

## **POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee**

**June 11, 2018**

**FINAL**

Gary Griffin called the meeting to order at 4:00 at the Country Club.

In attendance: Gary Griffin, Debbie Sorensen, Jane Barfield, Mary Henning, Ron Jones, Bill Puskas, Chris Stockman, Jan Dobbertin

POA employees: Tom Judson, Joan Glubczynski, Rick Echols, Leia Bush, John Urguhart, Judy Griffin

POA Liaisons: Pat Laury

Guests: Ruth Hatcher, New Chairperson of the POA Board, Riley and Sarah Goldberg, Larry Blech, Janet Conboy, Mary Sinkus, new POA Board Member

### **Minutes from prior meeting:**

Minutes from May 2018 were approved via internet and sent to Leia Bush.

Riley Goldberg, Visitor, was given the opportunity to speak to the Committee. He asked about the establishment of an archery range in Bella Vista. Joan deferred to Rick, who said that there is no land in conjunction with the gun ranges which could be used for archery. He suggested the proposed new dog park on the east side might have some land which could possibly support an archery range. Tom agreed that land is the issue. He said there is some property along County 40, about 20 acres, which might be a possibility for the future. Safety is definitely a factor when an archery range is being considered. Visitor Larry Blech asked about using part of the closed Berksdale Golf Course. Tom said this is food for thought and he is open-minded about the subject.

### **Amenity Reports**

- Branchwood–Deb reported that Branchwood renovation demolition is going great. Even with the construction, residents are still using the outside facilities.
- Gun Ranges – Ron reports some instances of chains not having been locked on the rifle range after use. Highlands Pro Shop is handling pay and key pick up for the ranges and said it is going smoothly. There was some confusion early on about where to pick up the keys and pay but that has been at a minimum and seems to be working out for the users.
- RV Storage, Lake Ann Park and London Park- The RV Storage is secure and appears to be clean. Chris asked about a security code to gain admittance and Judy Griffin will text the

code to him. Lake Ann Park is active with lots of kayakers. There is a gravel wash out that needs attention and Rick will have his staff take a look at that. London Park is good.

- Riordan Hall and Tennis Complex-Mary reports Riordan Hall is busy. The Branchwood folks are using Riordan for their workouts and are happy with the staff and the facility. The playground is very busy. The tennis complex is also busy with out of town users as well as residents. Debbie asked about the general public using the courts. Tom said they use it with a higher user fee. The fees are similar to the golf course fees. Joan said the use by out of towners helps with the level of competition and Tom also pointed out that it also exposes potential residents to Bella Vista and the amenities.
- Loch Lomond-One dog park user complained about an unneutered dog coming to the park. While the sign clearly states dogs must be neutered or spayed, this person continues to bring the dog to the park. Jan was asked by a park user about the return of kiddie pools for the dogs this summer. Rick said they wouldn't be bringing them back due to the muddy mess they create. Jan pointed out the benches and scorer's table at the ball diamond need some paint and clean up. It would be nice to have that done prior to the July 3 Blues Festival. Joan mentioned the possibility of obtaining sponsors for the benches. The towel dispenser in the ladies restroom is still not working. There are towels but the mechanism does not work to dispense them.
- Tiree Park- The Park is in great shape, according to Gary. There is lots of fishing and the park looks good. He saw no problems there.
- RV Park and Blowing Springs Park-Val reports there is lots of activity and that camping is going well.
- Tanyard Creek and Lake Avalon – Bill reports Tanyard looks good and the restroom is great. There had been a maintenance problem in the men's restroom but Rick and staff took care of that. Lake Avalon Park is packed with people. Users love the new beach and it has had a lot of use. Jane had a question about the new zip line. She understood the weight limit on the equipment is 200 pounds and she had seen an adult well over that using it. Joan said it is rated for more than that but they are discouraging use by adults over that weight. A question was raised about dogs swimming at the beach. Joan said they are allowed to swim outside the yellow line, but not on the beach. Another question was how many employees are employed at Avalon Park. Joan said there are three at all times. Bill asked about parking which has become an issue. Folks are parking on the grass and anywhere they can find a spot. Tom indicated they will address the parking issue, but the initial thought was to not spend the money on parking until the beach had opened and the popularity assessed.
- Metfield Complex-Jane reports Metfield is wonderful. The roof is on the bathroom and mulch has been delivered for the playground. Bill asked about mats rather than mulch being used. Joan explained that the mats require more high maintenance and that mulch is considered ADA compliant.

### **New Business:**

- Debbie reminded all about the Welcome Meet and Greet to be held on June 30. So far she has 55 persons signed up.
- Jane and Ron are leaving the Committee after this meeting. They were thanked for their service. Ron mentioned he has been on the committee for six plus years. The first three years were frustrating but the last three have been a joy with the new leadership in place.
- New Committee Members were introduced. Steve Bourke was welcomed onto the Committee. He and his wife have lived in Bella Vista for about a year. He loves the community and is happy to be here. Ken Fink moved to Bella Vista last August. He and his wife are active enjoying the amenities and both love the area.
- Gary will represent the committee at the POA Board Meeting on June 28.

### **Staff Reports:**

- Tom told the Committee it is budget time for 2019. He wants the Committee to prioritize recommendations for the budget with a deadline of August 17. Recommendations for budget consideration can include capital expenditures, services, classes, fees, equipment, etc. All input is welcome. He also reminded the Committee if special meetings are held to discuss these recommendations, the meetings must be open to the public. Tom said the budget for 2019 will be more modest than in the past.
- Rick reported he and his staff are doing algae control on the lakes. It takes approximately one week after treatment for the algae to disappear. They have pulled 4,100 walleye from golf course ponds. There are two shoots scheduled this week at the gun range which are the Cancer Challenge and the Poultry Festival. Rick is working with the volunteers at Tanyard Creek. They have recently rerouted a trail due to erosion and the roof on one of the kiosks is being replaced. One hundred twenty kids participated in the recent fishing derby. Kayak Demo Days were held last weekend on Lake Ann. Reception was great. Tom said that kayaking is up 15-20% from last year. Rick's staff is currently spraying the dams for weeds and last week the dog park was sprayed. They will also be spraying Avalon Beach. Deb asked if wearing a life jacket was required when renting a kayak. Rick said not required to wear but required to have one on the kayak.
- Joan reports Branchwood is completely gutted. The walls are up in the new expansion. There will be a tour of the facility on Wednesday, June 13 at 4 PM. The new playground equipment will be set next week, with prep work continuing now. The base is going in and mulch will be added. The disc golf course work is progressing well and it is hoped the baskets will be set next week. Signage for the course will be done later this summer. Volunteers have been a lot of help working with the maintenance department on the

course. Ken asked about the average length of the holes. Joan will get back to Ken with that information but said the course will be more challenging than some because of the terrain. There will be some short holes, but definitely this course is not a beginner's course. Pickleball is becoming increasingly popular and the pickleball court lines have been painted on Branchwood basketball courts. The lights on the courts at Branchwood are now working and users are asked to turn them off when finished. Lighting the courts at Metfield is more difficult due to underground lines, but lighting those courts is definitely on Joan's mind. At Riordan there is a hitting wall out back at the tennis complex and pickleball lines have been added to that. In all, during the last week one pickleball court has been added at Riordan and two at Branchwood. There are three major projects going on at Blowing Springs. The office renovation is going well and is expected to be completed prior to July 4. The upper RV park electrical and sewer work will hopefully be completed by the end of the month and slow progress is being made on outdoor showers and year round bathrooms. Hopefully these will be finished soon, but no promises from the contractors. The beach is doing well. Paddle Board rentals are 2-1 over Kayak rentals. Last Sunday marked the highest revenue at the beach for the season. Neighbors seem to be accepting of the beach as well. There are two brand new tennis courts at the tennis complex. They are step-up courts which will present no drainage problems. The pools are doing well, with attendance up. It was reported that the quonset hut will be going up at Blowing Springs in the Upper RV section soon. It will be in a temporary location to test the popularity.

- Judy Griffin from the Marketing Department told the Committee that John Urguhart had been recognized by the POA with the Celebrating Success Award for his conducting the very successful handgun classes. Judy also asked any members who hear positive comments about Bella Vista from friends to encourage those friends to put those positive comments on Facebook. Prospective new residents look at Facebook postings and Jane pointed out several people she has hosted as an Ambassador had read terrible things about the community on Facebook. Judy stressed the importance of positive comments.

**The next meeting will be at 4 PM Monday, July 9 at the Country Club**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:25PM.

Submitted by Jan Dobberty, jdobber10@yahoo.com

June 19, 2018