

POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee

August 8, 2022, Boardroom 4:00 pm and Live Stream

Attendance:

Members: Chris Stockman, Deborah Lukach, Mary Elizabeth Jones, Scott Dreas, Matt Zimmerman, Cindy Thompson
Zoom: Maci Echols

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

Board: Jan Hagan
Zoom: Jan Simms

Guests: Applicants for open Committee Position: MaryAnn Bradley and Brian Mickelson

Deborah Lukotch called the meeting to order

Amenity Reports:

Amenity: Branchwood
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition: Sunday afternoon, less activity than usual, most people were in the fitness center, a few walking, one group at pickleball and two families at the playground. One gentleman using the playground equipment to “work out”. The water fountains near the pickleball courts are now working properly. The grounds were in good shape, especially considering the recent rain.

Areas for Review:

- The windbreak on the back of pickleball court 6 has come free on the bottom right-hand corner
- There is a sharp piece of cut off fence post sticking up near the base of the back light on the right-hand side of the court 6.
- The weeds are starting to come up under the fence onto the courts at the back of the pickleball courts

Member Interactions: Spoke to David, moved here from MO two years ago to retire. They play indoor pickleball on the racquetball courts, he noted that the walls are challenging.

Additional Observations:

- Drop The Gloves (DTG) Cup, a two round PDGA sanctioned tournament, takes place at Branchwood August 27, 8:30 am. The disc golf competition benefits “Drop the Glove” Razorback hockey team broadcast crew. First year for this annual event to be held at Branchwood.
- UDisc released its top 5 disc golf courses in each state based on millions of ratings in [UDisc's disc golf course directory](#), the most comprehensive disc golf course directory in existence. **Branchwood Disc Golf Course** came in at **number 5**. There are 163 courses in AR.

Arkansas' Best Disc Golf Courses

Rank	Course	City	Score	2021 to 2022 Change
1	Persimmon Ridge Disc Golf Course	Greenbrier	96.8	Same
2	Disc Side Of Heaven Championship Course	Jonesboro	92.69	New
3	J.Beast	Springdale	92.68	▼1
4	Old Post	Russellville	91.6	▼1
5	Branchwood Disc Golf Course	Bella Vista	91.4	New

Windbreak came free on bottom corner court 6



Sharp cutoff fence post needs addressed Under back light



Weeds creeping under fence on back of the pickleball courts



Amenity: Loch Lomond
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

Late Sunday afternoon, not very active, few people out walking. Rain was predicted for late afternoon.

Areas for Review:

- The Astro turf at the Homeplate is a trip hazard and needs to be replaced
- Spider webs in ladies restroom are becoming unsightly (I did not check the men's)
- Grass in shaded area of large dog park is wearing down, may need straw until it can be reseeded

Member Interactions:

Spoke to Julie and Jim, they would like a bench on the walking path in the shaded area between the two dog parks. They realize there are benches in the enclosed area, they prefer not to go in there and could use a break halfway around.

They asked about the ponds, would there be a fence, they are concerned for children playing in the area.

Additional Observations:

Pond construction coming along nicely. Could we get an update on timeline and details?

Astroturf at Homeplate is a trip hazard



Spider webs ladies restroom becoming unsightly



Large dog park grass wearing down



Nice progress on the two ponds



Amenity: Tiree Park
Committee Member: Deborah Lukotch
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

Late Sunday afternoon. Ramp very active, 8 boat trailers. Spoke to a gentleman from Oregon who was with a family reunion in town, they all rented houses on the lake and were going out on the water for the afternoon.

Areas for Review:

- The steps on the ladder to the playground slide are covered in rocks, should be swept off
- Picnic table furthest back is covered in mold
- There is an old, weathered sign stating *dogs must be leashed pick up after your pet*. It is redundant as there is a nice new one next to it with a supply of dog waste bags.
- There is another “pick up after your pet” sign on the pavilion however no dog waste bags nearby. Would be good to replace it with the new style sign and supplies.

Member Interactions:

Spoke to a young family, the kids were swimming, fishing, utilizing playground equipment. They were not catching any fish, but they were having fun, no suggestions, or comments.

Additional Observations:

Thoughts for future consideration:

- No fish cleaning station
- No kayak “storage” area
- Could use kayak/SUP launch
- Old shuffleboard court opportunity to repurpose for something more contemporary

Is there a reason **Granton Park** is a not an amenity for monthly review? Has a boat launch, dock, fishing pier, picnic tables and grills, kayak storage, portable restroom. It was very active with at least 8 boat trailers, fishing pier in use, a couple sitting enjoying the view.

Steps to children's slide need cleaned off



Picnic table requiring eradication



Unsightly redundant sign compared to new one with supplies



Shuffleboard consider repurposing



Amenity: Lake Avalon Park
Committee Member: Cindy Thompson
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

Early Monday morning, I am so impressed with how clean the park is after the weekend. Trash cans have all been emptied, bathrooms are spotless, beach chairs are stored/stacked nicely.

Areas for Review: Nothing to report

Member Interactions:

Several groups/members already there. Fishing off the dock, putting a boat in at the launch, a couple having breakfast under the big tree. I talked to a woman who was there with a friend and their dogs. She normally goes to the dog park but was happy to have this park where she can park right next to the grass and play ball, because she was having breathing problems. She commented that Bella Vista needs more apartment living accommodations.

Additional Observations:

I noticed the "new" picnic table by the grill, nice to have that back. I was happy about the wildflower/sunflower section that was allowed to grow near the boat lunch. There were lots of butterflies enjoying the flowers which added to the beauty and peaceful feeling of the park



Amenity: Metfield Complex and Skills Park
Committee Member: Maci Echols
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

Clubhouse: Looked good overall. Nice and clean. Saw a few people working out. Spoke with Cindy and she said no one had anything negative to say.

Metfield Park: Overall looked good. The pickle ball courts are coming along nicely. Looked like the foundation was poured recently. Was not able to check out the pool due to it being so early in the morning but did see a worker cleaning debris out from the night getting ready for the days use.

Member Interaction: Was not able to speak with any one at either place other than Cindy.

Area for Review: None.

Amenity: Riordan Hall Complex & Tennis
Committee Member: Scott Dreas
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

Riordan Hall was very quiet the day of my visit. There was one dance class in session and a few people working out. Other than that, there was not much activity. Riordan Hall continues to prepare for closing on September 19th. Kingsdale tennis facility had a few players on courts 3 & 4, the other courts were unused. The courts are in good condition despite the hot summer temps. The Labor Day mixer is the next event for the tennis center and sign-up sheets are now available. Jake installed a new bench with awning on courts 5 & 6. An exclusive POA member only tennis tournament is still being considered in late October. The rebuild of courts 7 & 8 is tentatively scheduled for October. The Kingsdale pool has had good attendance as well as the water classes. The pool was lightly attended the day of my visit, but the lifeguards said it has been a good summer with lots of visitors using the pool. Kingsdale pavilion is in good condition, except for the areas of review below. Kingsdale playground is in good condition but has some areas for review. The mini-golf course is holding up in the high heat and has some areas for review.

Areas for Review:

There are a few patches of concrete in the Kingsdale pavilion pad that needs repaired. The playground has quite a bit of deadfall that should be cleaned up. The grass around the mini-golf course should be overseeded and fertilized in the fall. The extreme temps and heat have killed most of the grass and there are numerous dirt spots and weeds. Having some nice golf turf grass around the course holes would really improve the look of this amenity.

Member Interactions:

None. With the extreme heat, the playground and mini-golf course were empty.

Amenity: Lake Ann Boat Ramp and Park/Lake Ann Dam/London Park

Committee Member: Mary Elizabeth Jones

Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

The 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 and restrooms appeared in use-able condition.

Areas For review:

Picnic/ dock area far East side Lake Ann:

Looks clean and well maintained. This park looked fantastic. There was a large party/ meeting underway at the shelter. It was good to see it in good use, but I did not want to disturb their shindig.

By the dam/waterfall area West side:

The sink hole appears to be filled in. The orange safety fence is still up. The waterfall was not running ATM. The port-a-pottie was clean.

London Park:

Looks great no areas for review. everything was clean and up to standard. The cleaning station was very clean.

Member Interaction:

Ran into a POA member playing fetch with his goldendoodle. He like the open field for his dog and brings him down there to stretch his legs often. I also had member interaction on FB. The member was wondering if it would be possible to create a kayak/ float pull outs on the little sugar. I personally think this is a good fun idea. Would this be an option?

Amenity: Tanyard Creek

Committee Member: Chris Stockman

Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

Per Randy Hamm, the Tanyard volunteers are off for the summer months, but in ones and twos they are keeping up with a) trash, b) trimming foliage off the trails, c) weed eating, d) pulling up poison ivy near the trails.

They are behind on informational sign replacement due in large part to an inability to secure the best paper for the job. We are continuing to try and solve this problem and will make sign replacement a high priority as soon as possible.

They are awaiting the following POA crew work projects:

- a. Rock work in Avalon creek aimed at shoring up the eroding trail.

b. Tractor work on the trail connecting the south end of the Dave Wiemer bridge to the top west end of the dam. This is to divert runoff into the lily pond and away from the bridge, where significant erosion has occurred.

c. Construction of two steel bench supports to replace the ones destroyed in the waterfall overlook removal project. The volunteers have offered to replant the benches once the supports are constructed.

Amenity: BV POA Shooting Range
Committee Member: Matt Zimmerman
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

There were 7 people actively shooting on the rifle range. Four were shooting pistols and the other 3 were shooting rifles. Everything looked great and clean. The gun range area is in good shape. The bathrooms were clean. Landscaping looked good. The shelters and benching are in good shape. The parking area is in good shape and the area around it clean. The areas around the shooting areas have buckets and a broom for casing. It appears everyone is using this, bc the walkways have been very clean both times I have went.

Areas for Review:

If you google the gun range, it shows it is only open on Wednesday and Fridays. That is for the skeet/trap range. The pistol/rifle range has specific hours based on months. The pistol/rifle range is only closed on Mondays right now. Might update hours on the google search.

I went back early after the last meeting for this inspection. The 2 items I will check on next inspection from last meeting.

Member Interactions:

Spoke with one member and he said that he brings his kid out often to teach him how to shoot and how to safely handle a firearm. I thought this was cool that not only is the range used for shooting, but members use it for gun safety for their kids.

Additional Observations:

There is an open house at the skeet/trap range on August 13th from 5pm – 7pm. They have a lot of neat things planned for the event. They will have food, prizes, education and more. I have seen one email about it at the very bottom of it. Might want to send another POA email show casing this event at the top so more are informed.

Amenity: Trails/Greenway
Committee Member: Chris Stockman
Review Month/Date: August 2022

Overall Condition:

The greenway is in fine shape we just have the small gravel wash recurring just after the entrance attendant building. There was a trail maintenance day on the Little Sugar trails this past Saturday and 38 volunteers attended to repair and groom trails. So far this year the FAST-TAP volunteers have registered 2,500 hours on trail upkeep on both our trail systems.

Areas for Review:

The Greenway going through Blowing Spring crosses over the park's access road two times. I often see cars traveling this road well over the posted speed limit of 15 MPH. A biker was almost hit at one of these crossings, so I recommend the speed bumps be rebuilt to current standards and increased in number.

Member Interactions: None

Additional Observations: None

New Business:

REC JAC 2023 Capital Project Recommendations:

RECREATION JAC CAPITAL PROJECT RECCOMENDATION 2023	
Project	Committee Rank
Update Kingsdale Pool House	1
Update Metfield Pool House	2
Replace Riordan Playground	3
Tanyard Creek Overflow Lot Trail Access	4
Bike/Skills Park at Loch Lomond Recreation Complex Need youth amenities on this side of the city	5
Indoor Tennis Courts at Kingsdale Enclose courts 1 and 2	6
Add a playground at Blowing Springs Lots of young families visiting/camping and children playing in the area	7
Add a container at Blowing Springs Sell souvenir apparel, momentos and basic bicycle support items, great service and income for the POA	8
Non Capital Project Recommendations: Not ranked	
Add Kayak/SUP launch Lake Avalon Increase in non motorized boat registration	
Add Kayak/SUP Launch Lake Ann Increase in non motorized boat registration	
Roadside sign identifying Loch Lomond Recreation Complex	
Class/Camp Recommendations: Not ranked	
Youth Disc Golf Clinic 4, 1 1/2 hour sessions ages 10-18, skill development, Branchwood	
Kids Fishing & Conservation Class at the Lakes Monthly Fridays, 10am, all kids welcome 6+	
Guided Kids Mountain Biking Club Monthly, Fridays, 5pm ages 8-14 boys and girls	
POA Family sponsored bike ride Monthly Metfield Connector, end at Gear Garden 7pm	
Family Halloween Event	
Class Recommendations to add with Riordan Opening	
Parent and Child Yoga Weekly, 10 am, 30 min, infant to preschool	
Sneakers in Training BOOM (Kid version of Silver Sneakers BOOM) weekly, 4:30 pm, 30 min, ages 6-12 \$4	
Kids Zumba Weekly, 5:00, 30 minutes, ages 6-12, \$4	
Kids Brazilian Jiu Jitsu by T.O.S.S. Academy Weekly, 4:30, all ages	
Adults low impact Jiu Jitsu by T.O.S.S. Weekly, 6 am, 11:30 am	

POA Staff Reports:

Tom Judson: Conducted annual committee training focusing on the policies that govern the committees. Reported on KPIs: Activity cards up 13%, Guest passes increase of 3,800, boat registrations up 7.5%

Rick Echols: Lake Avalon sinkhole pour is curing. 12 POA rangers on duty working in pairs under hot weather work guidelines. 7700 ranger contacts for the month of July. 3 rangers selected for celebrating success awards. Fish ponds are under construction at Loch Lomond dam. Seeking city variance for Lake Windsor dock installation. All lake dams be sprayed to prevent wooded vegetation. Baseball field repairs including the astro turf are now on the list for repair. 5,000 channel catfish stocked at lake Avalon

John Urquhart: Trap and Skeet numbers lower this period vs. last year due to hot weather but rifle and pistol range showing a 20% increase. New rifle racks will be requested in the next budget. Open house at the trap and skeet range Saturday 8/13.

Joan Glubczynski: Blowing Springs remains very busy but tent camping down due to the hot weather. Pools and beach use way up. The Metfield pool will be closing on 8/14 and the beach will be going to weekend hours for back to school. Kingsdale pools will remain open until mid-September pending weather conditions. The weekday rental boat price reduction has increased activity at the marina. Pavilion rental is notably high this season.

Judy Griffin: Mentioned new marketing staff and some of their projects. Finalizing Inside Bella Vista magazine for print.

Next Committee Meeting September 12, 4:00 pm Boardroom and Live Stream