

Recreation Joint Advisory Committee
March 8, 2021
Zoom Conference, 4:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance: Chris Stockman, Scottie Smith, Denise Klinger, Scott Dreas, Gary Griffin, Jackie Gain, Debbie Sorensen

POA Staff: Rick Echols, Tammie Lloyd, John Urquhart, Tom Judson, Jessica Anson, Joan Glubczynski

Board Liaisons: Jerold Hover, Mary Sinkus, David Brandenburg

Amenity Reports

Amenity: Branchwood Recreational Center, Disk Golf and Nature Trail

Committee Member: Debbie Sorensen

Overall Condition: Trail in good shape. Playground the same. Lots of use this past weekend with the warm weather. No real trash. Doggie bags are keep up with use.

Areas for Review: Reservations are really full for both pool and workout equipment. Would be nice to see when we might expand the number of members. The reservations are most always full and could use some more spaces. Members are respectful of the help and are just please to have the facility open.

Member Interactions: Disk golfers are really using the course at all hours. Group of eight men were out on the course at 7:30 on Sunday morning. Pickleball players are anxious for the new courts to open. Lots of chatter on Facebook.

Amenity: Tiree Park

Committee Member: Denise Klinger

Overall Condition: I visited on Thursday March 4 at 11 p.m. and it was very quiet at the park. The restrooms were locked as usual. The Porta-Potty was clean inside and BBB arrived and cleaned it out while I was there, took her 10 minutes, tops. The Pavilion area was clean. There was a bit of trash on the lawn and some personal belongings like mail and a vape pen, but it looked almost as if it was dumped and since no one was around I put it in the trash bin, which was mostly empty.

Areas for Review: None noted. Everything in good shape.

Member Interactions: There was a man walking his two dogs around the perimeter of the park and he said he walks the dogs there a lot, like the small coves and looking at the fish. He had no recommendations for improvements, and specifically mentioned how clean it was.

Amenity: Lake Ann/RV Storage
Committee Member: Jackie Gain

Overall Conditions:

Lake Ann – good

RV Storage – good

Member Interactions: Group of mountain bikers preparing for a night ride starting at 6 p.m. Total of ~15 cars and 20+ riders. This group rides on Wednesday evenings with lighted helmets and handlebars, rotating among different trails.

Additional Observations: Lake Ann park showed signs in the grass of vehicles pulling sleds in the snow but as the weather warms the marks are disappearing.

Amenity: Riordan Hall Complex & Tennis
Committee Member: Scott Dreas

Overall Condition: Riordan Hall in good condition. No change for clubs or group meetings at Riordan Hall due to corona virus regulations. Exercise equipment and reservation process still in place per corona virus regulations. Cathy did mention that last week's COVID-19 vaccination event ran flawlessly. She had high praise for the Bella Vista Fire Department. She said everyone was all smiles, the weather was warm enough that they could set up the 15-minute waiting area outside. Kingsdale Pavilion in good condition. The Ew pool deck at Kingsdale pool is looking very good and making excellent progress given the really bad weather we experienced in February. I remain concerned that the temporary fencing is not always put back in place. I visit on the weekends and see large sections not up and would allow people to walk into the construction site. Tennis courts and center in good condition. Tennis center continues to operate on winter schedule. Tennis courts seeing lots of platters on good weather days during the winter. Kingsdale playground, basketball court and shuffleboard deck in good condition despite the winter weather, mini-golf course in below good condition, with some prep work started, looking forward to the new surfaces and additions to the holes.

Areas for Review: In the last meeting it was mentioned that the maintenance team is waiting for the parts to arrive to start work on playground repairs, hopefully those come in soon and the weather will allow them to start repairs. I will continue to monitor the playground status and the trails through that area.

Member Interactions: Not many members using the Riordan Hall complex during my visits due to winter weather. Did not interrupt members working out or participating in exercise classes.

Amenity: Loch Lomond Recreation Complex
Committee Member: Scottie Smith

Overall conditions: Good. Small Dog park in progress. Very busy dog and foot traffic already in the year.

Areas for Review: Rebar/marker for ball field still lying around. Best if it could be moved to a safer location.

Member Interactions: People suggesting that we could add advertising signage to the fencing around the dog parks to generate revenue.

Member Comment: Janet indicated that she had not visited the park in over two years. Added landscaping really adds to the “ambiance” and demonstrates a commitment to parks beyond sports, fitness and athletics. Kudos to the staff!

Amenity: Metfield Complex
Committee Member: Scottie Smith

Overall Conditions: Very busy. Post with exposed concrete lying on its side. Wondering if it’s supposed to be replaced, repaired or eliminated. Noticed lots of activity on the courts. Thought until I got new information that the courts were tennis courts.

Areas for review: What is the situation for the areas formerly known as mini-golf courses?

Additional Observations:

Comments: (Jessica Anson) the area is getting new signage; residual signage post just being propped up. **(Joan)** All courts at Metfield are dedicated pickleball.

Amenity: RV Park and Blowing Springs Park
Committee Member: Val Coulter

Overall Condition: Restrooms look great. They are still working on the Razorback trail going through Blowing Springs. RV Park had a lot of campers when I went through over the weekend. There were quite a few tent campers also.

Areas for Review: I did not see anything that needs to be repaired.

Member Interactions: Lots of bikers and hikers out and about.

Comments: (Jackie) One member expressed concern about the trail being too narrow and close to the road for safety. **(Denise)** the trail closer to Spankard. **(Tom)** There is/will be no drop off. It will be finished soon with appropriate distance and width.

Amenity: Tanyard Creek Park and Lake Avalon Park
Committee Member: Janet Conboy

Overall Conditions: Tanyard Creek was generally in top condition: restrooms, pavilion, parking lot and trails were clean and user-friendly. I had alerted Rick by photo and email about the concerns about bridge structural integrity and erosion. He assured me that all were safe. Parking lot was over capacity in the top space, with several cars from out-of-state. Many visitors brought their dogs and children. Lake Avalon Park was empty of visitors and trash.

Areas for Review: none.

Member Interactions: Talked with a few people, who see Tanyard as a perfect venue for hiking, biking and gathering. One woman did indicate that the park could use additional bathrooms. The flow of visitors year around does seem to justify assessing the need for second bathrooms.

Additional Observations: As more people have become aware of and visited Tanyard, it seems appropriate to monitor regularly the resulting effect on the park, if any: is erosion increasing; what new challenges have volunteers encountered; has habitat been affected.

Amenity: Gun Ranges
Committee Member: Gary Griffin

Overall Condition:

The overall condition of both sites is very good. They are clean and well kept. Both ranges have been a little slower with the exception of rainy days or sub-freezing temperatures. The Trap and Skeet range has new signage at the entrance, and a new roof plus electricity on Trap 2.

Areas for Review: There are no long term projects or any improvements that are visible. Both Range Masters like the improvements at their sites. The one time remaining at the Rifle and Pistol range is filling in the area around the picnic bench and BBQ with gravel. That is supposed to take place in the next few weeks. (As of my visit, the gravel had not yet been installed.)

Member Interactions: Spoke with member Larry K. At the Rifle and Pistol range. He really enjoys the range and stated, "keep the place open!" I spoke at length with Kevin King at the Trap and Skeet range. He's Treasurer of the Sportsman's Club. I've included a "Blurb" for the Highlands Shooting Sports Complex Kevin gave me. He had sent this over to John U. For review.

Amenity: London Park (Lake Windsor)
Committee Member: Chris Stockman

Overall Condition: Excellent condition overall. Restrooms and fish cleaning stations were clean and orderly.

Additional Observations: The park was alive with activity on a nice sunny Sunday morning. A few folks were walking dogs, grandparents and grandkids were looking over the lake and a few folks just talking in the park.

Meet and Greet

Committee Member: Debbie Sorensen

Observations: Successful event in February. Had some technical issues but did not disrupt the event. We had 18 states represented and lots of good questions and three very nice thank-you notes from those that attended. I shared them with Tom J and Kim C. Will hold one more in the spring via Zoom and then hopefully we can get back to the Country Club. New residents really want to meet other new residents in person.

NEW BUSINESS

Amenity Responsibility Exchange

- Debbie Sorensen will assume monitoring duties for Loch Lomond and Jackie Gain for Metfield until June when new committee members will be chosen. Denise Klinger also indicated that she could do both with Tiree Park experiencing low traffic.

Razorback Expansion Celebration

- Chris suggested that the Recreation JAC support a “grand opening celebration” event for the greenway connectors. Joan reminded the group that there had already been a ribbon-cutting event on the first extension partnered with the City, including Mayor Christie, Tom Judson and the Trailbuilders. Consideration for a community event on the newest extension will occur over the next few weeks.

STAFF REPORTS

Tom Judson (POA Chief Operating Officer)

- Activity cards purchases and boat registrations are lagging behind last year.
- In March the 2020 stats report will be available with trends noted.

Rick Echols (Lakes, Parks, and Fisheries)

- Lake Rayburn drawdown went to 80” and repairs are complete. A lot of ripraff had to be cleaned. The valve for drawdown was not accessible, which required repair work. Resident repairs for their docks were targeted in the planning. Refilling will come next.
- Park rangers had 1073 contacts, 20 individuals removed, 38 contacted.
- Tanyard Creek overflow sign to be completed.
- Small Dog Park: concrete aprons done; grading and sodding to be done; refurbishing picnic tables, clearing brush. Annual lake trash pickup will soon commenced.
- Lake Ann sinkhole: Terracon retained on how to accomplish the planned fill and prevention of water intrusion; connections to spillway, etc.
- Christmas tree habitat at Loch Lomond planned

- Golf course ponds were drained for ecological work.
- May 15th fishing derby at Metfield pond.

John Urquhart (Gun Ranges)

- Gun range traffic slower this month. Lost eight days of operation in February due to inclement weather
- Classes mostly full—slower due to ammo shortage, which also impact coming events
- Comment: Debbie asked why the shortage; John indicated that gun sales have been significantly increasing, as well as issues related to COVID-19 and the election year.

Jessica Anson (Recreation)

- Branchwood is still under the 12' distancing rule.
- Tire removal: a master naturalist and Trey got trailers to haul off 108 tires from the Tweety Bird trailhead.
- Riordan: replacing the playground signs
- Tennis has expanded this spring
- Kingsdale pool is almost done
- Branchwood pickleball courts should be done by the end of the week.

Joan Glubczynski (Recreation)

- Mini golf themed attractions (vintage), signs and carpets are all in; plan. To have it open before Memorial Day, perhaps early May
- Marina opens Tuesday, March 16; Trey located a gently used boat for rental
- Campground sold out for spring break weekends

Next POA RJAC meeting April 12, 4 p.m.