads in camping areas at East Park.

*They have openings for Operations Supervisor & full time maintenance person.

Old Business:

Director Update: Kass Miller has been appointed Director of Harvey County Parks, effective September 8, 2014.

Kass reminded members of the “Harvey County goes clean” campaign on October 11th.

Bridge repair on 36th street at West Park has been started (9/15) and is anticipated it will be completed within 15 days. The accepted bid was around \$45,000.

New Business:

Fish stocking of catfish at West Park either was completed 9/10 or is to be completed sometime this month. Jessica advised it is hard to give definite date due to other factors.

Kass talked with Jessica & possibly around 9/23 they will begin pumping the extra water out of the spillway at East Park & moving “good” fish back into the main lake.

Board member, Libby Albers has resigned due to other commitments.

Zach commented that at the November meeting, held in the court house basement, the board enjoys refreshments after this meeting, which is the last of the year. (no meeting in December). He recalled last year, we had a marathon planning sessions for members to speak out/list ideas/suggestions for park improvements for the coming year (2014). He liked this idea & asked members to be thinking along these lines & bring their ideas/suggestions to the November meeting.

Board Member Comments:

Pat commented she had received comments from horseback riders at East Lake on how nicely the trails were mowed and it was appreciated. She did mention that there were not any brochures/maps at the self-pay station. Kass will take care of this. Also, one of the bridges needs some repair which Kass was aware of.

Jim asked Kass if they have a dove management program at East Lake. Kass replied they don't mainly due to the fact that dove season occurs when camping is still going on and there would be a safety concern.

Kass commented that last year's duck/goose hunting did not bring in enough revenue to pay for the insurance. Asked members to think about whether this should be offered again. Greg asked why the county had to pay for insurance. Kass advised because the hunting was done on county property; firearms are involved and council advised that insurance should be carried.

No further discussion, Jim moved, Carolyn seconded meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Next meeting: October 20, 2014 –West Park**

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Jackson, Secretary