

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday October 12th, 2021 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Terry Maybin, David Hill, Milton Butterworth, Corum Smith, Bob Smith, Philip Ellis, Stephanie Cantwell, and Tricia King.

Staff in attendance: Carleen Dixon, Megan Bishop, Jason Kilgore, and Bruce Gilliam.

Speakers in attendance:

1. Call to Order: 12:07

2. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the September 2021 minutes was made by Corum Smith, seconded by Terry Maybin, unanimously approved.

3. New Business:

a. Upcoming Events - Carleen

i. Treat Street

Treat Street is returning this year and we expect a huge turnout. It will be on Oct 31st on Main Street with inflatables, trick or treating, a DJ, and more.

ii. Holiday Movie Change

In the past we have hosted a holiday movie in the Historic Courthouse, and the last year we did an outdoor portion with hot chocolate, photo with Santa and other activities. We will not do the movie this year but will do the outdoor portion out front because we had a lot of success with that in 2019. This event will be on afternoon of the last day of school before break.

iii. New Years Eve Event

We have done two separate times in the past, GMT times for kids and the midnight time for adults. This year we will only do the early time and make it a family focused event.

Stephanie stated that the early NYE time was great in the past.

4. Unfinished Business:

a. Budget Discussion - Carleen

Staff are starting the budget planning process for next year. Carleen asked board members to keep this in mind as we approach the budget process.

Milton stated he appreciated starting this process early and asked if it would be beneficial to start talking about some of the things we need now to bring to the commissioners before the budget project is in full swing. An example

of this would be the playground at Jackson Park. Milton suggested putting together some information about each of our anticipated budget requests.

David agreed saying it would be helpful to bring additional information to the Commissioners before the budget cycle.

Jeff asked about the top priorities from the Needs Assessment. Carleen stated that the big ones were trails and greenways and people generally supported spending on improving existing infrastructure.

Jeff asked if we are closer to a solution for the flooded areas at Jackson Park. Carleen replied we have applied for the LWCF grant that would help the situation.

Stephanie asked about sending a survey to tournament attendees about park improvements. Carleen stated we can get a survey out this season.

b. Soccer Update – Carleen

This is a follow up from our soccer discussion in July 2021 when HCSA proposed transferring our soccer league to ABYSA.

Fall 2019 – 428 players, 48 sprouts

Spring 2020 – 448 players, 73 sprouts – cancelled due to covid

Fall 2020 - cancelled

Spring 2021 – 112 players, 60 in soccer clinic. Late season after mask mandates were lifted; ABYSA offered a league at the same time

Fall 2021 – 346 players, 64 sprouts

Discussion among Board.

A couple options were proposed: One option was that HCPRD turn over the recreational youth soccer program to be run by ABYSA starting in Spring 2022. The other option would be for HCPRD to continue running the recreational soccer program. ABYSA could continue to run a recreational league as well, but if HCPRD continues to offer a program they may decide not to.

Terry Maybin made a motion for HCPRD to continue offering the recreational soccer league program.

Philip stated that it will be more difficult for children to advance into more competitive levels under the HCPRD program. He states that the increased cost and loss of control are factors, but ABYSA provides an on ramp to advance in soccer.

Jeff asked David Hill about Commissioner's feelings towards giving control to an organization associated with Asheville-Buncombe. David stated he would prefer the program stay with the county and noted oversight and accountability that only HCPRD can offer.

Stephanie seconded Terry's previous motion.

Philip stated in opposition that if HCPRD offers recreational soccer, ABYSA will most likely no longer offer recreational soccer in Henderson County, making it more difficult for kids to advance into a more competitive level.

Tricia stated she opposes the motion because recreational soccer utilizes volunteer coaches, and the experience can vary depending on the coach.

Milton stated that he does not feel there is enough information to vote on whether to turn the program over to ABYSA.

Carleen mentioned one of the questions the Recreation Advisory Board asked ABYSA was if HCPRD could have a seat on their board to ensure that the program was meeting our community needs and allow space for feedback. We were told that at this time ABYSA does not allow positions like this to sit on the board.

Philip replied that he thinks there should be significant oversight over the program if turned over to ABYSA.

Stephanie stated she wanted to amend the motion to continue offering the league in Spring 2022 and revisit the discussion after receiving more information.

Terry agreed to the terms of the amendment.

The amended motion states HCPRD will continue offering a recreational soccer league in Spring 2022 and following the fall 2021 season the discussion will be revisited in a meeting with ABYSA and HCSA and voted on after receiving more information from ABYSA and HCSA.

The motion passed unanimously.

Philip stated that if the ABYSA board allowed a board member, that Carleen should be on there.

Milton mentioned the possibility of forming a committee to identify what is important to the board regarding recreational soccer.

c. Mobile Food Vending Discussion

Carleen informed the board that our county ordinance currently does not allow mobile food vending in the parks outside of a special event, so any policy that is passed must go before the County Commissioners.

We would like to start a trial in Jackson Park for two allocated spots that will have set dates and times they are allowed to set up. The vendors would need to apply, must be visually appealing and well maintained, must have all necessary permits to operate, offer a variety of food items that are affordable, strong references, etc.

We would like to start taking applications for the upcoming year on November 20th. Vendors can submit throughout the year, but the review would begin on Nov. 20th. Staff is proposing to charge a one-time \$150 application fee. There are a variety of ways to go about this and we could adjust as needed.

Bruce stated that we are not operating concessions for adult softball nights and this would fill a need.

Jeff asked about moving the trucks around depending on what is going on in the park.

Carleen stated special events would not be included in this. To start we will probably keep them in the same space and move them if needed.

Milton stated he would like the application to include healthy food options in the first paragraph that states what we are looking for in a vendor.

Bob also said he would like to see sustainable packaging.

Philip agreed and stated that less packaging would be beneficial as well.

Milton and Stephanie asked for clarification on the application fee.

Carleen stated that the application fee would be a one-time non-refundable fee, but there are several ways to go about implementing an application fee. There is also the potential to charge vendors a percentage of what they make in addition to the application fee. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Staff are still looking into the exact location of the food trucks. There is a need for food and drink options in the park.

Terry made a motion to submit the policy to the county commissioners to do a trial period in Jackson Park. The motion was seconded by Bob.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Staff Updates

1. Parks Update – Jason

- HHS had three metal buildings and Commissioner Hill facilitated the transfer of one of those buildings from the high school to Etowah Park. This will be taking place soon.

- Parks continue to be extremely busy since our last meeting:
 - 79 Shelter reservations
 - 15 Community Center
 - 193 Baseball field scheduled uses
 - 205 Soccer field scheduled uses
 - 2 Special Events Farm City Day & Black Bear Half Marathon
- We have prepped and poured a concrete pad for our new 24'x36' maintenance building at Etowah Park.
- Took down old chain link fencing at BMX track ready to put up new split rail fence in its place.

2. Admin Update – Megan

- I have been working with the county website developer to update our website and add additional features.
- I have also been working with BRCC to schedule facility use at the AAC for classes. We will host 4 classes for BRCC in Spring 2022.
- Front desk staff decorated the AAC for Halloween and it looks amazing!

3. Recreation Update – Bruce

- Adult, senior, youth, and sprouts basketball this fall/winter
- We are planning to add another night of adult volleyball due to demand
- Adult softball is going well
- Almost 400 kids enrolled in our recreational soccer league
- AAC is hosting its first Adult Pickleball Tournament
- Treat Street in Downtown Hendersonville
- New classes: Beginner scuba, kayaking, fly fishing, rappelling, hiking, biking

4. Departmental Update – Carleen

6. Member Comments

- a. Terry stated that Tuxedo Park received an estimate from Carolina Paving for their multipurpose court for \$25,000, and the Green River Association will be discussing that.
- b. Milton stated that he would like the board to be involved in the Henderson County Comprehensive Plan process.

7. Call to Adjourn: 1:23