

**Harvey County Parks & Recreational Advisory Board**  
**Minutes of**  
**April 18, 2011**

**Members Present:** Norman Alexander, Larry Schmitt, Jerry Vetter, Pat Jackson, Walt Silvernale, Derrick Richling, Zack Phillips, Jim Lasiter, Carol Buller, Dorothy Zook

**Members Absent:** None

**Rangers Present:** Lloyd Stoddard

**Minutes:** Minutes of the February 14, 2011 and March 21, 2011 Meeting were approved with minor corrections.

**Special Use Permits:** None

**Park Staff Reports: Lloyd Stoddard**

**West Park:** They have new metal roofs on both shower houses & gazebo. Getting new guttering for both shower houses & community room. This was done with money received from the company running the gas line thru West Park (removal of trees, and disturbing trails). They took possession of new Dixie Chopper Mower. Also have put new electrical boxes at pads 1 thru 18 and have 8 more ordered for remaining camp sites. Lloyd thanked Larry, Zack, Pat & Ron for coming out on Saturday and scraping & caulking the bait shop in preparation for repainting.

**East Lake:** Lloyd reported they were preparing for the summer. Bait shop not open yet. Larry Schmitt reported there was still some camping pads that need to be completed & the rest rooms are open now.

**Camp Hawk:** No report - maintenance work.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fishing, Boating & Hunting:** Norman/Walt - fish are there some days & then not others. Jim reported they were catching bass at Camp Hawk. Dorothy said she caught some very small crappie at West Park. Larry reported that Ranger, Ryan Fleming, is looking into holding a carp tournament at East Lake & West Park using bows. Lloyd advised they had this type of tournament in the past using rod & reels. Larry proposed that "wipers" be added to East Lake. He commented he has had several people ask about these fish. Norman reported wipers were in the lake several years ago; however, it did not take long for those fishing to eliminate them as they did not realize what the fish were. These fish do not reproduce and the possibility of elimination would happen again unless the general public were given more information about them. Lloyd commented they had wipers at West Park also, but were gone in short period of time.

**Facilities Roads & Grounds** - No report - roads appear to be in good shape.

**Land Park Use & Resource Management:** Horse trails are being used.

**Old Business:** Since Kass was unable to attend, the hunting report was tabled until next month. Also, job description for SRS volunteers.

**New Business: Dave Welfelt & Brad Guhr**

These gentlemen appeared before the park board to propose a long time management program to assist in eliminating woody plant growth in the parks to keep the prairie system from being overgrown with these unwanted plants. Dave advised he is an avid hiker, bird watching, butterfly and wildflower identification. He said many people come from Wichita to hike Harvey County for these purposes. He has spent many years on the Osage Trail; advised our parks are excellent for this type of activity. Larry commented we want to promote park use for all interests. Brad works at Dyck Arboretum in Hesston and is in charge of plant/prairie management, which is his expertise. He works with landowners within 80 mile radius to help them with prairie management; burn programs, etc. They propose to offer their assistance in labor/expertise in determining where and what trees/plants could be removed mechanically or by burning. They also said if the program could be developed, they would be able to recruit other interested volunteers to assist. Their main concern appears to be the cedar tree invasion going on particularly at East Lake & on the Osage Trail. Brad does have contact with individuals that could assist in the mechanical removal of larger unwanted trees if needed.

Lloyd commented he would be very selective in what was being removed from West Park. Brad reported he had seen an aerial view of West Park & there are very few spots that could be developed back into prairie area and that could be discussed at later date.

Some park board members expressed concern about losing wild life if too many trees/bushes were removed. Dave & Brad feel that removal of some of the unwanted plants/vegetation would enhance wild life, not deter it.

It was also mentioned that if there would be a cost involved, this would have to be put in the budget for upcoming years. Dave replied he felt they could solicit donations/funds from some of the interested parties that are concerned with losing our prairie system.

Walt commented that several years ago (when Glen Hershberger was on the board) we had an active burning program which was directly involved with the hunting program. But since then, nothing has been regularly pursued.

Jerry Vetter suggested Dave & Brad come up with a written proposal, along with the assistance of park rangers, Lloyd & Kass and bring it to the next meeting to present to the board. Larry advised the board can only recommend a program; it is up to the county commissioners to review and approve. Based upon the presentation to the advisory board; they then could get on the agenda at a county commissioner meeting to present the proposal to them.

Dave & Brad thanked the park board & rangers for all the work done at the Harvey County Parks.

As an afterthought, Dave mentioned that the land just west of the Osage Trail

(approx 110 acres) has been rumored to be coming up for sale. He wanted to know if this land could be added to the park system. He was advised this information, suggestion, should be presented to County Commissioner John Waltner. Dave commented he has been allowed to do hiking on this land & said the bird habitat is one of the best in the area & since it is right next to the Osage Trail, felt it would be a good fit for the park system.

**Nomination of Officers:**

The following members were nominated for officers for the coming year 2011-2012:

Chairman: Larry Schmitt

Vice Chairman: Jerry Vetter

Secretary: Pat Jackson

Norman moved nominations ceased. Carol Buller seconded. Motion carried.

These nominated officers will be voted on next meeting.

There was no further business to be discussed.

Next meeting will be May 16 at Camp Hawk with a work day on Saturday May 14th meeting at Camp Hawk Shelter

Jerry Vetter moved, Jim Lasiter seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Pat Jackson, Secretary