

Harvey County Parks Advisor Board
Meeting – November 21, 2016 - 7 p.m.
Court House Community Room

Members Present: Carolyn Schwab, Zac Phillips, Brandon Will, Ron Hoffman, Bill Kiehl, Brittany Welch, Carol Buller

Members Absent: Pat Jackson, Cynda Conrade, Jack Bender

Guest: Ron Krehbiel, county commissioner

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

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes for the October meeting with the notation of Brandon's last name is Will without the "s" made by Carolyn Schwab and seconded by Brittney. Approved.

Directors Report: Kass Miller

www.getoutdoorskansas.org/trail – He has completed with the use of a GPS sent from GetOutdoorKansas.org the horse and hiking trails at East and West parks. We have a total of 12+ miles of trails. These trails will be mapped out on their web site. We will be able to post events on the web site.

Conquer the Gauntlet – Will not be able to do it here this year. Last year it made us about \$3,000. This issue this year is the time frame because of the hay crops. The people from the Gauntlet have promised to work something out for the next year as they really liked doing it at East Park. Ron Krehbiel asked if they could not do it at West Park. There is not enough land to do this activity there.

Hay crop – There was a good crop this year due to all the rain. One of the tenants did not get all his allotment of hay cut so there will have to be some adjustments to monies we receive from that crop.

Trapper Rendezvous – It will be held January 13-15th, 2017 at West Park. This is the 40th anniversary of this event. Kass had talked with the head scout masters about the fact that Coleman came out and sold items but we receive no revenue from it such as a vendor rental fee. They had said they would talk with Coleman but nothing has been done. Kass is going to talk with them again and look at sending it out to others for bid such as Gander Mountain and Cabello's. Kass again encouraged us to come out and see all the activities.

Mowing comparisons – Looked at the costs involved in “us” mowing the parks verses hiring it out as we have been doing. The current costs are approximately \$39,000 for contract labor. He has the times involved with our people mowing all three parks. Figuring in the cost of repairs, an additional mower, fuel, but is still needing to get complete costs for hiring part time help. Kass will have this information for us at the next meeting so we can make a recommendation to the commissioners at the January meeting.

Cell tower – Ron Hoffman has checked out the land elevation difference of the old park at Walton verses Eastlake. At Walton, the land elevation is 103' higher. This might take care of the issues we have with cell reception. Presently at Eastlake the cell reception is so bad that people have a problem phoning out. Walton has been talking with Verizon about a tower. Verizon has agreed to put a tower at the old park but this is not a high priority. Walton would like a letter from Kass with regards to the number of people that camp and spend time each year at the lake hoping this will speed up the process due to safety for people.

Operations Report: Derrick Richling

East Park - has been winterized with shutting down the water and bathrooms. They have been burning the shore line and want to do the dam next.

West Park -update on new bathrooms – the floor has been poured and the lighting in the women's side is in. They hope to do the men's side tomorrow. The doors are installed and can be locked.

There is a problem behind the community building in the slew. The beavers have set up housekeeping. Derrick has been trying to break it up. The area back there needs to be reprofiled to allow for better drainage. Can only do it as the area dries.

Old business – talked of the possibility of charging a user fee to those people coming out to swim, have a picnic or just spend time at the parks. There would not be a fee to those going to a special event at the park or for those going to a rented facility for a private group event. Discussion was on how it would be enforced and what the rates would be and if for the “season” or a calendar year, per person or car load. Kass showed the comparisons of what other area parks received in monies by having a park user fee. The board asked that he bring a recommendation to us. It is to be e-mailed for our review before the January meeting.

New logo - Kass found other parks that have the same or similar logo as ours. He presented 2 other styles of logos we could change to. The board asked what the cost would be and he said there would be no extra cost as he would do it as things were replaced. The board felt this made for a confusing image for the parks. It will be left as is for now.

Carol Buller asked for clarification on the use of monies if Camp Hawk is sold. Would the monies be allocated strictly for the parks and be above and beyond the monies in the park budget? It was stated monies from the sale of Camp Hawk was to be beyond the budgeted monies and was to go for capital equipment for the camps only. Ron Krehbiel stated he thought that was the only way that money should be used.

New business – Kass passed out a piece of paper to each member to list 3 activities and 3 capital improvements. He will list them out and at the next meeting we will discuss possibilities.

The welfare of the park rangers and their authority was discussed. There have been situations where they have worried about their own safety and the safety of others. They can call the sheriff’s department but have to wait for them to get there. If they would take the Kansas Law enforcement 2-week training classes so they could write tickets, stop drunk drivers and enforce laws. They could be certified to carry fire arms, use a Taser and mace. These would be certifications they would have to keep up every year. They have to be sponsored by a group in order to go to the training. This would have to be by the sheriff. It was suggested that Kass check with the newly elected sheriff to see if he would be willing to do that. Kass believes that the training is free. The county would only be paying the people going their normal daily wage and they would be going to the training instead of working at the parks. The only additional cost would be mileage. Kass thought this winter was the best time to do this as it is a slower time for them. The board was unanimous in favor of getting this training. They recommended that Kass talk to the incoming sheriff and county council and bring back to us what was said.

There were no comments from the board.

Good food was brought for all to enjoy.

A motion was made by Carolyn Schwab to adjourn and seconded by Bill Kiehl. Motion passed.

Submitted by

Carol Buller