

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
October 11, 2022, 12:00pm, Athletics and Activities Center, 708 South Grove Street

Board members in attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Milton Butterworth, Terry Maybin, Doug Moon, Stephanie Cantwell, Ralph king, Scott Rhodes, Bob Smith, and Corum Smith.

Staff in attendance: Bruce Gilliam, Megan Burnette, Jason Kilgore, Autumn Radcliff, and Janna Bianculli.

Public in attendance: Dennis Justice.

1. Call to Order: 12:02pm
2. Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the September 2022 minutes was made by Terry Maybin, seconded by Stephanie Cantwell, and unanimously approved.

3. Public Input

Dennis Justice is a resident of Fletcher who frequents the AAC. He is a part of Blue Ridge Pickleball, and they are advocating to build a pickleball complex. He stated that there is 2 million dollars intended to be spent on recreation by the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Justice is advocating for a recreation center in Fletcher where there are none. There are 12 public pickleball courts in the county, but he would like to see a wheelchair friendly court which is 44 by 74 feet. He said they acquired land from Meritor that has not yet been developed. He believes this is a perfect location for a recreation center or pickleball complex. It could also be used for emergency management. He believes the Town of Fletcher could be persuaded to match the money spent by the county.

4. New Business

a. 2045 Comprehensive Plan Update – Autumn

The draft is out at hendersoncounty2045.com, and everyone is encouraged to read through it.

Recommendations that impact parks and recreation:

1. Locational priorities for future parks and trail connections
2. Advocate for DOT to install wide paths along roadways, giving people option for bicycle and pedestrian commuting and recreational use
3. Identify safe cycling routes
4. Complete greenway network
5. Coordinate with our board on priority greenway implementation

6. Incorporate spurs and short connection to parks (and more)
7. Encourage healthy living by expanding access to parks, greenways, and other recreational amenities
8. Increase number of county owned parks including pocket parks in areas of the county with underserved populations
9. Enhance programming to address the needs of senior and disabled populations
10. Improve access to rivers for recreational purposes through coordination with partners
11. Require major subdivisions to provide pedestrian crossings or provide easements to immediately adjacent greenway facilities
12. Work with tourism board to provide support for safe and sustainable recreational tourism
13. Explore the creation of a regional sports council made up of public and private organization

The comprehensive plan will be reviewed every 5 years and there will be a mandatory update after the 10-year mark.

Katie Breckheimer sent her comments via email: *I support all of the recommendations in the draft plan regarding parks, see Goal 8, Recommendation 8.1 and 8.2, starting on page 84. I especially recommend completing a Parks Master Plan, but do not see why Jackson Park needs its own separate plan.*

b. PARTF Grant – Etowah Park

Waiting on the grant to be signed by the Governor's office.

c. Accessibility for Parks Grant

Will be preserving the stone wall and making the playground and walkway accessible and all-inclusive at East Flat Rock Park. The grant application is due on November 1st.

d. Gametime Manufacturer Grant

We have received this grant. It will provide free playground equipment to aid the Accessibility for Parks grant project at East Flat Rock Park.

e. Sports Complex Update

Two million dollars has been awarded by the commissioners for this project. They are currently looking for land that could house a multi-sport complex. Bruce and Jason looked at more facilities in Shelby to get an idea for our sports complex.

f. HCPRD Budget – 4-year plan

Jason, Bruce, and Megan are working on a 4-year plan to send to the commissioners. This will help to prioritize capital projects and staffing needs.

g. VFW Update

Looking to get a part-time or full-time position to work here when it is complete. We would like to host more senior activities out of this facility.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Ecusta Trail Update

Entering the second phase of engineering from Kanuga-64. The portion from Kanuga to Main St. is treated separately because of where the funding is coming from. They are working in partnership with DOT consultants NSFLTP – would connect to Brevard federal land 90/10 match – grant application will be due end of month. Confirmed surface will be asphalt.

b. Bench Memorial Request

Background check complete and it came back clean. Terry Maybin made a motion to accept the bench memorial request. Bob Smith seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

c. Tuxedo Park Update

- i. Added playground mulch this past week. New bench put in. Basketball hoops are installed, but surface is not finished yet.

6. Staff Updates and Events: Jason, Megan, and Bruce

Treat Street: almost 40 businesses volunteered. Biltmore Baptist Church volunteered to bring inflatables and staff them. This event will be Monday, October 31st from 5-8pm.

New Hire: Brooklyn Bishop – auxiliary events assistant

Sports are ending so now is a good time for Jason's staff to catch up on things. They just finished installing new t-pads at disc golf course with poured in concrete.

Audubon society had a picture contest in Jackson Park which will be featured in their book.

7. Member Comments

Stephanie commented on the uniqueness of Treat Street which attracts mostly locals rather than tourists.

8. Call to Adjourn: 1:13pm