

Harvey County Parks & Recreational Advisory Board
Minutes of
February 11, 2013 - West Park

Members Present: Norman Alexander, Carol Buller, Pat Jackson, Terry Gowin, Derrick Richling, Jerry Vetter, Deb Cobb, Dorothy Zook

Members Absent: Jim Lasiter, Zack Phillips, Larry Schmitt

Rangers Present: Kass Miller, Shannon Metz

Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting were approved as submitted.

Special Use Permits: None

Park Staff Reports:

Kass for Camp Hawk: Repaired/replaced picnic tables. Also doing repair work on the residence due to a mouse problem. Repairing walls, etc. A fun run is scheduled March 2nd sponsored by St. Marys. On May 17,18,19 a frisbie golf tournament is scheduled.

Kass for East Lake: Have been meeting with farmers updating contracts on land surrounding the park - especially paying attention to the hay agreements due to increased price in hay. Also some farmers have encroached onto park property & they want to address this. Working on remaining pads & new electrical boxes. March 22nd Wichita Scout Troop will hold an event. C.A.S.T. event, sponsored by the Kansas Highway Patrol will be held again on June 8th. They expect 20 to 30 special needs attendees.

Shannon for West Park: Shannon passed out aerial shots of the recent Trappers Jamboree held at West Park. Quite impressive! She reported there were 6195 registered that attended. On Saturday, while events were going on, they estimated there were 8200 to 8500 people in the park! All went well & by Sunday afternoon, most were gone. They had vehicles in the park from 11 states, including Kansas. The state of Oklahoma claimed the "prize" for most vehicles. They plan to pick the best 8 of the aerial photos of the jamboree; take them to Mennonite Press & have post cards made up. They would like to make up packets of 8 photos, send them to the scout masters/head person and sell to those who would like them for around \$3.50 a packet. These postcards can then be mailed out to friends/relatives, etc. In other work around the park, they are completing work on pads/electrical boxes. They did pick one of the least popular pads to be used for an extended stay pad, which will release a more popular pad for regular camping. She felt this might reduce the complaints from some campers that extended stay people get best spots. She already has an individual asking for this new spot, thus feels extended stay pads will be full again this year, which is good revenue for West Park. They are doing some burning, spreading new grass seed as needed. They removed the big dirt berm in the Walnut Grove area where there was a water problem & are using the dirt elsewhere

in the park. The bait shop is tentatively set to open on March 21st.

Committee Reports:

Fishing, Boating & Hunting: Norman: No Report

Facilities Roads & Grounds - No report -

Land Park Use & Resource Management: No Report

Old Business: New brochures are ready & Shannon has them at the bait shop - she will bring some to our next meeting. Jerry asked if pipe had been replaced at Camp Hawk & pond drained. Kass reported nothing had been completed.

Kass asked the members for feedback on the user fee information that was sent out to everyone earlier & discussed at the January meeting. A lengthy discussion was held about raising the extended camping fee from \$75 per month to \$100 per month & raising the utility charges for camping. Both Shannon & Deb felt raising the fees would cost the park revenue. Jerry asked about comparison of Petes Puddle extended camping. Shannon commented that West Park does not have full service at their pads - only electricity. Petes Puddle has water & believed some sewer hookups, thus cannot really compare what we charge to what they do. Shannon commented this extended stay camping brings in around \$4200 to \$4500 revenue to West Park. Kass was asked about extended stay at East Lake - he said they had never pushed it - might look into it. Dorothy said the Camp Hosts at East Lake told her an individual had asked them about extended stay. Kass advised the camp hosts told that person to come talk to him, but he never heard anything further. After discussion, it was agreed to raise the utility fees as follows: Electricity Only (with Season Pass) to \$8.00 & Camping with Electricity to \$17.00, leaving Camping in the rough utility use at the recommended \$9.00. The senior fee of Daily Camping with electricity will be \$16.00 - Daily camping in the rough, \$8.00.

Discussion followed on the \$35 per rider season pass recommendation for 2013 for the horse trails. It was \$35 per rig in 2012. Pat did not feel this increase was warranted - the park would lose season pass horse trail riders - most would pay the daily rate of \$4. Terry suggested a fee of \$10 per rider & the rider would carry the pass with them, instead of having it reflected on the vehicle. Shannon & Kass said they had problems of people taking advantage of the \$35 per rig fee & bringing many people along to ride without any extra compensation. It was decided to raise the Horse Trail Season Pass from \$35 per rig to \$40. per rig with maximum of 4 people. A \$10 per person fee would be charged for more than 4. If someone came in and bought a horse trail season pass for 5 people, they would pay \$50 & the ranger would mark on the pass HT - 5 to indicate they paid for the extra person. Any others not included in the pass would pay the daily rate of \$4.

Kass & Shannon both commented that they have heard from people who say our park rates (shelters, etc) are quite reasonable & much cheaper than others. Jerry suggested this be looked at next year. It was felt we should not raise the rental fees this year since we raised them 2 yrs ago.

New Business: None

No other business to discuss - meeting adjourned.

Park

Next meeting:

March 18, 2013 - East

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Jackson, Secretary