**POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee**

**November 8, 2021, Boardroom 4:00 pm**

**Attendance**

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

Zoom: Gary Griffin

Staff: Judy Griffin, Rick Echols, Tom Judson, John Urquhart, Corinne Morin, Joan Glubczynski, Jessica Anson,

Board: Jan Hagan, Jackie Gian

Guests: Jose Mendoza, Disc Golf Pro, Disc Course Volunteer

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

**Jose Mendoza**: Jose held a free disc golf course in September, 30 people participated, all age and experience levels. November 20, 9 am – 3:00 pm hosting a PGDA sanctioned tournament for 90 players, all skill levels. All fees will be put toward course maintenance. Partner with Highlands for lunch.

Branchwood is a high-quality competitive golf disc course. There is league participation as well as individuals. Tee time is not required, just show up. You can purchase a starter equipment set for $20 from the Branchwood Rec center. Rounds are up 3x over ly, and ly was up 2x over previous year. Takes approximately 2 hours to play a round.

**Committee Comment:** We should look for ways to promote disc golf to members. Jose commented he and Jessica have some ideas.

**Amenity Reports:**

**Amenity:** **Branchwood Complex and Trails**
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**
Went on Thursday afternoon, 25 cars in the lot. Basketball court and playground in use. 2 groups playing disc golf, dog walkers, ½ fitness equipment in use. Entire area in good clean well-maintained condition.

**Areas for Review:**
None currently

**Member Interactions:**
None

**Additional Observations:**

- I had no idea there were racquetball courts here and couldn't find them on the POA website. We should do more to promote and inform membership they are available.
- Went to Udisc.com and obtained the following onsite reviews of the course:

*"Fantastic ball-golf conversion course. Occasionally had to wait for walkers but nbd."*
*"Awesome and beautiful course. Good mix of long and short holes with some elevation change. Dog friendly."*
*"Very wet at sunrise. But that's not the courses problem that's just nature. Love this course. I will be playing it more when I come back to this area"*

*"Good course and good upkeep! One of the best in NWA."*

**Amenity:** **Blowing Springs**
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**
Sunday late morning, park well maintained, RV park busy, approximately 20 cars in trailhead lot, 5 in back lot. Weeds have been trimmed, the old COVID sign has been removed

**Areas for Review:**
1. The bottom lining is falling apart on the chairs in the laundry room, doesn't look inviting
2. One of the newer bushes behind the campsite area has died and another looks it is dying

**Member Interactions:**

Did not speak with any members, however, recent online Google reviews:

*"Great spot. Access to trails for riding or hiking, the area is well kept. Bathrooms are clean, hot showers. Plus you are close to the city to get anything you might need."*

*"Nice walk along the greenway. Stopped at the "Gear Garden" shop for some local beers. Great place to hike, bike and relax."*

**Additional Observations:**
None currently

**Amenity:** **Loch Lomond Park**
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**
Went on a Thursday afternoon, 20 cars in the lot. Several guys playing football on the softball field, people walking dogs, both dog parks very active. Overall, well maintained, clean, mowed.

**Areas for Review:**

- The ceiling in the women's restroom needs to be cleaned, perhaps painted. Spider webs, dirt spots, and the vent is full of dust. I did not check men's room but would suggest that be looked at when this is addressed.
- There is a large tree root pushing up on the walking path to the right of the softball field as you are facing it. Could be a trip hazard if someone is not paying attention.
- There is a piece of what looks like broken fencing that is sharp and rusted at the softball field that needs to be removed.
- There is a hose and piece of fencing in the batter box and next to home plate that need to be put away as they could be trip hazards.
- At the end of the walkway above the dam is a pump house for lake irrigation, it could use a new coat of paint come Spring.

**Member Interactions:**

None

**Additional Observations:**

- There is not a roadside sign identifying Loch Lomond Recreation Complex. Couldn't find it on the POA website either, although the dog park is listed.
- I am not sure how often the softball field is used; however, it needs some TLC. The pitcher mound area is pulled up and looks like a trip hazard, as well as second base. Home plate needs a complete makeover. Perhaps consider local business sponsor/buy advertising to raise funds to improve the field.

Softball Field:

Pump House

**Amenity:** **Tiree Park**
Committee Member: Janet Conboy
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Conditions:**

As usual, the park was in great shape—grass and landscaping in good condition. The forsythia bushes made a bit more pruning and the tree growing in the middle of one needs to come out. Equipment looked to be in good shape. Workers seemed to be pruning the larger trees. Restrooms generally clean, with only some leaf and grass debris around. Porta-Potties were adequately clean.

**Areas for Review:**

None.

**Other Observations:**

None.

**Member Interaction:**

None.

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**Areas for Review:**

None.

**Other Observations:**

None.

**Member Interaction:**

None.

**Amenity:** **Metfield Complex**
Committee Member: Maci Echols
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Park Area:** Over all looked good. A lot of families out enjoying the day playing on the playground, bike skills and pickle ball court.

**Club House:** Looked good and clean. Saw several members working out. Everything looked clean and ready for the next member to use.

**Member Interaction:** I spoke with a father and son team at the pickle ball courts and the dad had no complaints. He only had good thing to say about the courts. He did though suggest that maybe there be an intro the pickle ball class. Like a basic overview of the rules and scoring. Maybe even post the rules somewhere. He said that he looked online and even that wasn't enough. I spoke with another family at the park, and they were happy with the layout of the park and openness of it. They mentioned that they could come and have a party and have room for games and such.

Areas of Review: I noticed that the restrooms need to be cleaned due to toilet paper on the floor along with grass clipping and leaves blowing into the restrooms. Also, the playground is a big concern. The wash has really gotten bad and is now a hazard for twisting an ancle or falls. I have included pictures of it.

**Amenity:** **Riordan Hall Complex & Tennis**
Committee Member: Scott Dreas
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**
Riordan Hall is in good condition. On the day of my visit Riordan Hall was very busy. There was an insurance group holding an informational meeting on Medicare and Medicade coverage options, the fly-tiers were holding their monthly meeting and the bridge club was going on as well. The snooker room was full of players and having a great time. Talking with Ashley she mentioned that she has been receiving an increasing number of requests for new groups to hold meetings and requests for single events for the holidays. Kingsdale Pool is closed and winterized until next summer. The Kingsdale Pavilion is in good condition with no issues to report. The playground is in good condition. I was able to show the two picnic deck issues to Ashley. A new fence has been installed between Riordan Road and the playground. The mini-golf course is still busy even in the fall and with cooler temperatures. Ashley also commented that mini-golf course saw lots of players during Halloween event The tennis center was very busy the day of my visit as the Thursday men's tennis players had all the courts full. The resurfacing company was just finishing up the resurfacing on courts 3 & 4 and the pickleball court and they look very good. All the privacy screening and signage was firmly attached and no new issues to report at the tennis center. The tennis center office has switched to their winter hours as well.

**Areas for Review:**
The ground around both concrete decks for the picnic tables at the playground are showing a lot of erosion around and under two edges of the deck. A solution needs to be found to prevent the erosion from continuing and the cracks in the concrete deck need to be repaired.

**Member Interactions:**
Talked with the snooker players who were thoroughly enjoying themselves. They also tried to recruit me into playing with them. They really enjoy the snooker room and Riordan Hall and happy to have this amenity back open after it has been closed due to COVID restriction

Erosion issue for picnic table concrete deck

**Amenity:** **Trails/Greenway and Lake Ann Park**
Committee Member: Mary-Elizabeth Jones
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**
Lake Ann Park/ dam and waterfall are so beautiful and peaceful. There was 1 person at this park. 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.

**Areas For review:**

Picnic/ dock area far eastside:

There are some swastikas that have been carved and written in the port-a-pottie can we call the company and have it changed out?

Also, there is a sign in the picnic pavilion that is wore and should be replaced.

Pictures will be attached for review

By the dam/waterfall area westside:

Everything else looked great and well maintained.

The Greenway:

It looked well taken care of. I was there early on a Sunday there were people on the trail walking, but it was in light use at the time.

**Member Interaction:**

At Lake Ann Park, I spoke to a lady. She loves the area. She thinks the trails for running and biking are great. She lives in New Zealand for part of the year and the USA part of the year. This is her first time in the part of the country, she loves how beautiful, safe and well maintained the area is.

**Amenity:** **Tanyard Creek**

Committee Member: Denise Klinger

Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**

I visited on Thurs. 11/4 at 10:40 am, there were 9 cars in the lot. The grass was mowed and trimmed; the trash cans were mostly empty. The Pavilion was clean, but the grill grate and bottom are very rusty.

The trails and areas where people congregate were clean and free of trash.

The restrooms were clean, and the water fountain has been removed for the season.

**Areas for Review:**
There is a very large tree that has come down across the NW section of the trail and per Randy Hamm it's now been down for a week or more. Also, per Randy, Joe Macek with Maintenance has given this project over to a private company and there is no specific date for it to be removed. The tree has fallen across the trail and the area has been marked with cones but that doesn't prevent people from walking through the branches. It remains a hazard as long as it's there as it's balancing on some of its branches and could fall further.

**Invasive plants -**
Unlike something obvious such as a pothole or leaky roof, invasive plants begin a quiet war against native habitat, and if ignored, they will win. After not being managed for 30 years, invasive species have overtaken much of the native vegetation throughout the area. There are numerous species of grasses, vines and shrubs that will eventually be all that remain. Many trees are now dead or dying and much of the variety of what was growing is now diminished. Treatment options are to pull it, burn it, poison it, or crowd it out with native species. Envision kudzu and you'll get the picture.

What was once the pond is an area choked with grasses and other invasive plants. The result is a loss of insects, amphibians, birds and other wildlife that use it for food and to raise their young. It is the loss of an entire small ecosystem. The bottom line is that just because it's green doesn't mean it's good.

We would never allow harmful species such as Zebra Mussels or Asian Carp to invade our lakes, likewise, we cannot allow invasive plants to go unchecked.

The photos below from left to right show trees that have been strangled by vines and are now dead, a hillside overrun with Japanese Honeysuckle and Vinca that has almost completely choked out everything in its path. I have other photos that also show the problem.

**Member Interactions:**
I spoke with an older couple from Joplin who moved to Bella Vista in June, this was their second visit. The wife is an artist and would love to have more benches placed so she can paint the scenery. She thought a bench near the bridge at the cascade would be nice and called it Painter's Paradise. They didn't have any other comments or suggestions.

**Amenity:** **Gun Ranges**
Committee Member: Gary Griffin
Review Month/Date: November 2021

**Overall Condition:**
The overall condition of both sites is very good. They are clean and well kept. 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.

**Member Interactions:**
No member action during this visit.

**Trap and Skeet Range** - Spoke with Carrol (Range Master). October was a good month. There are a few projects on the board for the near term: Install a new rail fence along the range, install sliding roofs on the Trap range and install lighting as well.

**Rifle and Pistol Range** – Spoke with Royce, (Range Master). On my day visiting, the range was busy (36 shooters at 2:00pm). I asked about the water station and restroom facilities for bikers use. When first installed, Royce was concerned about the upkeep of the bathroom and supplies to support its usage. He's satisfied with the upkeep and commented that the bikers really appreciate this stop on their forty mile journey.

**Additional Observations:**
None at this time.

**Amenity:** **London Park**
Committee Member: Chris Stockman
Review Month/Date: November 2021

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

**Areas for Review:** The heater in the women's restroom was running on high and it was hot inside. The heater needs adjustment.

**Member Interactions:** A couple walking their dogs said they come from up the road and had compliments for the park and had nothing to suggest.

**Additional Observations:** Just one boat trailer in the parking area.

**New Business:** The Recreation committee has an opening due to member resignation. Chris Stockman to review applications and invite candidates to December meeting.

**POA Staff Reports:**

**Tom Judson:**

Activity cards +59% over same time period 2019. Boat registration +34% over same time period 2019 with largest increase in Kayaks, and other self-powered . Almost surveys completed, ends November 15. Discussed recommended budget items, holding member budget meeting this week at Riordan. Pizza kitchen approved estimate installation February/March.

**Rick Echols:**

Reminder on Loch Lomond drawdown. Rangers cut back to winter staff levels. Bench added to small dog park. Refurbishing buoys, lot at Lake Windsor and Norwood dam cold patched. Adding flags to "no wake" buoys. Fish sampling has begun.

**John Urguhart:**

November classes full, looking to add some in December. Rifle range busy due to hunting season, trap and skeet winding down for the season. Working on overall maintenance.

**Joan Glubczynski:**

Metfield and Riordan erosion needs major rebuild, working on a plan. Reminder Back 40 trail race this coming weekend. POA and City offering vaccine booster clinic at Riordan this week. Campground is very busy, November numbers look good, Tiny Cabins delay due to 4 season insulation supply delay. Rec centers will be closed on Thanksgiving. Not so haunted mini golf a success, will repeat next year. Tennis and basketball court resurfacing. Avalon restrooms closed for the season.

**Judy Griffin:**

Marketing busy working on Winter edition of *"Inside Bella Vista"*.

**Next Committee Meeting December 13, 2021, 4:00 pm <u>Boardroom at the Country Club</u>**