

Harvey County Parks & Recreational Advisory Board
Minutes of
June 17, 2013 - East Lake Bait Shop

Members Present: Carol Buller, Pat Jackson, Derrick Richling, Deb Cobb, Terry Gowin, Cynda Conrade

Members Absent: Jim Lasiter, Zack Phillips, Jerry Vetter

Rangers Present: Kass Miller, Shannon Metz

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were approved after correction made (Camp Hawk was reported to not have any fish stocking this year - Kass corrected saying they did not stock the first time this year, but they did stock the end of May and will also stock again. Lake level is up; they have made a temporary repair to help stop leakage).

Special Use Permits: Shannon: Just an FYI - did not really require special use permit - but John Yoder would like to bring his team of horses out to West Park; give wagon rides during events, etc - he has all the require insurance papers; no liability on part of the park - Shannon felt this would be good PR - thought especially good for people/kids with disabilities to help them see the park if they are unable to walk easily or have to use wheel chairs. He can handle about 15 per wagon ride.

Park Staff Reports:

Kass for East Lake: Had a good memorial weekend - camp was full..he was happy to see lots of families enjoying the lake and park facilities. They removed 3 trees that did not survive on campers row. The C.A.S.T. event was once more a big success and they plan to return next year. Lake level is up and good to see boats back on the water. Derrick commented they had been a little busier since Marion Lake has a blue green algae warnings posted. Kass reported he did have to ban one individual from the park for not obeying the rules but no other problems. He also reported they had been able to help 9 or 10 homeless individuals that come to the park.

Kass for Camp Hawk: Been very busy; lots of weddings - Shelter is booked thru first 2 weeks of September. There is a scout working on his Eagle Scout badge who is going to make 4 to 6 benches for the park.

Shannon for West Park: They also had a good memorial day weekend - all pads except one was booked. They are going to add 2 more primitive camp sites. Deb Cobb passed out picture of a nice blue catfish she caught at West Park. All the shelters are being used - new shelter is booked and already starting to book 1 to 2 years in advance. They are seeing a lot of wildlife -

deer, fawns, etc. She commented that Bill (part time ranger) would be willing to work with Carol & Pat this fall in marking the horse trails with t-posts in preparation for the new signs Carol is making. She still has one more to go.

Committee Reports:

Fishing, Boating & Hunting: They are catching fish at both lakes; crappie fishing has slowed down.

Facilities Roads & Grounds - Kass reported due to rains, there are a lot of pot holes. Derrick commented they delivered rock and they will be repairing the needed spots. Shannon reported that the road by Walnut Grove camping area has officially been named "Walnut Grove Road" and they are in the process of getting more speed signs to install at the south end of that road. She also reported they are working on replacing all the "unsightly" signs around West Park to be of like-style & color and Road & Bridge will install them. West Park roads are in pretty good shape.

Land Park Use & Resource Management: No report - Carol/Pat have not ridden the horse trails. Kass/Shannon reported that the state plans to come out and tag goslings at East Lake & West Park. Shannon reported that the last Educational seminar at West Park was on bugs and as usual, Carol did an excellent job keeping approximately 50 people interested in bugs! The next session (2nd Saturday of each month) will be in reptiles & amphibians.

Old Business: Since Terry was not at the last meeting, he asked Shannon for information on the letter she received from Petes Puddle regarding raising of rates, etc and what effect, if any, it would have on West Park. Shannon replied she did not feel it would effect West Park one way or the other...did not feel Petes Puddle was in direct competition with West Park. They did have one camper move to Petes Puddle because they could stay in one spot and not have to move as they do at West Park, but that was the only one. She felt the raising of the fees at Petes Puddle was a little excessive. She also said they do get customers purchasing bait, etc at the bait shop that camp at Petes Puddle.

New Business:

Carol asked Kass/Shannon if the board could be supplied with some type of report on a regular basis just to see income/expenses for the parks so the board would be more in tune with what was going on. Kass said they get a monthly print out (he showed a sample) and he would be glad to bring it to the meetings for members to review/ask questions, etc. Carol also asked that the board receive a final copy of the budget when completed.

****County Administrator, John Waltner opposes the appointment of Derrick Richling as Chairman of the Advisory Board since he is a part time employee of the parks department at East Lake.** Shannon proposed the question that since Derrick is a part time employee of East Lake, would that pose a problem with him being Chairman of the advisory board and if at any time, having to cast a deciding vote on a park matter. Wanted the boards opinion if this would be a conflict of interest. All members did not feel this presented a problem. Pat commented that if in the future, a situation appeared that would pertain directly to Derrick/East Lake/Rangers...he

would be excused from the discussion and Vice Chairman Jerry Vetter could conduct the discussion. All members felt we are all there to support the parks and to make them better for Harvey County and those that come into the parks. The final comments were that Derrick being Chairman would not pose a problem.

Carol Buller reminded the board that in the past, we have given a plaque to members that have completed their 3 - 3 yr terms. We have 4 members, Walt Silvernale, Larry Schmidt, Dorothy Zook & Norman Alexander that are now off the board. Kass/Shannon will check with commissioners to see how this was handled in the past as Dorothy Zook usually took care of this. Kass said a advisory member may have to come before the commissioners requesting the plaques and asking for funding. He will advise of his findings. Shannon suggested when these plaques are presented, we have the someone from the paper come out for pictures since there are 4 people involved.

Shannon invited all members to the County Picnic to be held Sunday, June 23rd at West Park Shelter #2. It begins at 4:00 and will be plenty of food. She said that Carol might even bring her owl.

Kass reminded members that we need 3 more people for the board. Derrick said he is working on 2 at this time. Cynda Conrade was welcomed as our newest member.

Next meeting: July 15, 2013 - Camp Hawk

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Jackson, Secretary

** Denotes correction to minutes at the July meeting**