

POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee

December 11, 2017

FINAL

Gary Griffin called the meeting to order at 4:00 at Riordan Hall.

In attendance: Gary Griffin, Debbie Sorensen, Judy Griffin, Mary Henning, Bill Puskas, Jan Dobbertin

POA employees: Tom Judson, Rick Echols, John Urguhart

POA Liaisons: John Nuttall

Guests: Bernie Purser, Recreation Administrative Secretary, Kelly Irvin, POA Web Designer, Dave Brandenburg, POA Board Member

Minutes from prior meeting:

Minutes from November 2017 were approved via internet and sent to Leia Christeson.

Amenity Reports

- Branchwood – Deb reported the parking lots continue to be worked on. And that the POA budget for 2018 approved the expansion for the facility which will take approximately four months.
- RV Storage and Lake Ann Park – Judy said she understands striping in the lot is to be done next summer at the storage facility. She had a copy of the rules and procedures at the facility and said they were confusing. The rules state one recreational vehicle allowed per space, two if they don't exceed the space. There are several spaces with multiple vehicles. Parking at Lake Ann Dam was discussed. Tom Judson indicated there isn't much ground there so parking will be limited.
- Riordan Hall and Tennis Complex-Mary said that the tennis complex is doing great and it is being promoted all over Northwest Arkansas. Riordan Hall stays busy. Approximately 350 persons attended the Christmas Program and 250 were there for the Pearl Harbor Day event. Hours for Friday classes at Riordan are currently being adjusted to help allow plenty of time to set up Saturday activities. Mary had a call from a concerned person regarding the left side of the turn into the parking lot next to the playground. The entrance has an area which appears to be eroding into a large ditch

and since the area is narrow, the erosion is causing a safety concern. Many of those in attendance agreed and it will be looked into.

- Loch Lomond-Jan reported all looks good there. She did ask Rick about outside water faucets and whether they are turned off for the winter. When she visited the park, the faucet close to the pavilion still turned on. Rick will have someone check this out since he believes it should be turned off.
- London Park-Judy reported all fine there.
- Tanyard Creek and Lake Avalon – Bill says all good in both places. Beach work is coming along quite well with the drawdown.
- Tiree Park-Gary reported that the park continues to look good.

At this point in the meeting John Nuttall presented a question to the committee regarding where to put some extra money left in the 2018 budget for playground use. He said Metfield playground is in good shape, Riordan has one, and Debbie said it would make sense to wait until Branchwood renovation is completed to do anything to the playground there. After considerable discussion, the beach area at Avalon seemed to make sense for a playground area. Judy added a playground would give the beach users an opportunity to get out of the water and enjoy something different. Mary asked about how much money is available. John Nuttall said \$40,000 to \$60,000. Dave Brandenburg added it was more seed money than a full playground which could cost as much as \$200,000. Mary asked about the possibility of a water slide at the beach. Tom said the water isn't deep enough, that it needs to be 8' and the water depth at the beach misses the mark by several feet. It is something that might be possible later. Debbie asked about the number of parking spaces available at the beach area. Bill Puskas said there are possibly 35 or so. Rich Echols told the committee that several homes in the beach area are selling to younger families, likely due to the beach becoming available. John and Dave will take the committee thoughts on playground equipment to the POA Board.

Staff Reports:

- Tom Judson invited the committee to a tour of the Country Club at 4 PM on December 12 and of Branchwood on the 13th. The tentative timing for the start of Branchwood renovations is February. The facility will remain open for 2-3 weeks after the start, which will reduce the closed time to approximately 12 weeks. Bill asked where the keys to the gun club will be located. There is a possibility they will be available at Membership Services. The Capital Budget for 2018 has been approved and it is anticipated that the Board will approve approximately \$100,000 for improvements to the exterior of the Branchwood building. Tom hopes to have the board approve a trail head at the lower (new) parking lot at Branchwood. The concrete walkway to the trail would cost approximately \$40,000. The rest of the parking lot will be repaired and

restriped. The roundabout in the front of the building is going to be removed. Jan asked about contacting the Bentonville Community Center to work with them in some way during the Branchwood shutdown. It would be especially valuable for the water walkers and the water aerobics participants as well. The cost is \$15 per month which allows full usage of the facility and classes. The center also honors Silver Sneakers. Tom said that was something good to look into.

- Rick reported Lake Avalon and Loch Lomond drawdowns have been completed. His crews are going to start pulling out debris on December 12. He has been in touch with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding permits for the work scheduled. He now has been informed no permit is necessary. The Army Corps informed him that the material removed from the lakes has to be stockpiled above the high water line. Due to the lake drawdowns, there have been 6 permits issued for dock and sea wall work on Lake Avalon and 19 issued on Loch Lomond.
- Bernie reported for Joan that Tai Chi classes are filling up and that fitness classes would be cancelled from December 23 through January 1. The previous culinary demos were very popular and they will be brought back in 2018. A question was raised regarding fitness classes being relocated to Highlands. That is still being considered during the Branchwood renovation. Check in is still a question, but having the pro shop use the same procedure as is done with the card groups would likely work. Currently, the employee waits until everyone has arrived, then collects any fees. Bernie also reported that there were 217 coats collected in the recent coat drive.
- John reported there will be conceal carry firearms classes offered on January 21. The date to register is December 18 and he has already had a couple of calls regarding the class. He believes the class will fill up fast. Classroom instruction will begin at 12:30 on the 21st and at 4 PM the class will go to the range to complete the class. There will be more classes offered in the spring. The gun range has experienced a 20 percent increase in usage, likely due to having the attendant on duty.

New Business:

Gary and/or Judy volunteered to represent the committee at the POA Board meeting on Thursday, December 21. Work is currently being done at Branchwood to install a Frisbee golf course, using the former greens alongside the walking trail. The cost to complete should be \$10,000-\$12,000. Bill asked about spending the money there rather than on a bocce ball court. Tom said it was decided to do Frisbee golf after listening to the residents. Debbie reported that the Meet and Greet on December 2 attracted about 40 people. Some confusion was expressed over the times of the event, so it will be made more clear that it is a two hour event, not a walk in from 9-11. New resident numbers are still good. The Forbes rating helps inform people about Bella Vista.

Kelly Irvin, the POA Web Designer, gave the committee a presentation on the new POA web site. The site will be available January 8, 2018. The committee agreed the site is beautifully done, and very informative. It is also entirely mobile friendly.

Tom was asked about the possibility of a stump dump on the east side. He answered that will probably not happen due to lack of space to put one. Debbie asked how soon the current one will be full. Tom said that wouldn't happen for a long time. And, with the attendant on duty, other than Bella Vista material won't fill it up as soon.

- **NEXT MEETING will be at 4PM Monday January 8, 2018 at Riordan Hall.**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Submitted by Jan Dobbertin, jdobber10@yahoo.com

December 17, 2017