

POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee

January 14, 2019

FINAL

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

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

POA employees: Tom Judson, Joan Glubczynski, John Urguhart, Jessica Anson, Kim Carlson, Judy Griffin

POA Liaisons: Patrick Laury, Mary Sinkus, Jerry Hover

Guests: Steve McKee, Ruth Hatcher, Chairperson of the POA Board, John Nuttall, Jacob Tucker

Minutes from prior meeting:

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

Introduction of Guests

At this time the guests were asked to introduce themselves and bring any issues or questions to the Committee.

Steve McKee was just observing, as was John Nuttall. Jacob Tucker attended the meeting as a friend of the Recreation Department. Jacob is a booster of the trails and he suggested there should be more people involved to check maintenance issues, etc. He suggested perhaps a subcommittee, which Tom Judson said could possibly become a part of the Recreation Committee. Jacob is active in the group NICA which is the National Interscholastic Cycling Association and he has expressed his interest in working with the Recreation Committee for the good of the trails.

Amenity Reports

- Branchwood-Deb Sorensen reported that Branchwood is doing great. Lots of activity- on the trail, disc golf course, workout room, everywhere.
- Gun Ranges-Ken Fink said things are fine at the gun range. Carroll, the manager, reported approximately 80 shooters on the range a couple of weeks ago.
- RV Storage, Lake Ann and London Park-Chris Stockman says the RV storage is in good shape, all good at Lake Ann. At London Park he observed some large boulders left from some recent construction.

- Riordan Hall and Tennis Complex-Mary said the staff at the tennis complex is busy planning spring and summer activities and rooms are being reserved at Riordan for upcoming activities as well.
- Loch Lomond Complex-Jan Dobbertin reported that all is well at Loch Lomond Park. There is a low area in the dog park that is quite muddy and the issue was raised by one of the users during her visit. John Urguhart will have his staff check it out. Jan also noticed a North American Van Lines semi as well as a flatbed truck parked in the parking lot at the park. She questioned whether it was appropriate in the future to call someone and advise them. Tom Judson said the office should be notified and it should be checked into. Pat Laury expressed concern about the parking lot being able to withstand the weight of the semis. John Nuttall pointed out that there is an overnight parking place at 279 and Rogers Road.
- Tiree Park-Gary Griffin reports the park continues to be well maintained and the amenities are closed for the winter.
- RV Park and Blowing Springs Park-Val Courter said things are a little slow in the RV Park but that weekend before last there were several bikers camping out as well as several walkers in the park.
- Tanyard Creek and Lake Avalon Park-Bill Puskas reports that Tanyard looks good. Lake Avalon Park pretty quiet due to colder weather.
- Metfield Complex-Steve Bourne reported that due to the cold, damp weather he observed no activity outside. The fitness center is in good condition and at the time of his visit there were five users. He mentioned chatting with a user who is taking the spinning class and was very complimentary regarding the instructor, who is Joan Glubczynski.

New Business

Deb Sorensen reported that the Welcome Coffee held last Saturday, the 12th, was another success with a total of 50 attending. There were about 20 no shows, likely due to the weather, and 15 new residents came without prior registration. The thirty minute social time was well received with attendees visiting with others and Board Members as well. States represented with the largest attendance were Texas, California and Arkansas. Approximately three quarters of those attending were retired. The next Welcome Meet and Greet will be held on March 9.

Val and Mary will represent the Committee at the POA Board Meeting on January 24.

Kim Carlson, from the Marketing Department, gave a brief presentation on her 2019 advertising plan. She told the Committee that the e newsletters are having a 35-40% open rate which is quite good. The Marketing/Advertising Departments partner with Food and Beverage, Golf and Recreation in regard to the budget. Advertising will include regional, national, digital,

television, print and radio. Kim showed the Committee a television commercial for BV Bar and Grill and one for Golf, as well as playing a sample of radio commercials.

Deb Sorensen told the Committee that there has been an interest in the possible Archery Range from fifteen people. She has sent out three e mails about a March date to visit the ARKMO land as a possible site for the range. Response has been slow, but she will send another e mail closer to the actual date. Chris Stockman said bow hunting is big here so there should be a large contingency of interested members. There are approximately 400 student archers in Bella Vista and Deb plans to visit the schools in March to observe the archery groups. Jessica said she has contacts in the archery community who have written grants for archery equipment, which could help nurture the interest.

Debbie Sorensen has expressed an interest in stepping down as Vice Chair of the Committee since she is involved in many other community organizations. Gary asked Committee members to think about the position. Bill Puskas asked if the Vice Chair would automatically move up to Chair. Typically that is the case, it was agreed. Gary asked those whose terms expire on 6/30 of 2019 to begin thinking about whether or not they will be extending their service. Deb agreed to stay Vice Chair until July of this year.

Pat Laury told the Committee that since the trails are an amenity open to the public, a subcommittee doesn't fit the POA Joint Advisory Role.

Joan was asked about the Trail Blazers. She said the Trail Blazers are a not for profit organization with the goal of getting grants to see that the trails get built. The group has built 250 miles of trails in the past two years.

Tom Judson said we should explore a subcommittee and let it work to encourage volunteerism and stewardship. Chris said there are currently volunteers helping on the trails. Ruth Hatcher said the subcommittee could be similar to Friends of the Highlands, Friends of Scotsdale and other similar groups.

Staff Reports:

- Tom Judson reported that he didn't have much to report. There is a Board work session this Thursday at 9 AM and the regular Board meeting will be next Thursday at 6:30 PM.
- John Urguhart reported Trap 4 construction at the gun range is ongoing. December was the busiest month he has seen, perhaps ever. Sales revenue increased appreciably and January has been very busy at the pistol range as well as trap and skeet. John said there is construction everywhere. The marina face lift is underway. He announced that his son, Evan, was born on December 13 and weighed in at 9 lb. 3 ounces. Congratulations all around.

- Joan reported that she has addressed with the city a Facebook post mentioned by Deb Sorensen where a trail user came across a deer stand and was upset the stand was allowed there. Joan is currently researching a way trail users can donate when using the trails. This may be able to be accomplished at little cost through a national organization. The costs would be in the form of signage and a scanner to allow the user to donate. Of the revenue generated, 10 percent would go to the national organization and the rest remain in Bella Vista. Gary asked if any of the dollars donated would go towards maintenance of the trails. Joan said yes, they would. There have been new Adirondack chairs, along with a new table, delivered to the cabin in Blowing Springs. Pat Laury asked about the rental of the cabin. Joan told him that reservations are down right now with not a lot of reservations until March which she expected. Airbnb has named us Super Hosts based on feedback from visitors. This gives us a five star rating with Airbnb. Val asked about the new trees at Blowing Springs. Joan told us that the Walton Foundation donated them. Joan said Lake Avalon is being monitored and sand will be added prior to the beach reopening. As for the mini golf course at Metfield, there isn't money in the budget to do anything major there or at the Riordan course. The tennis complex users are excited to see any improvements funded by the assessment increase. Joan said that daily use fees at Branchwood are up \$800 and \$300 in disc golf merchandise has been sold. This covers the same period from December 1 through mid-January of last year.
- Jessica reports that the floors in the racquetball courts have been re-sanded and the lines painted. She had been asked about painting the pickleball lines on the walls instead of the tape that is currently being used. Paint will not stick to the wall surface so the tape is being used. The hot tub is up and running. There are two new pieces of equipment in the workout room. Class numbers are up appreciably with a good mix of young and old, both in the workout room and in the classes.
- Deb Sorensen asked about the Highlands Clubhouse. Happy Hour is going great, pool table is in, and darts coming. Patrick Laury said the pool table needs to be leveled. Tom said it had been professionally installed but he would check on it. Judy Griffin asked if anyone had a contact for the upcoming pickleball tournament in Hot Springs. She also asked the Committee to think about supporting the Longest Day fundraiser for Alzheimer's Research to be held on June 21. She and Susan Nuttall are co-chairs for the state of Arkansas for the event.

The next regular committee meeting will be at 4 PM Monday, February 11 at the Country Club.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Submitted by Jan Dobbertin January 20, 2019