

POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee November, 2020

Members Present: Chris Stockman, Janet Conboy, Jackie Gain, Val Courter, Scottie Smith, Scott Dreas, Deb Sorensen, Denise Klinger

Board Liaisons: Jerold Hover, Teah Bidwell

Staff: Rick Echols, Tammie Loyd, Judy Griffin, John Urquhart, Joan Glubczynski, Tom Judson, Jessica Anson

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Committee members provided readout on their amenity reports below.

Amenity Reports:

Amenity: Branchwood

Member: Deb Sorensen

Trail

- Trail is looking good, no issues there
- Spoke with several walkers and residents and they love the trail this time of year with the changing of the leaves and cool weather

Outdoor Courts

- 11/04 marked the first day of court closings in preparation of demo and construction of new pickleball courts
- New courts are expected to be done around early Spring 2021
- Local pickleball players are excited for new courts but wanted to get another week in of playing on old courts since the weather was good

Indoor

- 2 pieces of equipment (rotary torso & lower ab and back machine) have been moved into the lobby area spaced 12 feet apart to allow use by members (prior to this the machines were taped off because not sufficient space in exercise room)
- The newest Matrix standing elliptical was moved into classroom and opened up from being taped off by some creative reorganizing of equipment by staff

Amenity: Tiree Park

Committee Member: Denise Klinger

Review Month/Date: November 2020

Overall Condition:

I visited on 11/3 at 10 am and it was very quiet at the park. One other car came in while I was there, dropped their trash in a can by the water and drove off! Overall the park was in good shape, the grass looked neat but the leaves were a bit deep, understandable for this time of year. The restrooms were locked. There was a small amount of trash in the cans but no trash anywhere on the ground. No vehicles with trailers or boats today.

Areas for Review:

The Porta Potty needs a serious cleaning and has been used extensively without maintenance. I wouldn't use it if needed. It is also pretty worn and looks older, has spray paint on the inside and a broken vent on the outside. Can we exchange it for another one?

Member Interactions:

There were two ladies visiting in the Pavilion and said they came to the Park to be outside on such a nice day. They had no comments or suggestions.

Additional Observations:

None at this time.

Amenity: Lake Ann / RV storage

Committee Member: Jackie Gain

Review Month/Date: October (report date 11-8-20)

Overall Condition:

Lake Ann - Carroll Electric completed power line clearing in the area. Port-a-johns maintained (trail-head location appears to be regularly maintained now).

RV Storage - good

Areas for Review: None

Member Interactions:

Spoke with couple fishing in a boat while I was kayaking – only caught 1 small fish. They were glad when told the lake was being restocked soon.

(similar feedback at Brittany dam – only 1 small fish for a family of 5)

Additional Observations:

Heavy bike traffic during October on weekends.

Amenity: Riordan Hall Complex and Tennis

Committee Member: Scott Dreas

Review Month/Date: October

Overall Condition:

Riordan Hall and Tennis facility in good condition. Pool is closed for the season. The pavilion is in good condition. Items noted in September report for the playground have not been addressed.

Areas for Review:

None at this time

Member Interactions:

Tennis players frustrated at the inability to keep the tennis courts clean and free from leaves falling.

Additional Observations:

The tennis courts are being inundated with leaves this time of year which is obviously understandable.

The maintenance tech from Riordan Hall blows off all the tennis courts around 8am, however by the time tennis players arrive the leaves have built up on the court again. Some members bring their own leaf blowers, the tennis pro shop does have 1 leaf blower but the battery dies after 5 minutes of use.

Suggestion is to purchase a couple more leaf blowers for the pro shop, or have the maintenance tech visit multiple times per day.

Amenity: Loch Lomond

Committee Member: Scottie Smith

Review Month/Date: NOV 2020

Overall Condition:

Landscaping overall was in good shape, however there were some trees that border the trail with dead limbs overhead that need to be cut before they fall on people (I can send photos). One member complained about the dead limbs and pointed out two of them.

Women's bathroom was clean, but the toilet seat in first stall was crooked- likely needs to be tightened. Men's bathroom needs cleaning, and the main overhead light is out. Overall, the grounds were clean, but there was some trash and cigarette butts on the ground by the pavilion. Dog park looked good and was being used by members. Near the handicap parking area down by the end of the baseball field, there is a broken bench that should be addressed. One member asked about whether a falling electrical pole (near the new sidewalk) will be removed as he noted it's a hazard. The scrap metal that was near the baseball field has been removed but there is now a giant piece of square metal/rebar that should be removed as it's a hazard (located to the right of the tool shed).

Areas for Review:

Two members who were walking requested that a picnic bench be placed outside the dog park area near the water so they can sit and enjoy the water without having to go inside the dog park. Another member requested that the path to the water be cleared better or be made more of a path to access the water more easily.

Member Interactions:

I was at the park on a Sunday from 0900 for about an hour, I saw 22 people, many walking their dogs. I talked to several members, all of whom started by saying how much they love the amenity. Feedback from members is noted above in areas for review and improvement.

Additional Observations: NONE

Amenity: Metfield

Committee Member: Scottie Smith

Review Month/Date: November 2020

Overall Condition:

Landscaping looked great, restrooms were clean, trash cans fairly empty, picnic tables and benches that weren't in use were clean and in good condition. Playground equipment in good shape, approximately 30 people on the playground during time of visit- both adults and children and 2 dogs. Nothing appeared to be broken or damaged. Basketball court and tennis courts in good shape.

Areas for Review:

Two families asked about repairs to the mini-golf course and I mentioned that has been brought to the attention of the POA committee. No other areas for improvement at this time.

Member Interactions:

I visited on a Saturday afternoon and the park was crowded (approximately 65 people). There were 17 people on the bike ramp section- both adults and kids, there were 30 people at the playground, a family of 16 using the lower pavilion, and a pair using the tennis courts. There wasn't anyone using the upper pavilions, but they were relatively clean (a few pieces of trash left behind that I picked up). I talked to several members using the amenities. I talked to 7 people for feedback, 3 couples/families and 1 grandparent. Everyone I talked to stated that they love the park. When I asked about suggestions/feedback, two families mentioned the bathrooms being locked is inconvenient when they stay into the evening, and requested they be left open later into the evening. Two families both noted that the mini-golf is something that needs updating and I told them we have submitted this feedback to the POA for consideration.

Additional Observations: NONE

Amenity: RV Park & Blowing Springs

Committee Member: Val Courter

Review Month/Date: November 9, 2020

Overall Condition: Restrooms look great. They are still working on the Razorback trail going through blowing springs. RV Park was full when I went through over the weekend. Some tent campers also. They are also putting up fencing along certain parts of the bike trail.

Areas for Review:

I did not see anything that needs to be repaired.

Member Interactions:

Bikers and walkers love all the trails at Blowing Springs. Only complaint again by the RV Park is that they would like to be able to reserve camp sights online. They said it is difficult to get ahold of personal at the office at the RV Park.

Additional Observations:

None

Amenity: Tanyard Creek and Lake Avalon Park

Committee Member: Janet Conboy

Overall Condition: Great. Bathrooms in both locations were clean. Men's bathroom at Lake Avalon Park was littered with paper towels, but otherwise OK. PortaPotty at Lake Avalon was adequate.

Areas for Review: Deep holes on the path behind the bathroom leading to the golf practice center remain unfilled. Safety hazard for kids especially.

Member interactions: Not many people out at Lake Avalon except a few fishing from the dock. Tanyard Creek was full, folks all over the trails and pavilion. People continue to be ecstatic over the trails and cleanliness of the park.

Additional observations: NONE

Amenity: London Park

Committee Member: Chris Stockman

Review Month/Date: November 2020

Overall Condition:

Excellent condition overall. Restrooms and fish cleaning stations were clean and orderly. The new lake information sign on the kayak rack looks great.

Areas for Review: None

Member Interactions: The kayakers really like the new boat rack and were very happy to get a rental slot when the new one opened.

Additional Observations: On Sunday afternoon I observed 3 kayakers, a person launching a boat and another walking his dog.

New Business:

- Tracking usage of amenities: Chris surmised that the best way to get the feel for usage is for committee members to continue to note members/public #'s observed at the various amenities. Tom indicated that anecdotal and actual numbers impact budget decisions, e.g. Joan got more kayaks as a result this year
- The committee observed that people are using completed sections of the new greenway extension and inquired if this should be added to the list of amenities we track. Joan indicated that she is

responsible for both city and POA trails and it would be good to have the eyes of the committee on it once it is officially opened. Val Courter volunteered to do this.

POA Staff Reports:

Tom Judson:

- Activity card sales up 43% over 2019 (4000+ added); Boat registrations up 20%: Guest passes have doubled both due to COVID-19 and the 2020 plan
- 2021 Budget Community Presentation will stream live over Zoom at 6 p.m. on November 12th with questions posted on Facebook addressed afterward; one person will be allowed in the Board Room after the presentation for questions as well.
- Teah Bidwell asked if there were any lights in the planned small dog park. Rich noted that none currently exist and ball field lights are too powerful. They may add a single light pole when construction begins, as well as for the large dog area. Deb wondered how those would be controlled and also noted that no electrical outlets are available when the BV Animal Shelter has its Weiner Dog Races event. John offered that lights are usually controlled by photocells.
- Janet referred members to the Google search results for amenities, indicating that Tanyard Creek was rated at 4.8/5, with reviews very positive.

Rick Echols (Lakes, Parks, and Fisheries):

- Transition Lake Ranger staffing level at four for fall and winter
- Water temperature tested at 60 degrees F, which accounts for some of the decrease in recreational lake usage
- Lake Rayburn drawdown started
- Lake rangers number four, which is one more than in previous years, due to increased usage. They had 1533 water contacts so far, with 202 removals; boat contacts 135, with 37 removals; otherwise, had 4053 removals vs. 1535 2019 removals.
- Work began on the small dog park close to the wooded area next to the dam, which is surrounded by asphalt track. Sod is having to be laid.
- Fisheries and Water Quality: weed control is complete; \$6,000 saved by purchasing grass carp now; stocked blue catfish for Loch Lomond, Windsor and Ann and channel cat for other for first time since 2014. Lake Brittany now has rainbow trout.
- Ran into an electrical problem at the RV Storage; tried fixes twice, then replaced wiring totally.
- Engineers reviewed swinging bridges at Tanyard Creek, reporting out a list of fixes, which will be completed over the next month. Once those are done, engineers will certify the safety with existing limit on people at eight and will provide a weight limit.

John Urquhart (Gun Range)

- Ranges very busy still, with 55% increase over similar period in 2019.
- Concrete pads for additional stations are done, with only some finishing work to be done.
- November gun classes are filled; December has some spots open.
- Trap and skeet activity is slowing down as is typical.

Joan Glubczynski (Recreation)

- Not So Haunted House Drive Through event had 475 cars over two nights, about 2000 people since most cars had four people. The event raised \$2000 for the Bella Vista Animal Shelter. POA was able to entertain families and kids through great staff work.
- Staff is collecting coats at all the fitness centers, BV Bar and Grill, Lake Point, with many new coats coming in.
- Indoor programs are maxed out in the recreation centers; Thanksgiving Day hours will be 7 – 11 am.
- Two new benches have been donated, with more coming through a generous gift to Bella Vista Foundation to be placed along the Greenway.
- Trail work continues along the Little Sugar, which is 95% complete. Razorback extension/connector at Metfield will be fenced. Google Maps old data had been routing cars to the back of the park where people were driving on the connector, which look like roads.

Judy Griffin (Marketing):

- Giving final touches to the December edition of Inside Bella Vista.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Next Committee Meeting is December 7, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. by Zoom only