

POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee
4:00 – 5:00 p.m. April 12, 2021

Attendance

Members: Janet Conboy, Denise Klinger, Scott Dreas, Gary Griffin, Debbie Sorensen, Jackie Gain

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

Board: Jerold Hover, Mary Sinkus

Debbie Sorensen (Vice Chair) called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

No guests

Quorum met

Amenity Reports

Amenity: Branchwood Bulding, Disk Golf and Trail

Committee member: Debbie Sorensen

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition: Trail in good shape. Playground the same. Building is in full swing and increased number of people who can use the facility. No trash to speak of and users use the three trash cans around the trail.

Areas for Review:

The number of available reservations has increased and makes it easier for individuals to get to use the facility. Port-A-Potty needs to be changed out. Reported to Jessica Anson. Trash can missing on one of the cans. Pickleball courts still have two more steps before they are complete. The area to the right of the courts is still being graded and will be sodded once cleared.

Member Interactions:

Have communicated with Pickleball players on when courts will be done.

Amenity: Loch Lomond Park area

Committee Member: Debbie Sorensen

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

All is in good shape. No litter and the bathrooms had good supplies and were clean. Trash cans were all fine and no need to empty them.

Areas for Review:

One of the posts near the dog park has rotted at the base. Should consider replacing it.

Member Interactions:

Lots of dog owners this weekend and walkers. Some were asking about the small dog park. Maybe post a message as to when it will be ready?

Amenity: Tiree Park

Committee Member: Denise Klinger

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

I visited on Easter Sunday 4/4 at 10:30 am and there was a fair amount of activity at the park. The restrooms are still locked and the Port-A-Potty was clean inside and doggie bags were full. The Pavilion area was clean and trash empty. The grass was mowed and looked good. There were 3 trucks with trailers in the lot and two men were fishing from the shore.

Areas for Review:

The two trash cans closest to the restrooms were full to overflowing. Not sure how often they get checked, but now that the park will be getting more use, it will need to be checked/emptied more often.

Member Interactions:

One man was setting up a shade tent and prepping for an Easter picnic for his 10-12 family members later. In the day. This is the same man I talked with a month or so ago who had his son at the park. He is clearly a "repeat customer" and said he enjoys the park. He did comment about the trash and I said I'd report it. Other than that he had no comments on improvements.

Additional Observations:

The main park sign at the entry on Highlands Blvd. needs to be repaired or replaced. There's a good amount of dry rot on the sign and the legs which are encased in concrete have almost completely eroded out of the ground. It wouldn't take much to wash it out of the ground.

Comments: Rick—restrooms are unlocked now; they were waiting for a deep clean. Tom—a new sign has been developed for Metfield and will be used as a template for other parks.

Amenity: London Park

Committee Member: Chris Stockman

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

Excellent condition overall. Restrooms were clean and orderly but the fish guts buckets were full.

Areas for Review:

None

Member Interactions:

Talked to a couple launching kayaks. They said launching was no problem. They just walked into the water a bit and popped into the seat quickly (younger folks). They like the park a lot and were excited to paddle away for a trip to the dam and back.

Additional Observations:

Trucks and empty boat trailers filled the parking lot. A couple of folks were launching kayaks.

Comments from Rick: Fish buckets are emptied. Lot of activity fills them up.

Amenity: RV Park and Blowing Springs

Committee Member: Val Courter

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

Restrooms look great. They are still working on the Razorback Trail going through Blowing Springs. All that is left is a bridge by the check-in center. RV Park had a lot of campers when I went through over the weekend. There were a lot of bikers, hikers, walkers and tent campers.

Areas for Review:

The only thing I saw that needs to be repaired was the road going through Blowing Springs. There are a lot of potholes and generally pretty torn up for the Razorback Trail construction.

Member Interactions:

Everyone said they love the new trail going through Blowing Springs up to Metfield.

Amenity: Trails/Greenway

Committee Member: Val Courter

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

The Trail is done all the way from Metfield Park to Blowing Springs at the check-in center. All concrete poured. They have been putting sod down all last week and tarp for ground erosion. They still have more sod to lay down along Euston & Manchester. There is still a lot of trash from construction.

Areas for Review:

The street at Euston and Manchester needs to be repaired where they dug it up. Also at the intersection of Mansfield and Manchester dirt needs to be brought in to fill in to make it level with the street.

Member Interactions:

Everyone said they love the new trail going through Blowing Springs up to Metfield. A lot of people are using the trail — bikers, walkers, joggers and hikers.

Amenity: Gun Ranges

Committee Member: Gary Griffin

Review Month: April 2021

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. Restrooms are clean.

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 item remaining at the Rifle and Pistol range is filling in the area around the picnic bench and BBQ with gravel. (As of my visit, gravel had not yet been installed.)

Member Interactions:

Spoke with Royce, Range Master at the Rifle and Pistol range. Activity is pretty consistent. The picnic area isn't finished. Rifle range was almost full on the day of my visit.

Spoke with Carrol at the Trap and Skeet range. The range was extremely busy on Saturday. There was an ATA tournament on Sunday that had over a hundred shooters. Activity continues to increase. In my estimation, Carroll needs extra help when an event takes place like the ATA Tournament.

Comments: Rick—We will provide help for the gun range

Amenity: Tanyard Creek and Lake Avalon

Committee Member: Janet Conboy

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Conditions:

Tanyard Creek Park was clean, including the restrooms, pavilion, parking lot, trail and landscaped area. Grills and tables were immaculate. Cars in the parking lot appeared to be mostly from Arkansas, although Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri were also represented. Families were using the grass around the pavilion to picnic, with most of the people using the trails.

Lake Avalon Park was populated by three cars. General condition was clean. POA maintenance staff were pressure washing the picnic tables and slabs, readying the area for spring use. Port-A-Potty was clean. Some weed growth on the beach.

Areas for Review:

Landscaped area at Tanyard seemed significantly impacted by the sub-freezing temperature, although some shrubs will likely green up from the bottom. Several spots along the trails (I only went a few yards on each) are showing wear from high traffic.

Member Interactions:

It was apparent that Tanyard Creek is loved as a destination for families and nature lovers. Folks indicated that it is especially user-friendly.

Comment from Jackie Gain: The asphalt pathway from the Tanyard Creek parking lot to the main concourse is significantly damaged and dangerous. Needs to be repaired ASAP given the number of older visitors.

Comment from Rick: A lot of nandina at Tanyard. Will grow back from bottom.

Amenity:: Lake Ann/RV storage
Committee Member: Jackie Gain
Review Month: April 2021

Overall Conditions:

Lake Ann: good
RV Storage: good

Member Interactions:

Lake Ann – Father/son fishing accompanied by dog; comments “love this lake, quiet, can tuck away in cove away from others.”

Additional Observations:

Member count= RV park 0, Lake Ann 7 boat trailers, 2 people shore fishing, group of 5 at picnic table. Trailhead- 8 cars, 1 runner, 2 hikers with dog. Area in good condition.

Amenity: Metfield Complex
Committee Member: Jackie Gain
Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

Very busy. Restrooms unlocked and in good condition. Upkeep of playground equipment, basketball court, pickleball courts, bike track all good.

Areas for Review:

Opening date for Kingsdale miniature golf course? Timing of heater turn off in restroom? Was very warm inside.

Member Interactions:

“Please do not cut down this tree! Kids love to play under/in it.” Member showed me the backside of the. Evergreen with a path and kind of fort-like entrance.

“Why was the mini golf course taken up?”

“We are sad about the mini golf course being gone. We live close by and will miss it.”

“Grandkids sad about mini golf course, looking forward to pool opening up.”

“We love this playground. Has lots of options. Wish they had a slide for kids a little bigger.”

“Playground equipment well maintained and fairly new. Very pleased.”

“We meet our friends here with our kids. We love it.!”

Additional Observations:

Member count on three separate observations:

Pickleball 22, 16 & 17

Playground/picnic area 37 & 29 (includes bike track and pavilion) & 63

Amenity: Riordan Hall Complex & Tennis

Committee Member: Scott Dreas

Review Month: April 2021

Overall Condition:

Riordan Hall is in good condition.. No change for clubs or group meetings at Riordan Hall due to CDC social distancing guidelines of maintaining a minimum of 6 feet. Exercise equipment distancing has been reduced from 12 feet to 6 due to updated exercise equipment guidance. Reservation process still in place. Kingsdale Pavilion is in good condition. I did observe one trash can that is missing the top lid of the receptacle. The new deck around the main pool is finished and ready to install the new fencing. Tennis courts and center in good shape. Tennis center has returned to the normal schedule of being open 8 am to 1 pm, closed from 1 pm to 4 pm and opened again from 4 pm to 8 pm. Tennis court usage is high and Jake mentioned the increasing numbers of leagues and members playing daily. Jake also mentioned the upcoming resurfacing of courts 3 & 4. Both courts are showing many long continuous splits in the playing surface. Kingsdale playground is in good shape and the items I have noted previously are repaired and/or replaced. The basketball court is in good shape, but the shuffleboard deck paint is starting to show wear and looks like it could use a fresh coat of paint. The renovations of the mini-golf course is in progress, all the old carpeting has been removed, some holes have the new carpeting installed, other holes are in the process of fixing the surface before the new carpeting is installed. There is also work on the sidewalks around the holes to make them safer to people to walk.

Areas for Review:

Jake asked me to bring up two topics to the recreation committee that he said had been raised before. Bella Vista continues to be the only tennis facility in Northwest Arkansas that does not have an indoor tennis facility. Another area of concern for the tennis facility is the high cost of operating the halogen lighting system at the tennis courts and the pool. Jake and I both recommend that LED lighting be examined as an option to replace all the halogen lighting at the tennis court facility and Kingsdale pool. The lower operating cost of LED lighting and the longer life expectancy of LED bulbs may offset the installation costs to make this project feasible. The horseshoe pits have grass and weeds growing inside the box and should be cleaned and have fresh sand installed if the horseshoe pits are going to continue to be a recreation activity at Riordan Hall. One of the horseshoe spikes is no longer upright and is laying at an angle; this should be fixed as well if the pit is going to be usable. There are a couple of items that need to be addressed on the playground: 1. There is a piece of corrugated plastic that is sticking up

from the ground and should be removed; 2. The trash can near the picnic table has a broken container lid; 3. The bench by the swings has a bolt on the seat board that is sticking up which could get caught on a person's clothing or person. Question on the mini-golf course: will the holes have any information such as hole number or number of strokes for the hole? Will all the broken sections of sidewalk be repaired as part of the mini-golf course renovation?

Member Interactions:

The tennis players on courts 3 & 4 commented about the cracks in the playing surface and asked if they will be repaired. Talked to some parents watching their children playing on the playground and they mentioned they like the trail going through the playground and the overall good condition of the playground equipment.

Additional Observations:

The sidewalk around the building by the mini-golf course has some broken sections that should be repaired or replaced.

Comments from Joan Glubczynski: Can't do sidewalks all in one year.

General Comments:

Denise—has anyone thought about putting sensors on the trails for Riordan, Metfield and Branchwood to produce data about usage. Tanyard is being used to death.

Janet—agree with Denise. With Tanyard becoming a destination for NWA recreations and attracting people from surrounding states as well, erosion on the trails, restroom access and cleanliness and safety around the waterfall will only cause more issues which need attention ASAP

New Business

New members: two applications (Mary Elizabeth Jones, Devin Johnson) so far; Tom thinks we need to go ahead with the addition process. We are anticipating a third application. Gary thinks we need to hold off another month in order to meet with them at the May meeting. Committee decided to do so.

Committee Leadership: all jobs (Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Secretary) rotating. Elections will be held in June.

Staff Reports:

Tom Judson

- Golf was up 2,000 rounds, going in to the busy season.
- Boat registrations up 19%.
- Activity card sales not at the 2020 level (concerned that 2021 is going to drop)
- Food and Beverage sales approaching busy; Highlands will hit monthly budgeted revenue.

Rick Echols:

- ✓ Lake Rayburn drawdown completed, just awaiting rain. Boat ramp was widened; Outflow from overflow work completed; private dredging finished; valve debris remained/no leaks
- ✓ POA rangers (lakes, trails, parking, etc) contact increased over February to 1252; Boat contacts 175
- ✓ 1 ranger rehired
- ✓ Small dog park—sod to be delivered tomorrow, concrete poured with early June opening
- ✓ Large dog park seeding done
- ✓ Lake Ann sinkhole—figuring out how to fix this spring

John Urquhart:

- ❖ Rifle and Pistol range—steady activity and very busy this weekend.
- ❖ Slowing down due to ammo shortage nationwide
- ❖ Trap and Skeet—will be super busy until July.
- ❖ ATA Shoot attracted 90 shooters which is a good number
- ❖ Classes are full in April; adding extra classes for beginning of May

Joan Glubczynski:

- Curbside egg hunt was a success with lots of families, although not as many as 2020. A very special Easter bunny appeared and interacted with car loads (AKA Jessica Anson)
- Pickleball courts are being painted and finished; will be playable at the end of the month
- Mini-golf course is laid out, concrete curing
- Campground—sold out most weekends
- Trails—Blowing Springs trails are very busy; connector will be ready by end of May.

Jessica Anson:

- Kingsdale pool—inside is being finished
- Returning summer lifeguards from 2020 (8)
- May 1 is sign up day for swimming lessons, Toddler and Me class, tennis camp, paddle board camp
- Swim team is filling up

Judy Griffin:

- Plaque for National Register for Bella Vista Country Club soon to be on display

Welcome Meet and Greet Meetings May 2021 (Debbie Sorensen)

- May 15th next Meet and Greet via zoom
- June 17 we will hold an in-person reception at Lakepoint for all of the new residents who signed up for the three zoom meetings we have held. I will coordinate the reservations. \$15 per head for appetizers and one drink ticket. Bar set up outside and we will all meet outside. Peter Christy and Tom Judson will join us.

The Next POA RJAC Meeting will be May 10 at 4 pm. Anticipate it to be held in board room. Potential new members will be asked to join us.