

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020, 12pm, Etowah Park Shelter

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Milton Butterworth, Scott Rhodes, Phillip Ellis, Stephanie Cantwell, Katie Breckheimer, Hunter Marks, Corum Smith, and Robert Smith.

Staff in attendance: Carleen Dixon, Cory Blackwell, Casey Conner, Jason Kilgore.

Speakers in attendance: Ken Wise – Etowah Lions Club

A. Call to Order: 12:09pm

B. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve July 2020 minutes made by Milton Butterworth, seconded by Robert Smith, unanimously approved.

C. Consent Agenda: None

D. Public Input:

Joseph Fields- "Etowah park is a diamond in the rough." Joseph would like to see two things happen at Etowah park. Stating that he would like to see the walking path fixed as well as pickleball courts installed at Etowah Park.

E. New Business:

1. Field and Special Event Allocation Proposal - Carleen

- a. Field Use Allocation draft- Since Covid, rentals and field allocations have increased significantly. A drafted allocation document has been put forth to provide policies on how to appropriately allocate Henderson County park rentals. There are currently no formal policies put into place for how to appropriately determine which groups get priority. If approved, this document will change that. Milton Butterworth mentioned that he would like for language about prioritizing underserved populations to be added to the allocation process.
- b. Special Event Allocation draft – Similar to field allocation, the allocation document will provide policies that determine the prioritization of rentals. Milton Butterworth questions if the same language for regional, state and national size events that is in the field use section should be here also. Carleen notes that it certainly can be added here as well. Carleen mentions that the special event process already has a \$20 application fee but that we would like to expand this to be used as

the field allocation deposit for each event. The board discusses and agrees that this would be appropriate.

*Motion to proceed with special event and field allocation policy implementation made by Milton Butterworth, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, unanimously approved.

2. Athletic and Activity Center Turf Field Challenges- Carleen

Due to Covid and the high amount of field rentals during the pandemic, there has been an increased amount of issues pertaining to illegal vending, rules being broken and trash being left behind in the parks. We have scheduled one of our part-time field supervisors, David Elmore, to oversee rentals and make sure participants are following park rules. We are hopeful this will cut back on these problems we have been experiencing.

3. Pickleball Use and Location-

There has been an increase in participation at the outdoor Jackson Park pickleball court location. We ordered two new outdoor pickleball stanchions and the plan was to install them at the Etowah Park tennis courts, but there have been concerns from the pickleball players that the tennis court surface at Etowah is not adequate for pickleball play. Building a whole new court would require capital funding that is not currently available. So, we are looking at installing them at Jackson Park instead.

Also, it should be noted that a donor reached out via one of the USPA Pickleball Ambassadors to let us know that they were interested in contributing to a pickleball only court in Tuxedo Park. This information was shared with the Green River Community Association as they are the group who did the fund raising and master planning for this park. Because they already have a plan in place to fully develop Tuxedo Park they were not willing to delete another sport court to add pickleball however, they were willing to put a court on the basketball court. The donor made it clear that they were only interested if it was a stand-alone court. So, the GRCA turned them down. It was noted that there could also potentially be room to add pickleball courts at East Flat Rock park and this was shared with the donors contact.

4. Lending Library – Etowah’s Lions Club – Ken Wise and Kathy Nichols

Etowah’s Lions Club would like to complete a service project by adding a lending library to in Etowah park. The little library kiosk will be located next to the Etowah Loins Club bulletin board and will hopefully provide the community some entertainment during the pandemic. They will contact the Parks supervisor before install to make sure no lines underground are hit and the Lions Club will maintain the lending library.

5. Shelter Rentals – Carleen

Carleen is proposing a deadline cut off for shelter and community rentals. This will allow the recreation department to follow up with renters and make sure they understand expectations as well as allow the renters payment to clear. Renters often attempt to install unsafe items such as large inflatable waterslides without our knowledge. If we have a 7-day window this will allow the department time to follow up with all renters before their event to ensure that they are aware of all the rules. Renters are required to inform and list all items they intend to bring on their rental agreement, but many times things are overlooked or when they book the rental they are unsure. This window will help us ensure that everyone's event is a success.

*Motion made, rentals to be reserved at least one week in advance by Robert Smith, seconded by Katie Breckheimer, unanimously approved.

6. October Meeting –

The Board decided to hold the October 13, 2020 Advisory Board meeting at the shelter located at East Flat Rock Park and to hold the November 10, 2020 meeting at Edneyville Community Center.

F. Unfinished Business:

Etowah Park Walking Trail – Carleen and Ken Wise

The walking trail in Etowah Park is in poor shape as we have discussed many times with this board and the Etowah's Lions Club is considering a generous donation to help fund the replacement of the walking trail at Etowah Park. The proposal that the department put together would change the trail to an 8-foot-wide surface that meets ADA guidelines, allows for two-way traffic 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. Ken Wise states a lot of park visitors will no longer walk portions of the trail due to drainage issues and areas of the trail that are uneven and damaged due to roots and erosion. It was noted that Carleen is attending the Etowah Lions Club meeting next week to review all of this information with the Board.

Broadmoor Golf – Carleen

Broadmoor Golf course was leased out by the Airport Association to a private organization.

G. Staff Updates:

1. Recreation Update – Casey

We are restarting pickleball at the AAC gym with limited numbers due to Covid - 19. Health screenings will be provided for those participating. Virtual recreation activity kits are developed every other week and we have seen good participation numbers. Currently, there are ten activity kits and videos that have been made available for the public for free. The Drive-in movie "onward" will take place on September 18, 2020.

2. Parks Update – Jason

Inclement weather has brought some challenges in the parks and being that Buncombe county isn't not hosting tournaments, Henderson county fields and facilities have been extremely busy. Facility operations have been able to take on some side projects during the pandemic. A board member ask Jason if ~~the~~ the Parks staff had received the replacement trucks yet. Jason said that finance is working on the order but due to Covid it is taking longer to source than past years.

3. Admin Update – Cory

We have been busy with preparations for indoor facilities to begin to open and we are developing the logistics on how to manage this as we go forward.

4. Member Comments:

Jeff Donaldson – Please take time to go to Jackson park during a tournament to see how popular Henderson county parks are for the community.

Motions:

1. A motion to approve July 2020 minutes made by Milton Butterworth, seconded by Robert Smith, unanimously approved.
2. Motion to proceed with special event and field allocation policy implementation made by Milton Butterworth, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, unanimously approved.
3. Motion made, rentals to be reserved at least one week in advance by Robert Smith, seconded by Katie Breckheimer, unanimously approved.

H. Call to Adjourn: 1:21pm