POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee

October 11, 2021, Boardroom 4:00 pm

Attendance

Members: Scott Dreas, Denise Klinger, Mary Elizabeth Williams, Deborah Lukotch, Maci Echols, Chris Stockman

Staff: Judy Griffin, Rick Echols, Tom Judson, John Urquhart, Corrine Morin, Ashley Nichols, Jessica McCary

Board: Jan Hagan

Zoom: Jackie Gain

Guests: Brian Michelson, new member

Chris Stockman called the meeting to order at 4 p.m.

Amenity Reports:

Amenity: **Branchwood Complex and Trails**
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch

Overall Condition:
Went on a Friday at 11:00, over 30 cars in the parking lot. Majority of members were in swim class or fitness center. Hot tub in use, one couple playing pickleball, one person walking their dog,
Everything looked good and well maintained.
All suggestion, comments from last month's report were addressed, thank you.

1. "Next Up" pickleball paddle racks are installed.
2. Area for new pickle ball court appears ready for concrete pour.

Member Interactions:
Spoke to a member walking her dog on the paved walkway, her first visit, she said "*This place is beautiful, just beautiful*"

Spoke to members Laurie and David who just finished a game of pickleball. They enjoy the game and the courts. They belong to a Sunday "Ladders League" and love it. They said the courts are always full weeknights around 6:30, invited me to come down, said everyone is friendly and welcoming. They were on their way inside next to lift weights.

Amenity: **Blowing Springs**
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch

Overall Condition:
Tuesday afternoon, park well maintained, RV park busy, several tent sites being utilized. The floors in the showers have been cleaned and look very good.

Areas for Review:
1. Weeds need to be addressed along the fence that runs behind the tent site area, becoming unsightly.
2. There is a sign just under the park hours sign stating, "no parking in back of park". It also lists COVID guidelines, says the restrooms are closed. Recommend removing it.

Member Interactions:
Spoke to a couple from Texas staying in the tiny cabin at the RV park. They love the park, showing me pictures they took while hiking the trails as they said it was so beautiful. They indicated the bed was small and difficult to get in and out of without hitting your head.

Amenity: **Loch Lomond Park**
Committee Member: Steve Gardner

Grass was being mowed as I was there, always seems freshly cut!

Dog parks:
Trash cans were emptied, and pooper bags well stocked at the dog park. And overall, the dog parks looked in great condition. Unusual to see no one utilizing the dog parks today. (it was around 2pm on a Thursday).

Ball Park:
Everything looked neat and in good repair and ready to play ball.

Pavilion area:
Landscaping is all in excellent condition. Bathrooms were clean and well-maintained

Pavilion looked in great shape, the grill was clean and ready for use and all the trash cans were emptied. Picnic tables were all clean and in good repair

Gazebo and area were all in good shape.

The walking trail was clean of any debris other than a few grass clippings from today's cutting.

Amenity: **Metfield Complex**
Committee Member: Maci Echols

Playground and bike skills

1. Grounds looked good
2. Playground had a few families out enjoying the day
3. Restrooms look good.

Member interactions:

No complaints, over all happy with the playground area and park. One member even said he could bring his family there and stay all day and grill. The other member usually goes to the playground at Riordan and was really pleased with the new one at Metfield.

Metfield Clubhouse

Did not get to check it out due to it being closed. Came home and looked up the hours and could not find them listed on the POA website nor could I find any times for any of the other fitness centers listed.

Areas for Review

1. Would be nice to have times listed on the POA site for the fitness centers.

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

Overall Condition:
Riordan Hall is in good condition. All operations, meetings, exercise classes and groups are operating on normal schedules. The Senior expo was a good success and was able to be held outdoors this year. The Christmas Bazaar has been cancelled for this year. Kingsdale Pool is now closed for the season. The pools have been drained and covered for the winter. The Kingsdale Pavilion is in good condition and seeing increased rentals with the nice fall weather. The playground is in good condition. A few issues reported in the "Areas for Review" section. The mini-golf course is in great condition, the fall leaves are starting to cover the courses. The tennis center is slowing down. The resurfacing work for courts 3 &4 are still not completed. There are some items in "Areas for Review" for the tennis courts.

Areas for Review:
The fence rail is still leaning up against the backside of the pickleball court connected to tennis courts 3 & 4. The privacy screening on courts 1 & 2; 3 & 4: and 7 & 8 have some sections that are no longer tied to the fence and are hanging loose. There is one sign attached to the fence on court 1 that is almost completely off the fence and needs to be reattached. One of the concrete decks for the picnic tables at the playground has a lot of erosion around and under two edges of the deck. The other concrete deck for the picnic table is showing the same erosion and has already cracked across the unsupported corner. When I stepped on it, the corner is already coming loose, and it is just a matter of time until it breaks off. This could pose a greater hazard if enough dirt washes out from under the deck could cause more cracks and breaks. The small railroad tie wall on the west side of the mini-golf course is falling apart. (pictures of all issues attached)

On my visit I noticed a small number of leaves beginning to accumulate on the tennis courts already. As the weather starts to get cooler, this problem will become much bigger as the leaves change color and start to fall. Checking to see if the POA has considered keeping more battery-operated blowers in the tennis facility office for members to use to clear off the leaves before they play?

Erosion issue for picnic table deck

Broken concrete pad due to erosion

Railroad tie issue

Fence rail issue

Amenity: **Trails/Greenway and Lake Ann Park**
Committee Member: Mary-Elizabeth Jones

Overall Condition:
Lake Ann Park/ dam and waterfall are so beautiful and peaceful. There were 4 people at this park/ lake that I could chat with (not on the lake). The lights at all the facilities were working, that lawns were well mowed and maintained. The garbage cans were empty. The doggy bags were full. The grills looked well used but in good working order and the port-a-potties appeared in useable condition.

The Greenway was well used and well maintained with zero issues.

Picnic/ dock area far eastside:
Everything is in working order and well maintained. The graffiti has been cleaned off the tables. The new parking area looks great.

By the dam/waterfall area westside:
The hazard sign has been put up at the sink hole.
Everything else looked great and well maintained.

The Greenway:
It looked well taken care of, very useable there were people out walking, on their bikes and walking their dogs.

Member Interaction:
At the Lake Ann Park, I spoke to a two POA members. They love this park the best, it is close to their home and always well taken care of. They had family in from California and they brought them to Lake and to spend the day.

Amenity: **Tanyard Creek**
Committee Member: Denise Klinger

Overall Condition:
I visited on Tues. 10/5 at 10:30 am, the parking lot was about half full. The grass was mowed and trimmed and trash cans in good shape. There was a meeting going on in the pavilion with about 10 people so I wasn't able to inspect it.

The trails and areas near water where people congregate were clean and free of debris.

The restrooms were very clean, but the men's bathroom still smells.

Areas for Review:
Infrastructure (bridges, benches, signs, fencing, other)
The benches have all recently been painted by the volunteer group and are in good shape. The signposts have also been painted and guards added. Unfortunately, some of the new stickers that were placed on the old metal signs are already wearing or coming off.

The bridges all show wear and bare wood. Per Randy Hamm, the paint only lasts for a few months so most of the time they appear worn and are slippery with mold when wet. The non-skid that was applied with the paint did not stand up to the foot traffic either.

As boards wear out, can they be replaced with cedar which doesn't require paint and is more resilient than pine? While cedar may cost more up front, it lasts longer and does not need painting. The volunteer's hours could be used on other projects.

Below are photos of the bridges.

At the far north end of the trail this orange fencing has been in place for so long the color has almost disappeared. It has been in place for many years. There is a 20-foot drop to the creek immediately on the other side and needs permanent fencing installed asap.

The water fountain is rusty and needs to be repaired or replaced.

Member Interactions:
I spoke with a couple from Texas who bought a home in Bella Vista in April, this was their first visit to Tanyard. They loved the trails and the diversity of the landscape from the water to the bluffs. They would like to see pictures of some of the common plants but noted that many of the signs don't match what they're in front of. They also recommend more trash cans along the trails.

Additional Observations:
The wear throughout Tanyard is evident and it needs maintenance now before repairs become more costly. As one of our most used amenities it does not appear to receive its share of repair dollars. It is our unofficial city park and should be given the love it deserves.

Amenity: **London Park**
Committee Member: Chris Stockman

Overall Condition:
Excellent condition overall, restrooms, fish cleaning station nice and clean. Grounds clean and manicured.

Member Interactions: A couple fishing from the shore said they were just enjoying the beautiful afternoon in a nice place.

Amenity: Lake Avalon Park

Committee Member: Janet Conboy

Overall Conditions:

Excellent. Equipment well-maintained; play/activity areas clean and free of debris; shelter clean; restrooms closed; landscaping and lawn nicely trimmed. PortaPotty relatively clean.

Additional Observations:

Unclear why in a park that experience greater utilization than Tiree, the bathrooms are closed. Family enjoying the picnic area, had bathing suits and floatation items. I noticed that the beach had numerous sand castles and freshly areas dug along the waterline. One member was walking up from the area with a float. Park ranger happened by after the member was seated.

Amenity: Tiree Park

Committee Member: Janet Conboy

Overall Conditions

Generally, excellent grounds maintenance, picnic areas clean, restrooms in good shape, dock area in good repair

Areas for Review:

Most picnic tables and benches are metal. The remaining completely wood table is in disrepair. Wood is rough and buckling, leaving users vulnerable to splinters, snags and uncomfortable sitting. Recommend replacement with metal.

Additional Observations:

Some outside debris in the bathrooms. Door to one not fully closing. Unclear why bathrooms at Tiree are still open when Lake Avalon Park closed.

Member Interaction:

Two carloads of families came to use the playground equipment and picnic area. Kids enjoyed the venue but mosquitoes not so much. Parents and grandparents felt like it was a more park-like setting than other sites.

New Business: None currently as the member survey and listening sessions are taking place this month for input into the 5-year plan

POA Staff Reports:

Tom Judson:

Activity cards +58% over same time period 2019. Boat registration +33% over same time period 2019 with largest increase in Kayaks. Over 6,200 surveys completed, ends November 15. Currently working on budgets for next year.

Rick Echols:

Reminder on Loch Lomond drawdown. Rangers cut back to winter staff levels. Bench added to small dog park. Lake Ann parking lot complete. Lake Ann boat ramp to be closed Oct. 12 while city paves road leading in. New kayak rack in place at Lake Norwood. Reminder to post your "catch" on *"What's the catch?"* on the POA website.

John Urguhart:

Activity at gun ranges lower than last year, partly due to last year numbers were unusually high, and ammunition is in short supply. Classes are scheduled and currently full. Rifle range will be closed Saturday morning for Citizen Police Academy.

Jessica McCreary:

"Not so Haunted mini golf" going on now until October 31. Pickle ball courts cement poured at Branchwood, one month to cure before able to paint and finish fence work. Handicap chair lift installed in Branchwood pool.

Three new "tiny cabins" to be added to Blowing Springs in November. Pools have been winterized and Marina closed for the season. OZ trails race this weekend. Reminder, Coat Drive, new coats only, donation boxes located at all amenities, ends November 8.

Judy Griffin:

Marketing busy working on Winter edition of *"Inside Bella Vista"* as well as budget for next year.

Next Committee Meeting November 8, 2021, 4:00 pm Board Room