

Harvey County Parks & Recreational Advisory Board
Minutes of
May 20, 2013 – West Park

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

Members Absent: Norman Alexander, Terry Gowin

Rangers Present: Shannon Metz, Carol Dilts

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were approved after corrections (Shannon was not at the April meeting & at East Lake camp report, buoys at beach were installed (not removed as printed).

Special Use Permits: None

Park Staff Reports: Shannon reported for all parks.

Camp Hawk: They are not going to stock the lake this year due to drain problem still not resolved. Had disc golf tournament; not as many participated as they thought there would be. Working on getting ready for the season – mowing, etc. (**CORRECTION: THEY DID NOT STOCK CAMP HAWK AT THE FIRST STOCKING, BUT DID STOCK IT THE END OF MAY AND WILL DO SO AGAIN - THE LAKE LEVEL IS UP AND THEY HAVE MADE A TEMPORARY REPAIR OF THE LEAKAGE.**)

East Lake: Shannon passed out a flyer advertising the Bow Fishing Tournament to be held at East Lake June 1 & 2. They also are getting ready for the season – mowing & doing maintenance work.

West Park: The flag pole has been completely repainted from top to bottom & new rope & flag have been installed. All signs are being repainted & new stenciling will be done. They have 2 new horse trail signs almost completed and 1 more to do. Carol is responsible for painting and designing the signs – job well done. Two of the completed signs were on display at the meeting. All the reserve park pads are booked – still have some extended stay spots available. The new pads have all been completed. Shannon said they have ceased the boat rental at West Park. They are holding on to the boats for the time being to see if they receive any opposition to this policy in case it would be re-instated. If not, the boats will be offered for sale at a future date.

Committee Reports:

Fishing, Boating & Hunting: Catching some crappie at East Lake & West Park. Carol asked about water level. Derrick responded that at East Lake – still low – if you stay in channel okay, but he would not advise taking any big boat on the lake.

Facilities, Roads & Grounds: Shannon commented for West Park; they have been working on filling pot holes and filling in low places. The home on the property (former ranger home) has been rented to a family with 3 children. Shannon said they are glad to have it rented and the family fits in well with the park surroundings.

Land Park Use & Resource Management: No Report
Old Business:

Shannon passed out pictures taken at the last Education Series held at West Park...this session was on Hawks & Owls. They had about 59 people on Sat nite plus about 12-15 people came into the bait shop where the animals were being kept to look at them. Shannon said not only did the birds that Carol used in the presentation participate, but the "park" birds heard the sounds & also responded. She said it was really something to see & Carol did a wonderful job. These are held on the second Saturday of each month during the spring/summer.

Shannon also read portions of a letter from Pete's Puddle. They are making some changes in their rental policies that may or may not affect West Park. They will close Pete's Puddle November 1 thru March 30. Those paying an annual fee can leave their trailers/campers, but all utilities will be turned off during this period, thus owners cannot stay in the park during this time. The annual fee has been increased to \$1750. per yr. They also charge \$30 per nite for tent camping with no electricity.

Dorothy asked if the burn had been done at East Lake; Derrick advised nothing had been done yet. Larry presumed it had not been done as he had asked Kass to let him know when they planned to do it & he volunteered to help.

New Business:

Shannon presented an application from Cynda Conrade for membership to the advisory board. All members present recommend the application be accepted and Shannon will present it to Commissioners for final approval.

Deb Cobb asked for the board's approval to plant a tree at West Park in memory of Michael Heidebrecht who recently passed away and was a frequent user of the park. He was also a Vietnam veteran. They plan to do this with no expense to the county. Deb & her husband, Gary will purchase the tree. They also would like to install a plaque and she feels they can get the funds for the plaque donated by various veterans. She was recommending the tree be planted near pad #10 as it only has 1 tree left on it.

Under discussion, members felt this would not be a problem as long as the cost did not involve the county. If the county did this for one person, it might present a problem in the future when others ask to do the same thing. Shannon did say that when an employee is involved, the county would stand the cost for such a memorial.

Dorothy moved that we approve the planting of the tree without any cost to the county; that the plaque is of reasonable size & be flat & placed at ground level for easy mowing. Also Ranger

Shannon Metz is given the authority to choose the location for the tree and the type of tree that will be planted. Jim seconded.

Under discussion, Zack suggested that we specify a size for the sign, rather than “reasonable size” for future reference to other like requests. Jerry Vetter suggested the size for the plaque not exceed 12x18. A motion was made to amend the motion that the plaques not exceed 12x18. Jerry seconded. Amendment was approved.

Motion then read – “we approve the planting of the tree without any cost to the county; that the plaque not exceed 12”x18”; be placed at ground level for easy mowing. Also Ranger Shannon Metz is given the authority to choose the location for the tree and the type of tree that will be planted. Jim’s second still stood. No further discussion, Motion carried.

Other new business:

Jerry asked if extra trash containers will be placed in the parks over the upcoming memorial holiday. East Lake will have extra; Shannon said they never order extra containers; they have added new ones along with new pads. She did not feel they needed anymore at this time.

Carol asked about replacing a sign along the Osage Trail that designates where horses can and cannot go. Said the pole & board is still at one location, but sign is gone. Regarding West Park horse trail signs to go along with new brochure; Shannon asked if Carol & Pat could possibly meet with Bill (Chief at Buhler) who also works part time for park & go over the trails, putting up posts & marking them appropriately. Felt this could be done whenever a time could be established by all parties. Shannon also wants to install the white plastic covers over the T-posts to help eliminate any injury to a horse that might hit the posts. The plastic could be marked/painted with directional arrows, etc. She felt fall would be good time after busy season.

Zack asked when the budget went into affect; Shannon responded January 1.

Dorothy asked about restocking the lakes. Shannon reported that East Lake & West Park will get a full stocking this Saturday (May 25th).

Election of Officers:

Larry Schmidt, Norman Alexander & Dorothy Zook will be going off the board (they have served 3 -3 year terms.

New officers for 2013-2014 will be: Chairman, Derrick Richling, Vice Chairman, Jerry Vetter & Secretary, and Pat Jackson.

Shannon thanked the members going off the board for their support of the parks and for serving on the board for 3 terms.

No other business to discuss – Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Next meeting: June 17, 2013 – East Lake

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Jackson, Secretary