

**Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Meeting
Hashawha Environmental Center
March 28, 2012**

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Sam Case, Brad Knatz, Lew Baylor, Gary Davis, Jim Rodriguez, Sarah Hund-Brown, Judy Baker, Colin Furneaux, and Joe Cook

Members Excused: Bobbi Tucker

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

Staff Present: Bruce Dutterer and Chelcee Fandel

Guests Present: Bobby Hermann, Ralph Dell, Betsy Santos and Wind O'Neal

Mr. Knatz called the meeting to order at 1:30pm and welcomed the guests, Wind O'Neal with Motocross, Bobby Hermann, the Innova Ambassador for Disc Golf, Ralph Dell, a Disc Golf Club Member and Betsy Santos with WTTR.

Mr. Furneaux wanted to thank Hashawha and kitchen staff from everyone on the Advisory Board for providing the location and food for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

The February 22, 2012 minutes were unanimously approved as written with a motion by Lewis Baylor and seconded by Judy Baker.

Director's Report:

Upcoming Events: - The Early Bird Fishing Tournament is March 31st at Piney Run Park. The March for Parks 1 mile walk and 5k Mud Run is being held at the Farm Museum on March 31st.

Capital Project Updates-

- A. **Leister Park-** Is out to bid
- B. **Bennett Cerf Park-** We have met with the contractor this week regarding the installation of the mini pavilions; the bridge has been ordered with an estimated completion date of the end of May. The playground equipment, park bench and pet waste station installation is to occur in May as well.
- C. **Mayeski Park Playground Equipment Replacement-** We are seeking concurrence from the Commissioners tomorrow for the purchase and installation of the replacement unit.
- D. **Westminster Community Pond-** We are awaiting the final approvals from the State with a tentative construction start date of late 2012. We will post signs and notify the public prior to closing the park for renovations.

- E. **Dog Park-** We held a meeting last night and support was expressed for the Bennett Cerf site. The Community Foundation is interested in supporting the project along with the previous and new volunteers. We will be discussing this with the Commissioners in the coming month to pursue the green light to move forward.
- F. **Budget Update-** The County is facing serious issues with the passing of teacher pension costs and decreased tax assessment revenue. We are scheduled to meet with the Commissioners on April 3rd at 1:30pm to discuss our budget.

Strategic Plan Update:

The Strategic Plan was adopted over two years ago and needs to be revisited. Jeff Degitz, along with Brad Rogers and Abby Gruber will be working on the changes of the strategic plan. Jeff Degitz asked the board for a volunteer to be apart of the plan changes; Gary Davis volunteered.

Nomination for Chair-Elect:

The nominating committee nominated Judy Baker to the position of Chair-Elect and Ms. Baker accepted the nomination. The Board voted unanimously to accept the nomination as Chair-Elect. Sam Case will step into the Chair position at the May meeting.

Disc Golf Presentation- Bobby Hermann:

Bobby Hermann, the Innova Ambassador for Disc Golf started off his presentation with a 5 minute movie showing what disc golf is about. Mr. Hermann explained that disc golf is very similar to golf in terms of etiquette and score keeping. Disc golf in feet is what golf is, in yards. Mr. Hermann expressed his desire to start a course at Leister Park. Mr. Hermann explained that a park can have multi use around a disc golf course; it is all about the design and layout of the course. Mr. Degitz explained that the disc golf course has not yet been included in the funding of the capital projects but when a group introduces something that they are funding, it is something that we take into consideration. Mr. Hermann explained that there would be signage along with the tee signs explaining the instructions of disc golf. He also explained that local clubs would run this course as well as taking care of all the maintenance. It was explained by Mr. Degitz that the purpose of this presentation is for information purposes only at this point. Leister Park may be a good match for a disc golf course but we are unable to do anything at this time until the development begins. Mr. Degitz stated that he is willing to listen to new ideas that are serving the community.

Other Business:

Wind O' Neill with the Motocross Council brought to the Board's attention that he is still trying to find a location for a course in Carroll County. His purpose for attending the meeting is to look for support for a desire to have riding areas in Carroll County. Jeff explained to Mr. O'Neill that finding a parcel of land that is suitable has been a challenge. It was suggested by Brad Knatz that Mr. O'Neill waits until other tracks are up and running, so the Board can have something to compare to. Mr. Degitz explained that there are possibly good sites in Carroll County that we do not own. The Board has agreed to keep an open mind about this matter.

Recently, Carroll County Recreation & Parks held a “Name Your New Park” promotion to help select a name for a new planned park in the Westminster community. There were over 200 responses to the promotion and reviewed over 60 different names. The quantity, quality and diversity of the submitted names surpassed every expectation of the Department and made for a very difficult selection process. After much discussion, the Board voted unanimously with a motion by Colin Furneaux and seconded by Lewis Baylor to accept the name of the 32 acre park on Crest Lane *Westminster Veterans Memorial Park* in honor of the many local veterans who have served our country proudly in the armed forces. Mr. Degitz explained that the Committee did a very good job on a very difficult task as there were very great name choices with many influential people.

Members’ Comments:

Mr. Jeff Degitz brought to the Board’s attention that Chelcee Fandel will be leaving Recreation and Parks to be a mom to her two children. Fortunately, Chelcee has volunteered to continue being a secretary to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, as we are currently unable to fill her position.

There being no further discussion, on a motion by Colin Furneaux, seconded by Lewis Baylor, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Administrator

Chelcee M. L. Fandel

Chelcee M. L. Fandel, Secretary