

POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee

July 9, 2018

FINAL

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

In attendance: Gary Griffin, Debbie Sorensen, Ken Fink, Steve Bourke, Mary Henning, Val Courtier, Bill Puskas, Chris Stockman, Jan Dobbertin

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

POA Liaisons: Jim Abrahamson, Jerry Hover, Mary Sinkus

Guests: Ruth Hatcher, Chairperson of the POA Board, Robbie Stratman, Ron and Meredith Raby, Steve McKee, Hoss Diego, Ashlee Lunsford, Lynn Atkins

Minutes from prior meeting:

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

Several visitors were given an opportunity to address the Committee. Steve McKee wanted to let the Recreation Committee and the Recreation Department know that they are doing a great job.

Robbie Stratman and Ron Raby spoke in favor of developing an archery range in Bella Vista. Also speaking in favor was Ashlee Lunsford, who coaches the archery team at Cooper Elementary. Mr. Diego gave a presentation regarding an archery range. He believes it would be a positive addition to the amenities here. He had posted a survey on Facebook which found quite a lot of archery shooters in Bella Vista, along with several archery clubs. There would be no competition for an outdoor range within a 100 mile radius of Bella Vista. He suggested there could be additional revenue gained from safety classes and equipment rentals. The range would belong to the POA and Mr. Diego is willing to put a committee together to help get it underway. Mary Henning asked about the amount of land necessary for the range. Mr. Diego will get back to her with that information. Tom discussed property located at County 40 and Rolling Hills Road which is owned by the POA. That land would be a possibility. He stated land is the issue. Deb asked about using the closed holes at Berksdale Golf Course. Tom says they will hold off on that since the future of the course is yet to be determined. Judy Griffin suggested perhaps the soccer fields at Cooper School could be used. Joan informed that those are owned by a private soccer club and not likely to be used otherwise. Joan also asked if Mr. Diego felt the users of the archery range would be willing to pay a fee, as do users of the other amenities. Mr. Diego said paying a fee to use a range is normal, so he didn't see a problem with

that. Tom asked John Urguhart about the possibility of using the trap and skeet range on days not open for shooting. That would be another possibility. Jerry Hover said that he is aware that archery across the nation is very popular. Most states are sponsoring school competitions. Ron Raby said he would like to see a 3D range along with a target range and that Neosho, Mo currently has a 3D range. Tom showed an overhead of the trap and skeet range. POA owns the range, but not the surrounding land, so he was unsure if there is enough property there to accommodate the archery range. Robbie Stratman said that Cooper School teaches archery from 8 years. They currently go to Rogers and Springdale to shoot. The kids would love and use one here. Ashlee Lunsford added that the majority of the kids going to Rogers for archery are Bella Vista residents. She also said the formation of a JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development) team would be no problem. Tom stressed that he and the Board are open minded about the subject and look forward to Mr. Diego providing additional information.

Amenity Reports

- Branchwood–Deb reported that Branchwood renovation demolition is going great and that there is a tour of the facility tomorrow, July 10, at 4PM. Those tours are scheduled to be held every second Tuesday of the month during construction.
- Gun Ranges – Ken reports business is up with several big group shoots. The manager would like to have the road widened there, but Tom said due to cost involved, not likely to happen anytime soon. The manager, Carroll, would also like a 4th trap field. Tom said this is already in the budget.
- RV Storage, Lake Ann Park and London Park- Chris said the RV Storage is fine and the parks look good.
- Riordan Hall and Tennis Complex-Mary reports tennis is going great and that July 20 there will be a Junior Tennis Camp. The playground is busy. She pointed out that the reception area is looking cluttered with brochures, etc. and the employees will be addressing that issue.
- Loch Lomond-Jan reports the park looks great. Very clean. There were a few items left from the July 3 Blues Festival, but they were just awaiting pickup.
- Tiree Park- The Park looks great. It was quiet when Gary was there.
- RV Park and Blowing Springs Park-Val said campground is full weekends and the restrooms should be finished this week.
- Tanyard Creek and Lake Avalon – Bill reports Tanyard looks good but the urinal in the restroom is clogged again. Lake Avalon Park beach area, volley ball court and zip line look great. Users love the new beach and it is getting a lot of use.
- Metfield Complex-Steve kept it brief as requested mentioning the high end exercise equipment. Very nice amenity.

New Business:

- Debbie said the Meet and Greet on June 30 was another success, with approximately 50 persons attending. This time the ratio of retirees to still employed was around 60-40. The figures were reversed at the last Meet and Greet. Tom also told the committee that folks are moving here from local cities as well as other places. Several attendees heard about Bella Vista in magazines and came here for the amenities and affordability.
- Deb will represent the committee at the POA Board Meeting on July 26.

Staff Reports:

- Tom told the Committee there had been a meeting for a 5 year financial plan. Much of it regarded recreation. Some capital expenses will be for kayak launch docks, playground equipment and trails. Deb asked about bocce ball courts. There is a low cost involved and they are still a possibility. Mary asked about indoor tennis courts and Tom said it would be cost prohibitive to build them. Probably \$600,000 for four courts. Deb mentioned there are lots of swimmers at the boat ramp. Joan said because there are more people using Lake Avalon a bigger problem has been after hour's usage. There is a public information meeting on July 23 at 6 PM and July 24 at 4 PM to discuss a new Community Center.
- John said we are now in the busiest season for his staff. They are fighting an ongoing war with vegetation and fish are having some heat stress. June was the busiest month so far for trap and skeet. The cancer shoot was down some. While June was down a little bit, usage is up 16 percent for the year. The POA is thinking about selling ammunition soon. Bill asked about securing the stock of ammunition and John said there is a large safe in the building that will cover it. He reported that range classes are going well. The Conceal Carry class coming up is about one half full.
- Joan reports the new bathroom at Metfield is about finished. The beach is very successful and the Sand Fest was the busiest day so far. Even though it was the busiest day, it was still manageable. Someone had asked about a second beach and Joan said that won't happen in the near future. All in all, the beach has exceeded expectations. Rentals are doing great. She receives daily compliments about the beach. The Splash Down on July 4 was a success. Weekly bingo may be added to the adult pool. They tried it and it went very well, with everyone happy with the prizes given. In Blowing Springs the bathroom is looking great and the outdoor showers are about done. There is a wedding at Blowing Springs this weekend. The new RV spots may be ready this weekend. The office at Blowing Springs has been a big project, including plumbing, etc. There is a big bike race coming up on the Back 40 at the end of the month at which time the trailheads will be closed. Disc Golf at Branchwood is at about 90 percent. There

have been some complaints regarding errant discs going on road, but only a handful of complaints. A local club held a mini tournament the last weekend in June. The feedback about the course was all positive. POA is sponsoring different camps this year. They are focused on golf and tennis and have been very well received. Deb asked about any new workout equipment to go into Branchwood. There definitely will be some new equipment, especially weights. More pickleball courts were requested, along with shade over the courts. There are four additional courts at Metfield and Joan has looked into a cover for pickleball courts and found a metal roof would be most cost effective. Jan asked about the trial “glamper” being built in Blowing Springs. Joan indicated it should be on site soon.

- Judy Griffin from the POA Marketing Department told the Committee that the State of Arkansas approved putting Inside Bella Vista Magazine in the state welcome centers.
- There will be a special meeting of the Recreation Committee on Monday, July 16 at 4PM. The meeting will be held at Riordan Hall for the purpose of discussing recommendations for the 2019 budget.

The next regular committee meeting will be at 4 PM Monday, August 13 at the Country Club

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

Submitted by Jan Dobbertin, jdobber10@yahoo.com

July 11, 2018