

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Meeting – West Park

February 22, 2016

Members present: Carolyn Schwab, Jim Lasiter, Pat Jackson, Carol Buller, Brandon Wills, Zack Phillips, Cynda Conrade, Bill Kiehl

Members Absent: None

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

Minutes: January minutes were approved after corrections were made on page #1 & page #3.

Operations Report – Derrick Richling:

- **Camp Hawk:** Been working on cleaning up trash around the area. They had a well leak that proved to be an inexpensive & easy repair.
- **West Park:** A swing that was broken on the playground has been repaired. The floor in the community building was completely stripped and new wax was applied. The new culvert for the area between the lake & swim beach is in. Due to the size of the culvert, they are waiting for Road & Bridge department to deliver it. They plan to do some clean up in the area & swim beach prior to installation of the culvert. The bath house at Walnut Grove area is down & the concrete pad has been removed. This project proved to be a more tedious undertaking than expected. Staff had to get some special equipment to break up the extra thick concrete pad. They plan to level out the ground in preparation for the new building.
- **East Lake:** The old barn is completely down. Due to the qualifications required for outside bidding of tearing down this building, the park staff ended up doing the work. They saved some of the barn wood to be used at Volunteer hall in East Lake & removed all the remaining debris. They have been working around the dam clearing & trimming of woody plants that burning does not eliminate. They met with Dave Welfert for his expertise/suggestions to begin burning sections of the Osage Nature Trail & what needs to be done prior to burning.

Directors Report – Kass Miller:

- Kass introduced Bill Kiehl as a new member of the advisory board. He also stated Ron Hoffman has applied for membership to the board. (this was added to the agenda of New Business to be discussed at that time).
- Kass asked for suggestions/comments from the board regarding 2016 camping regulations. At the present time, check out time for campers is Sundown of their last day of camping. He commented that most other parks have earlier times (noon, 2:00, as examples). He would like to move Harvey County Parks check out time to 3:00 PM. The main reason is usually around sundown is when the rangers start patrolling the areas

checking for problems/helping campers, etc. He feels this would work for all concerned. Bill asked about primitive camping & Kass replied that anytime a tent is put up, you have to have a camping fee; therefore the checkout time would also apply to those in the primitive area. All members felt this suggestion warranted implementing. Kass commented that this first year would be a learning process of the time change; mostly educating campers of the change in checkout time.

- **Calendar of Events:** Kass showed the Calendar of Events for the 2016 season & advised since our last meeting, they had added 2 more events that would involve the remote control plane group. They are hoping to sell space on the brochure to businesses in hopes of securing sponsors of the events. This calendar will be distributed throughout the county via mail, placing in businesses for people to pick up, etc.
- **Conquer the Gauntlet:** He advised that all is in place for this to take place on April 16th. They had paid all monies due & are excited to be coming to Harvey County.
- **East Lake** – On Saturday (2/20) they had a unfortunate accident at East Lake. Some individuals in a car (5) were driving around the park irresponsibly & ended up hitting a tree. One person was riding on top of the car & was thrown off; another 15 year old was hurt seriously & as a result of the accident, was taken to Wichita to the hospital. There was no other serious injuries. These individuals have been noted & are no longer allowed in the park.

Old Business:

- **Old Barn** – As noted in Derrick’s report, the barn has been torn down & Kass passed around a picture of how the saved wood was used to enhance the interior of Volunteer Hall at East Lake.
- **Shower House at West Park (Walnut Grove)** Old shower house is gone & they will begin preparing the area for the new building.
- **West Park** – New culvert will be installed (see Derrick’s report).

New Business:

- **Financial Results 2016:** Kass passed out copies of the Final 2016 Financial Report for Harvey County Parks for all to review. He briefly went over different sections for each park & asked members to review the results at their leisure & contact him prior to the next meeting if they have any questions. (a copy of this report will be attached to the secretary minutes).
- **Dam Inspection Results:** This inspections is required every 5 years & costs around \$3,000. It has been completed this year & basically there were no real issues. All repairs, etc that were noted on the previous inspection were repaired. There was a sink hole they found & that has since been completely filled in. The inspection “team’s” main concern is there is no Emergency Action Plan in place in case there was a breach in the dam that would/could cause flooding.
- **New Board Applicant:** Kass has an application from Ron Hoffman to be a new advisory board member. Ron was previously on the board many years ago plus he was

Director of 911 in Harvey County until his retirement. Kass read a brief review of his bio from the application form. Kass commented he knew this person & Carol & Pat also acknowledged knowing him. Under discussion, Carolyn Schwab commented that in the past, potential applicants had come before present board members for a “meet & greet” type of meeting prior to being considered as a board member. She felt this gave the applicant & present board members a face to face meeting before recommendation to the commissioners. All members agreed this could be a positive in the selection process in making sure an applicant wants to make Harvey County Parks as a whole successful. Brandon cautioned the board on asking the “wrong questions” of potential members. This, of course, would not be mandatory for future applicants, but Kass advised he would urge them to come meet the board when they fill out an application. **Carol Buller moved & Carolyn Schwab seconded that the board recommend to the County Commissioners that they approve Ron Hoffman as a member of the Harvey County Parks Advisory Board. No further discussion – Motion carried.**

Board Member Comments:

- Zack make a recommendation/request of Kass that he make an effort to attend other advisory board meetings & obtain their “mode of operation” what it appears they do that is successful/not successful & bring his findings back to this board with ideas/suggestions that might aid our board in our decision/discussion process.

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

Next Meeting: Monday, March 21, 2016 at East Park 7:00 PM

Respectfully,

Pat Jackson, Secretary.