

# **Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting**

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 12:00pm, 708 S Grove St, Hendersonville**

**Board members in attendance:** Jeff Donaldson, Terry Maybin, Stephanie Cantwell, Ralph King, Tricia King, Katie Breckheimer, Phillip Ellis, Corum Smith, Scott Rhodes, Doug Moon, and Robert Smith

**Staff in attendance:** Bruce Gilliam, Autumn Radcliff, Jason Kilgore and Brooklyn Bishop

**Public in Attendance:** Anna Hoy, Rachel Gardner

1. **Call to Order:** 12:06

2. **Approval of Minutes:** November 2022

Jeff Donaldson made a motion to approve the November minutes as written. Stephanie Cantwell seconded the motion and there was a unanimous approval from the board.

3. **Public Input:**

No formal public input.

4. **New Business**

**a. Introduce new employee Brooklyn Bishop – Admin Asst**

Bruce introduced Brooklyn Bishop as the new administrative assistant for the department.

**b. Ecusta Trail Update – Autumn**

The previous consulting firm Vonn and Milton has now merged with another firm and has officially changed names to JNT Engineering. They have now completed the 90% designs and the designs were presented to an art tech in January where a formal recommendation for approval was made. Along with county engineers, they have been working on defining the cost estimates for the drainage issues. Everything is on track to big out construction this summer for the first phase. This will be from around South Main to US 64. They are still looking at grand funding for this project. They have applied for a NSFLTP grant along with the NCDOT. This is a competitive grand that only awards 3 applications across the US. This could be around June before anything is known on this grant. There is a plan for 14ft pave surfaces in Hendersonville and through Laurel Park and 12ft surfaces from there on until the county line. Transylvania county is planning on 10ft pave surfaces. Katie mentioned that the Friends of the Ecusta Trail have a great website as a resource for information and updates. The Friends of the Oklawaha Greenway have a good website as well. The Oklawaha Brewery will be having the Greenway as their organization of the

month of March and the Friends group will receive a percentage of every pint sold. There will be a kickoff on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> will be Everything Greenway Day. All local greenways will be represented, and the county is invited to come present the master plan.

**c. Eagle Scout Project**

Bruce received an email from an individual in the county who is looking to do an Eagle Scout project with the County. He is very passionate about music and will be applying for a grant for Lowes. If he receives this grant, he would like to add musical instruments to the greenway and county parks. Terry would like to continue the discussion and Tricia agreed. Terry motioned to accept Bruce's proposal. Phillip seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**d. 4-year Budget Plan**

The budget plan is to be submitted by tomorrow. Bruce has presented the plan to the Board of Commissioners along with the county manager. Commissioners are working on voting on these recommendations. This budget would include new positions including additional park technicians for the Ecusta Trail and an additional recreation coordinator to work alongside the VFW for senior activities. Also recommended was a full-time office assistant to replace the 3 part-time positions and new park technicians for our upcoming sports complex. We are still looking for land for the sports complex. All program numbers are continuing to grow, especially youth soccer. Phillip asked where any possible land options could be sent to, Bruce recommended Chris Todd along with himself.

A priority has been to possibly flip field 7 at Jackson Park. This would allow for more parking within the park. It has been proposed to add pickleball courts in Jackson and remove the fence around field 4 to transition it to a little league only field to allow more parking. The turf field at the AAC needs to be redone and the AAC dance room needs to be ADA accessible. Also included was a kitchen remodel at the Dana Community Building. We will be paving the parking lot and adding a sport court at the Edneyville Community Center in the upcoming months. We received a PARTF grant of \$286,000 that the county will match for improvements at Edneyville Park and Etowah Park. We have asked for new updated signage for multiple facilities.

Within the next few weeks, this budget will be returned with a decision on what items will be priorities. Doug mentioned that the land for Dana Park has been leased to the county and we need to start communication with commissioners about making contact with the property owners to have the title switched over. Katie

reached out to David Hill to encourage him to attend more advisory meetings to help him best advocate for the county parks as a commissioner.

**e. Dog Area Memorial – John Mark Strickland**

A frequent visitor and leader in the community of the Jackson Park dog park recently passed away. A bench as been proposed in his memoriam for the dog park area. Bruce has completed a background check on the individual who proposed the bench. Parks and recreation would install the bench, but it would be paid for by the requestor. Phillip motioned to approve, and Ralph seconded. The motion was approved.

**5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a. Playground updates – Jason**

We have received a purchase order for approval of grading and the pre-plans. A sewer line that was directly under the playground location was relocated and ground is now being moved for the grading process. All playground equipment has been delivered and is currently being stored at the HCSO impound lot. Jason is working on securing a purchase order for the surfacing and concrete work. Progress is being made but this project will likely not be completed by Easter.

**b. ECC – sport court addition – Bruce**

This project will be moving forward and there will be a sports complex at the Edneyville Community Center. Through the Edneyville Community Association members, \$65,000 was raised and an additional \$5,000 was contributed by Esther Davis from her trust.

**c. Tuxedo Park – Jason**

The court itself has been completed and the Green River Association will be installing pavers. We have added additional basketball goals on each end and will add in additional striping to the court. The court is ready for usage and will make a great addition to the park.

**d. East Flat Rock Park – Accessibility Grant – Bruce**

We are currently waiting to hear back, hopefully in early March. This grant would allow us to make the parking lot more accessible and update the playground equipment.

**e. Etowah Park – PARTF Grant – Bruce**

Work will likely begin sometime around July to make park updates including a new playground, basketball courts, help with drainage issues, and pickleball courts. This was a \$286K grant with a 50/50 match from Henderson County.

**f. TDA Grant Submission– Sports Complex**

We are hopeful that we can receive this \$50K grant to help fund our new sports complex. This grant would be for the project engineering.

**6. STAFF UPDATES and EVENTS**

Bruce: We will open summer camp registration starting on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Senior Games and Silver Arts will begin on March 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in participating or volunteering, contact Melanie Adams. We hosted our Family/Daddy Daughter Dance this past weekend with a huge turnout. AAC classroom rental costs have been cut to \$1 for a half day rental. All programs and revenue are currently up with major growth in youth sports. We have started using an app called Remind 101 to communicate with coaches and athletic directors to help inform of field closures in a timely manner.

Jason: Maintenance is very busy with prepping for upcoming sport seasons. They are currently working on a concrete project to tie field 2 and 3 together in Jackson Park. Maintenance is at full staff except for one weekend position that has not received applications. This is a difficult position to fill due to the schedule. Yesterday was the first day of spring sports and fields are being used heavily. A pre-bid meeting will be held tomorrow for the new maintenance facility in Jackson Park behind fields 8 and 9.

Tricia asked if we flipped the baseball fields, if we would also raise the fields. They will be raised a small amount. Soil and Water received a grant to clean out streams and ditches that would help with drainage issues in Jackson Park.

**7. MEMBER COMMENTS**

Doug asked if we were able to increase the salary on the weekend maintenance position. Bruce has check with Human Resources to try and get the pay increased but have not had success with this.

**8. ADJOURN: 1:15**