

Harvey County Parks Advisory Board

Meeting – Court House Basement

November 20, 2017

Members present: Pat Jackson, Carol Buller, Jack Bender, Brittany Welch, Carolyn Schwab, Zack Phillips, and Cynda Conrade

Members Absent: Bill Kiehl, Ron Hoffman

Staff Present: Director, Kass Miller, Operations Supervisor, Derrick Richling

Special Guests: County Administrator, Anthony Swartzendruber, Commissioner Chip Westfall & Dan Harms

Vice Chairman, Jack Bender, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as amended.

Directors Report: Kass Miller

- Kass again mentioned the club that want to establish water fowl hunting in the NW corner of East Lake, near creek. This would necessitate closing a portion of the horse trails. However, they were to search for insurance and Kass felt they were finding that to be more expensive than they thought. Kass has since received a call from the State if the county would allow water fowl hunting, it would be covered under their insurance. A 48 hour notice would be required for the special use permit. Kass did not see this happening this year. He has mixed emotions about allowing this due to possible interfering with other birds (bald eagles, pelicans, etc.).
- New **CFAP** contract has been signed for 5 years 2018 to end of 2022. It is his understanding that once all the contracts have been signed, they will be reviewed to see if there is additional monies available.
- **Camp Hawk:** Voters want to keep Camp Hawk & voted not to sell at recent election. Kass listed several of the improvements that will take place as soon as possible at Camp Hawk:
 - 1) Repair the overflow tube with is almost completed. HWA Davis is doing the repairs. Hopefully with adequate water, they will be able to restock this lake.
 - 2) Replace fishing dock – possible apply to CFAP for grant to help with this expense
 - 3) Repairs to be done in the shelter (new windows, doors, soffit, siding, etc. New appliances in the kitchen, cabinets, counter top, new chairs, tables. They hope to have this completed by start of season in 2018.

Operations Report – Derrick Richling

- East Lake – still removing trees from water way – on going process that was started last year – some large trees make it more difficult to remove.
- West Park – Large project started – to drain the swimming hole. They are pumping 500 to 600 gallons a minute through the culvert. When it gets low enough, they will capture

what fish they can and move to lake. He feels they will have quite a bit of silt/debris to remove. At a recent Regional Parks meeting, it was noted at Sedgwick County Park, they have a sledding hill. The idea of perhaps using this removed silt/dirt could be a potential sledding hill at West Park – perhaps by the ball field. Would not be as big as at Sedgwick County, but would give kids someplace to come sled instead of the on/off ramps at interstate. If it does not happen, at least they have somewhere to put the silt/dirt until it can be moved elsewhere.

- All buildings in all the parks have been shut down & winterized.
- **Camp Hawk renovation** –
- Replace the hot water heater with an “on demand” water heater. Main complaint has been that the hot water when used has an unpleasant smell.
- In the kitchen, they would like to enlarge the walk through door into kitchen – move refrigerator by the stove – feels this would open the kitchen up and make it more user friendly; or possibly leave it as it is and just update.
- Put new lights, new sink & faucet.
- New appliances – new counter tops.

Old Business:

- **Haunted Forest:** Kass thanked everyone for their help in this event. He felt it was a huge success & has been approached to do it again next year on multiple nights (perhaps Fri/Sat). Brittany suggested perhaps cut the hours – not make it so long and to possibly set up shifts. Since this was the first year to offer this – it was felt things went pretty smoothly.
- **RC park Discussion** – Kass called for discussion/questions/comments from board members that he can take to Joe Owen & Darin Schmidt, who are proposing the Remote Control Vehicle Park prior to our January meeting.
 - 1) Jack had some information regarding guidelines set by the AMA for this type of operation & insurance qualifications (who all would be covered) etc. **THE FULL REPORT ON AMA AND OTHER INFORMATION IS INCLUDED WITH THE SECRETARY COPIES OF THESE MINUTES.**
 - 2) Zack asked what impact this proposal would have on birds (eagles, pelicans) that we are seeing at East Lake (noise level).
 - 3) Zack asked why the President of one club is wanting to start a new club.
 - 4) Jack asked if there is a proposal to lease the land (area) in question.
- Kass commented nothing has been discussed about lease/fees, etc. At present the land in question is hay and they receive approximately \$1,200 to \$1,500 for the hay each season. The club feels their fees would meet this amount.
- They are asking for a 25 acres in the Blue Stem area north of the rest rooms.
- This would not be available to the public – had to be a member of the club to use the area to fly/operate remote control vehicles.
- Brittany commented – 10% of the annual membership fees would come to the parks. However there is no mention of what the fee is? //How much is the annual fee? She feels

that membership will be low during start-up year(s) and would not come close to covering the fee the parks receive at present for hay.

- Zack asked if allowing this entity into the park system – is this setting a precedent for other organizations that might want to use land in the parks for other events.
- Brittany also commented she is all for use of events in the park – but questions that this much space is for private use and not for the general public.

Kass asked again that board members review the documentation passed out regarding the proposal – bring any other questions or concerns to the park staff prior to our January meeting so he can get answers from Joe & Darin.

Brittany also asked if possible could a joint meeting be set up between the commissioners & the board members to review this proposal before our January meeting so everyone was on the “same page” with thoughts/concerns/recommendations for this activity.

New Business – Camp Hawk Election Results & future plans.

- Election 77-78% of voters voted not to close/sell Camp Hawk,
- Future Plans for Camp Hawk
 - 1) Replace playground equipment
 - 2) Replace the well house
 - 3) New gazebo to replace one that was destroyed during storm.
 - 4) Demolish & remove old house.
 - 5) Repair/work on the ball field.
 - 6) Develop a walking trail.
- If the house is destroyed/removed Kass felt the area would be perfect place to add cabin(s) & later on possibility of adding camping pads.
- Plumbing & electricity will already be available if home is demolished.

Board Member Comments:

Carol Buller commented that while working at volunteer hall during election, there was quite a draft coming in from the window(s). They did use duct tape to seal the window. Kass/Derrick said they would look into this.

Brittany commented that she attended the last county commission meeting & urged other board members to attend when they could. She felt well worth the time, especially if the park system is on the agenda. They post the agenda on line prior to each meeting.

Commissioner Chip Westfall thanked the board for their service. He agreed that a joint meeting would be a good idea. He asked for members to voice their opinion to the commissioners regarding items of interest to the board regarding the parks. He mentioned that he felt the tower for cell service being put up in Walton will help service at East Lake. Chip would like to see commissioners attending more of the park board meetings & hopefully this will happen in the future.

County Administrator Anthony Swartzendruber also thanked the board members for their service to Harvey County Parks

Meeting was adjourned; followed by refreshments & fellowship with members & guests.

Next meeting – January 8, 2018 –East Lake Volunteer Hall.

Respectfully,

Pat Jackson, Secretary