

Harvey County Parks & Recreational Advisory Board
Minutes of
June 20, 2011

Members Present: Larry Schmitt, Jerry Vetter, Pat Jackson, Derrick Richling, Zack Phillips, Jim Lasiter, Carol Buller, Dorothy Zook & Debbie Cobb

Members Absent: Norman Alexander & Walt Silvernale

Rangers Present: Kass Miller, Lloyd Stoddard, Shannon Metz

Before the meeting begin, Larry introduced new member, Debbie Cobb from Burrton. Debbie works as a referral Real Estate Agent & camps at West Park.

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were approved as presented.

Special Use Permits: There were no special use premits requested. Kass Miller did report on a special event that was held over the weekend at East Lake called C.A.S.T. (Creating A Special Time). It was a day of fishing for handicapped & special needs kids and was hosted by KHP, KDWP and other law enforcement agencies. They had 39 special needs kids attending with 15 professional fishermen bringing their boats to be used. They had a great time & the kids caught a lot of fish. They had held this event at Eldorado lake for the past 5 yrs but said they want to come back to East Lake. Kass said he "chummed" the waters a little so there were fish to be caught.

Park Staff Reports: Camp Hawk: Kass said they have a mower that is down; looking for a replacement engine. The other one has been sent to East Lake since it is busiest to help with mowing. There have been a lot of campers at Camp Hawk this year; more then usual. Trees need trimming. He also mentioned 2 large cottonwood trees by the dam area that he would like to find someone willing to come cut them down before they fall. It is too costly to have it done for the park budget - but asked advisory board members to keep an eye open for someone that would agree to do this.

East Lake: Keeping up with mowing. The camping has been completely full this year; every electric outlet was being used during memorial day weekend. They need to expand electric panels. They have 1 1/2 pads remaining to be resurfaced. They have experienced a lot of vandalism - plumbing being ripped out.

Trash is still a problem especially during holiday weekends.

West Park: Lloyd reported doing the same - maintaining the area & mowing. They have a lot of campers - full almost every weekend. They are going to get more pad & hook ups & plan to go north of the swimming area. Shannon reported the bait shop has really been busy. In three previous weekends, the bait shop took in \$14,000 in sales. Kass reported he had received a request from someone wanting to install sand volleyball courts at West Park for a tournament. Kass got all the necessary paper work done; received approval from John Waltner, but did not hear anything more. It was to be a benefit for Heart to Heart..

Committee Reports:

Fishing, Boating & Hunting: Fishing is slow up and down depending on where you are fishing. Kass did report on the bow fishing event that was held May 21 & 22nd. Said they caught 600lbs of carp; 2 very large ones over 30 lbs. They got some sponsors out of Wichita that helped and want to do it again next year. Hope to include West Park for this event next year. Larry Schmidt reported water craft operators are not honoring the no wake zone. Kass advised a couple of the buoys have need repaired which they are working on getting done.

Facilities Roads & Grounds - Kass said they have some mud rap that they are going to use to fill in some of the ruts around the park. He had an Eagle Scout come out and built 20 concrete fire pits which everyone really appreciated. Both Lloyd & Kass said they could use more picnic tables. Dorothy said she picked up a lot of trash after the holiday weekend. The question was raised about extra pick ups - Kass said they have to watch extra pick ups as it can be very expensive. Jim Lasister suggested Kass check and see about using a construction dumpster at least during the holiday weekends when more trash is expected. Perhaps the county could be of some help in this area.

Land Park Use & Resource Management: Larry Schmidt said he had received some complaints that campers are tripping some of the 30 amp breakers. Debbie said she was having the same problem at West Park, but found out after some time that her camper had a ground problem; so was not the fault of the park. Kass said 50 amps would be better, but the 30 amp will work & the parks are up to code. Dorothy said she had received complaints that campers don't see any rangers after 5:00 PM. Kass advised they are supposed to be around until 11:30. Kass will bring this up to the rangers to make sure they are visible. Kass also reported they trapped 14 beavers this year. The man handling this project plans to return next year.

Old Business: Kass has all the paper work & job description ready for SRS volunteer workers. Jerry Vetter has a name to give Kass that wants to help. They still need better cell service for East Lake. It was reported possibly that the commissioners were going to approach some of the companies regarding getting an antenna(s) at East Lake. Also perhaps FEMA could assist with this. All the members felt this is something that needs

to be worked on for safety purposes; quick response etc.

New Business: C. J. Stucky spoke before the board regarding an incident with loose dogs at East Lake. He advised he and his family camp at East Lake from May to October. He owns 4 Labs, but only brings one with him to the lake. During a recent camping stay, his dog was attacked by a pit bull that broke loose from being tied. As a result, he had \$1700 in vet bills for his dog. He does not want dogs eliminated from the park, just feels there should be stricter control. There are signs at the swimming beach that specifies no dogs are allowed; but people tie their dogs to their cars; trees, etc & swimmers have to maneuver thru the animals to get to the beach. He has witnessed a lot of dogs just running loose and has seen as many as 14 at one time. He has small children and their safety is also a concern. He feels some sort of fine should be imposed for violators such as \$25 for not following the rules.

Kass had passed out the current regulations for animals that are in the park. Jerry Vetter suggested the members take the information home to read; suggest additions/changes and bring back to the next meeting. In regards to writing tickets, Kass said they are authorized to write tickets, but he has never had any training in the proper way to write a ticket. Due to this recent incident, the rangers are going to be more diligent in monitoring the dogs at the park to make sure they are on a leash and/or securely tied and kept away from the swimming area. Kass also said the writing of tickets would take rangers away from other duties in the park.

Lloyd said at West Park they have a place especially for people to take their dogs to the water. Lloyd suggested they regulations be printed separately on bright colored paper; passed out to campers; have in the bait shops to give out and make them more visible. Then no one could say they did not know the rules about animals in the park.

Jerry Vetter moved that the park rangers be given some training for the proper ticket writing procedures. Dorothy Zook seconded. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Camp Hosts: Both Kass & Lloyd would like to see Camp Hosts used at the parks. Volunteers at the park are allowed to do maintenance work; run machinery, etc. But they would like the Camp Hosts to be available to campers/park users for questions; as go to between rangers & campers..more or less eyes & ears of the parks - to watch for vandalism; problems people are having with their facilities. These potential hosts would apply for the job and be subject to a back ground check. All advisory board members agreed this would be an asset to the parks. Kass & Lloyd will get together; write up some guidelines - duties - hours, etc. He recommends the hosts would receive a free campsite & is suggesting they be at the parks from April to November 15th when they close.

Golf Carts: Lloyd advised that due to the State laws regarding motorized vehicles, golf carts cannot be used on the park roads. He would like to see an exception made for the parks to allow golf carts on park roads. 4 wheelers are allowed because they do not require a license & are considered a farm vehicle. Jerry asked about issuing users a permit in the park - however Kass advised because of the law, they cannot do that. Zack commented these carts are good access for people & if they were a licensed driver & did not operate in the evening, perhaps an exception could be obtained.

Dorothy moved that it be suggested to the commissioners that an exception be made

to allow golf carts on park roads & that all road laws apply. Jim Lasiter seconded. It was stressed during discussion that by road laws, they operator must be a licensed driver & they carts would not be used in the evening. Motion carried.

The secretary will write a letter to the commissioners regarding both of the motions made at this meeting as recommendations from the advisory board.

There was no further business to be discussed. Dorothy moved & Jerry second that the meeting adjourned. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Pat Jackson, Secretary

Section 9. Littering:

- A. Garbage, rubbish, trash or waste of any kind shall not be thrown, placed or left in any area in the parks.
Exception: Garbage or trash generated from lawful activities occurring in the parks shall be placed in barrels and/or dumpsters that have been designated for trash.
- B. Human waste generated within the parks and stored within proper receptacles shall only be disposed of at designated waste dump stations.
- C. Tires, used oil, dangerous or poisonous chemicals, appliances, batteries, or environmental pollutants shall not be spilled, placed in trash barrels or dumpsters or in any other area within the parks.

Section 10. Unattended Minors: It shall be unlawful for any person to leave any minor under the age of 16 years unattended in the parks.

Section 11. Domestic Animals:

- A. No person shall bring or allow dogs, cats or other pets in the parks unless said animals are penned, caged, on a leash under 6 feet in length, or otherwise physically restrained.
Exceptions: Holders of current Activity permits may exercise or train dogs, cats or other pets that not physically restrained within the area and during the times specified on the permit. Also, free ranging hunting dogs are allowed in designated hunting areas during designated hunting seasons if the handler holds a current Harvey County Parks hunting permit.
- B. No person shall allow any animal to impede or restrict the otherwise full and free use of any portion of the parks, including roadways.
- C. All animals and pets are prohibited in or near designated swimming areas, in sanitary facilities and in any other permanent buildings in the parks.
Exception: Properly trained animals assisting the handicapped (such as Seeing Eye dogs) are permitted in designated swimming areas, in sanitary facilities and in any permanent building in the parks. Persons must obtain prior permission from Park Ranger for designated pet area.
- D. Unclaimed, unattended or free-roaming animals are subject to immediate impoundment and removal by Park Rangers or other duly authorized law enforcement officials in accordance with local laws.
- E. Persons bringing or allowing dogs, cats or other pets in the parks shall be responsible for the removal of any waste produced by these animals from the parks, or shall dispose of waste within designated trash barrels or dumpsters.
- F. No person shall bring or allow horses, cattle or other livestock within the parks except as may be permitted under agricultural contracts or a Special Use permit.
Exception: Horses are allowed at East Park and West Park in designated areas on designated trails only, with the proper Harvey County Park permit.

June 21, 2011

Harvey County Commissioners
Harvey County Court House
Newton, Ks. 67114

To the Commissioners:

At the June meeting of the Harvey County Parks & Recreational Advisory Board, the following motions were made and are offered as suggestions and action by the county commissioners.

As you are aware, there was an incident at East Lake regarding loose dogs and violation of the current animal control regulations within the park. Attached is a copy of the minutes of that meeting and you can read what all was discussed regarding this issue. The gentleman involved in the incident does not want dogs banned from the park, just some means of stricter control, such as tickets being written & fines being imposed. While the rangers state they are authorized to write tickets, they have not been properly trained in the proper ticket writing procedure. Thus, this motion "**That the park rangers be given some training for the proper ticket writing procedures**". (See page #3 of the minutes).

In addition, due to State road laws, golf carts cannot be used on park roads. It is the suggestion from rangers, due to request from campers, that an exception to the State laws & law enforcement be made so that golf carts could be used on park roads. 4 Wheelers are allowed as they are not required to be licensed and are considered farm vehicles. Thus this motion: **That it be suggested to the commissioners that an exception be made to allow golf carts on park roads & that all road laws apply.** (See Page #3 of the minutes).

It is the general opinion of the advisory board members that these two motions/suggestions would be of benefit to park users and in the case of the animal issue, be a starting point to curtail and/or eliminate some of the violations that have/are occurring.

Respectfully,
/s/ Larry Schmitt
/s/ Jerry Vetter
/s/ Pat Jackson
/s/ Carol Buller
/s/ Jim Lasiter
/s/ Dorothy Zook
/s/ Debbie Cobb
/s/ Derrick Richling
/s/ Zack Phillips