

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, July 16th, 2020, 12pm, Tuxedo Park Shelter

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Terry Maybin, Milton Butterworth, Stephanie Cantwell, Katie Breckheimer, Corum Smith, and Robert Smith.

Staff in attendance: Carleen Dixon and Cory Blackwell.

Speakers in attendance: None

A. Call to Order: 12:09pm

B. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve June 2020 minutes made by Milton Butterworth, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, unanimously approved.

a. A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Charlie Messer.

C. Consent Agenda: None

D. Public Input: None

E. New Business:

1. Department Operations with Covid- Carleen

- a. Athletics- Tournaments are taking place at Jackson Park. Carleen has reminded tournament organizers of the importance of Covid safety guidelines. Tournament organizers like "Top Gun" are responsible for enforcing such guidelines and it is the community's responsibility to approach organizers and inform them if they notice actions or activities that are inappropriate. Organization and individual Covid waivers have been created to ensure participants are held accountable and understand risks involved with recreation activities.
- b. Facilities- Indoor facilities are closed but administrative operations are still in effect. Karate classes have started at Henderson County outdoor facilities. Youth Camps have different exemptions to Covid guidelines, and Henderson County will start offering these activities with limited numbers and restrictions (ex: Volleyball half-day camp).
- c. Free Activity Bags are available every two weeks; these include games, crafts, activities, etc. We send out a newsletter every two weeks with the link to sign up for a bag as well as links to online videos and puzzles that demonstrates how to play the game or complete the craft. Activity bags are funded with special event funds (since events have been cancelled due to Covid) and have been low cost.

d. Playgrounds are closed during phase 2 of Covid-19 reopening.

2. Broadmoor Golf-

Warrior golf filed bankruptcy early in the year, and Asheville Airport Authority is interested in purchasing the Broadmoor golf course property. If the Asheville Airport Authority purchases Broadmoor Golf course, they will explore options of leasing it to a private company or Henderson County to operate. The golf course is in good condition and they would like to find a party that will continue its operations and upkeep.

3. Park Bench Proposal for Tuxedo Park-

A member of the Tuxedo community is interested in adding a memorial bench in the park. Henderson County does not currently have a formal policy with this type of procedure, but Carleen is in the process of developing one. When adding a memorial structure to a park, it's important to make sure it meets standards. (ex: is it ADA compliant, is the information on the plaque appropriate?) The memorial bench would be placed on a concrete slab next to the walking path and near the gazebo.

*Motion to allow a new memorial bench to be placed at Tuxedo park along the trail near the gazebo made by Terry Maybin, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, unanimously approved.

4. Etowah Park Walking Trail Discussion-

The community continues to reach out to the County requesting that the walking trail be repaired in Etowah Park. Discussion on types of surfacing and what would be most cost effective: Gravel is not a good option because it would not meet ADA compliance. A "natural" surface that is ADA compliant would be very costly and would require more maintenance. An 8-foot-wide paved trail is ideal because its ADA compliant and maintenance vehicles can fit on to the trail without doing damage. A quote we received to remove current trail, put new underlayment and resurface the trail was 67,000 dollars. The board asked if this was a high priority; Carleen responded by reminding them of the budget requests for the last two years and that this item made it on the list both years that this board supported. Note: Pictures of the current trail conditions were also shared with the Board. Milton Butterworth states, it is important to promote a healthy and active lifestyle amongst the community (especially during Covid), and being that Etowah Park is so frequently used, financing its upkeep is a priority. Stephanie Cantwell mentioned potentially asking local businesses and Etowah Lions to help financially support renovations to Etowah park walking trails. Jeff Donaldson asks if the County repairs at Etowah park can be placed under a capital expense.

* Milton Butterworth made a motion to ask Henderson County to explore options to repair the trail at Etowah Park and to support this financially because it offers a safe and healthy option to the community; especially during Covid because it provides a great resource outside. Seconded by Terry Maybin, unanimously approved.

5. Board unanimously decided to hold the August meeting at Etowah Park shelter.

F. Unfinished Business-

1. Budget Update – Carleen

Henderson County Parks and Recreation did not receive any capital funding in the budget due to Covid -19, but the overall operation budget was approved. Henderson County Facilities Services did get awarded planned project monies and some of these benefit Parks and Recreation and include: AAC locker rooms and restrooms, skylights repairs in the gymnasium, fascia and patio repairs at Edneyville community center. Also, the requested vehicles for replacement have also been funded and are on order.

G. Staff Updates:

1. Parks Update – Jason is absent, Carleen is sharing.

The facilities crew has worked extremely hard to keep fields maintained and they are currently in fantastic condition. Two new picnic tables have been placed at the Historic Courthouse. Picnic pads have been added at Westfeldt Park. Repairs have been made to various restroom buildings. Long Cane Trails completed large renovations to the first half of the Disc golf course in Jackson park and plan to complete the second half of the course this fiscal year. They are working towards making the course more sustainable, to ensure its longevity due to the high volume of users.

2. Recreation Update – Casey is absent, Carleen is sharing.

Staff are looking into ways to offer soccer and adult softball in a safe manor, nothing has been decided at this point. Our second Drive in movie with "Sonic the Hedgehog" is this Friday the 17th. We have two more Drive-In's scheduled this year; one in August and one in September.

3. Admin Update – Cory

We are continuing to reverse facilities and fields and making sure staff are prepared for Covid-19 reopening.

H. Member Comments:

Terry Maybin spoke on Tuxedo Park and described how helpful it was to have Charlie Messer advocate for its development. The Tuxedo community group plans to reseed the park and to eventually add a flattop with basketball goals.

Katie Breckheimer states Ecusta Trail work seems to be moving right along with the sale of the property to Conserving Carolina.

Motions:

1. Motion to approve March minutes made by Milton Buttersworth, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, unanimously approved.
2. Motions to move forward with adding a memorial bench to Tuxedo park by Terry Maybin, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, unanimously approved.
3. Motion that the County explore all possible ways of doing necessary repairs at Etowah park to promote safety and health made by Milton Butterworth, seconded by Terry Maybin, unanimously approved.

I. Call to Adjourn: 1:09pm