

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 8th, 2018, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Scott Rhodes, Corum Smith, Phillip Ellis, Tricia King, Jennifer Hensley, Tommy Laughter
Staff present: Carleen Dixon, Erin Hendrix, Jason Kilgore, Tim Hopkin, Autumn Radcliff

Meeting called to order at 12:14pm. Minutes taken by Erin Hendrix

Tommy makes a motion to approve the minutes from April, Corum seconds, all agree.

Public Input

None

Request from Elite Limousine – Carleen Dixon

In the past, Elite Limousine has used Jackson Park for a shuttle service to the Apple Festival. Last year, a derogatory and racist remark was made by one of their drivers to a patron of the shuttle service which was reported. On October 6th, Elite Limousine was banned from using our parks for commercial use. Standard practice has been that the Recreation Advisory Board has an opportunity to hear an appeal after a one-year period. However, this company is asking for a review sooner than that so that they don't miss the opportunity to operate during this year's festival. Does the board want to entertain a hearing prior to the one-year period?

Tommy makes a motion to hear from Elite, Jennifer seconds, Phillip votes against.

Scholarship Application Process – Erin Hendrix

We have put together a new scholarship application for all programs. It would apply to all Parks and Recreation Programs. In the past, there were few guidelines, so the assistance

was not marketed. These new guidelines will allow us to better serve our population. Jeff asks how it will affect the budget. Carleen answers that we are already funding scholarships with our budget. Should the program grow, we can put in for more money, seek sponsorships, fund it with vending machine money, or, if necessary, we have a disclaimer that states that individuals are approved are funds are available. Phillip makes a motion to approve, Tricia seconds, all agree.

Open Streets – Tim Hopkin

Time gives a brief overview of how Open Streets work in other countries and how it might work in Henderson County. It is not a street festival for tourists, but a street festival for our community to bring people together. Jennifer asks if there is a way to present this to the City Council. Carleen says that the first step would be to reach out to Lew Holloway and have him possibly present it to the City Council. Jennifer makes a motion to pursue Open Streets as an event, Phillip seconds, none oppose.

Revisit Budget Overview – Carleen Dixon

The proposed budget for fiscal year 19 is in your packet as well as the manager-recommended budget that was returned to us. The big-ticket items were an event stage, which seems to be in there, hand dryers in all restrooms, and a new mower are still in the budget. We had proposed a new, full time maintenance position but that was not recommended and has been removed from our budget. We also asked for a replacement vehicle for maintenance that was not recommended. Phillip asks about capitol items, Carleen clarifies. Jeff ask about staff salaries and why we are under budget. Carleen answers that several full-time staff positions have been open, which is why it looks like we were under budget. Jennifer asks if we pay for

Parks Deputies. Yes, we do. Phillip asks what percent of the Henderson County budget goes to parks and recreation. Carleen answers that it is relatively low and that she has an intern starting next week that will start looking at numbers. Phillip asks if the intern can do a statistical presentation on the expenditures for our county as compared to other counties in the area and what percentages of their budgets go toward parks and recreation. Yes, Carleen answers, we can have him work on that.

Jackson Park Mountain Bike Skills Park – Carleen Dixon

We would like to create a committee to lay out goals for the Bike Park to develop a work plan, proposed budget, and look at programming for the area. We would like to have it open and have classes. It is currently closed because it has not been maintained. Tim states that Cane Creek created the park run by volunteers. The volunteers eventually burned out and BMX had internal struggles, and the park ended up losing steam. Our maintenance staff as well as some employees from Sycamore Cycles have tried to preserve it, but at this point it needs more attention before we can open it back up for safety's sake. Carleen asks if anyone would like to sit on this committee, support from the board would be ideal. Tricia would be interested in being on the committee. Phillip also mentions that he would like to be involved but his schedule might not allow it. Phillip makes a motion to move forward with bike park renovations, Tricia seconds, all in favor.

Jackson Park Dog Park – Carleen Dixon

The dog park used to be managed by the Friends of Jackson Park, but they are not really functioning anymore. We would like new people interested in the dog park to work with

Carleen and Jason to improve it. Carleen asks for referrals of people who might be interested in being involved.

Disc Golf Signage Update – Carleen Dixon

Jay McCarthy and Carleen are working to get tee layouts for each hole. Our new intern will also be creating a disc golf tournament for the department as a project.

Nominations of Officers for Chair and Vice Chair – Carleen Dixon

We can either do nominations for a Chair and Vice Chair positions today or we can look at doing them outside of this meeting. These positions will take effect on July 1. Phillip nominates Jeff as Chair and Terry as Vice Chair, Tommy seconds.

Recreation Update – Jason Kilgore, Erin Hendrix, Carleen Dixon

Jason says that April was very busy. There is a water line break in Jackson Park that we still cannot find. We have a company working on lights in Jackson Park ball fields. There are numbers in your packet with usage amounts for the month. Corum complements Westfeldt Park, Phillip agrees. Corum states that Jason does a fantastic job. Everyone agrees. Erin gives an update on Senior Games and Silver Arts and invites the board to the closing ceremonies. Youth Soccer is ending, Adult Softball is starting up, Explore the Outdoors Camp will happen in June and July. Over the weekend, we had the Western North Carolina Dulcimer Collective here in the AAC and had over 50 dulcimers downstairs for their annual event. RecDesk should be up and running in the next couple of days and we are very excited about that.

Carleen lets everyone know that Laura Rice has accepted a position elsewhere and is no longer with the department.

Member Comments:

Jeff asks about directional signs and if they are still happening. This is a TDA project and Tim and Phillip both say they have seen a few signs around town and that more will be coming.

Motions:

Tommy makes a motion to approve the minutes from April, Corum seconds, all agree.

Tommy makes a motion to hear from Elite Limousine, Jennifer seconds, Phillip votes against.

Phillip makes a motion to approve the new scholarship guidelines, Tricia seconds, all agree.

Jennifer makes a motion to pursue Open Streets as an event, Phillip seconds, none oppose.

Phillip makes a motion to move forward with bike park renovations, Tricia seconds, all in favor.

Phillip nominates Jeff as Chair and Terry as Vice Chair, Tommy seconds.

Jeff makes a motion to adjourn at 1:17pm. Jennifer seconds.