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POA Recreation Joint Advisory Committee

March 10, 2025 - Boardroom 4:00 pm and Live Stream

Welcome/Call to Order: Chair Robert Williams called the Meeting to Order

Attendance:

Members: Robert Williams, Larry Lopardo,
Keith McCloskey, Cory Spruiell, Richard Taylor, Alan Atkins

Staff: Tom Judson, Rick Echols, John Urquhart, Jessica McCrary, Trey Anson, Roland Neville,

Board Liaisons: Jeff Hendren, Kathleen Coughlin

Visitors/Guests: One Member was present, but he did not address the JAC

Current Business:

- **February meeting minutes approved**
- Tom Judson provided the gun range construction update.
  - We hope to open April 1, subject to weather and other construction delays
- John Urquhart provided further info:
  - usage is first come, first served. No reservations.
  - The protective panels are made of a Kevlar-like substance set in fiberglass. John personally tested the materials before they were ordered for us;

New Business

- Roland Neville reported that the Animal Shelter wants to hold its 20th Annual Wiener Race on the Berksdale Trail South on October 11, 2025, with a contingent weather delay day of October 12
  - **THE COMMITTEE APPROVED THIS REQUEST**

Board Liaisons

- The Board Liaisons thanked the Committee for its work

Staff Reports

- Tom Judson reported that there will be a Forum for the candidates running for the POA Board. Four folks are running for three spots. The Forum will be 6p on March 18 at the Rec.

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- Rick Echols reported that:
  - the Norwood lake siphon is off and the boat ramp will be lengthened and widened
  - The Rangers had 965 contacts in February. That is down from the January contacts, and down from Feb 2024
  - Two open grounds maintenance positions have been filled
  - Brittany is down twenty-one”
  - Lomond will have trout stocking
  - Dredging at London and Granton will occur after the equipment is moved from the gun range
  - We will have a grass carp catching contest. These were introduced to control an invasive weed, but now that this “work” is done, we need to get the carp out

- John Urquhart reported that:
  - we are now entering the busy trap season, including tournaments
  - we have a new POS system for the ranges
  - Feb 2025 usage was the same as Jan 2025, despite losing two days to weather

- Trey Anson
  - usage is up 16% from Jan 2024, but down from Feb 2024. 2024 weather was better;
  - work on the Back 40 walkway is done
  - the Lancashire tunnel will be fixed
  - one of the top Arkansas trail maintenance organizations, FAST, held its board meeting at the BVCC for the 1st time. They will revisit us in June
  - The Trailblazers organization has hired a new volunteer coordinator

- Roland Neville
  - The Spring Bazaar will be held at the Rec on April 12
  - there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at the Rec on April 19
  - Metfield will receive four new treadmills
  - Branchwood will soon receive pickleball gates
  - Pioneer beer cups, which e title a user to a $1 discount upon post-purchase use, will be available at the Gear Garden

<u>Further Info</u>

the Marina opens April 1, and the Gear Garden after that

Amenity Reports:

Amenity: Blowing Springs/Gear Garden

Larry Lopardo–February 2025—visited March 5, 2025 at 330p

Overall Condition:

Very Good. I spoke with employee Bernie, who had nothing to add to my observations. The 1st Campground lot was about ⅓ full. There were fewer campers in the 2nd Lot. We are taking reservations for the October Big Sugar race, and we are almost full for Spring Break.

***Q**: When will the online registration system be operational? Our staff is still taking reservations by phone.*

Areas for Review:

The same as previously: potholes as you enter Lot 1, paint needed on the GG water station, the bench at the Blowing Springs parking lot needs repainting. In addition:

-at the trail head map in the trail parking lot the "dogs must be leashed" sign is almost detached. I tried to reattach;

-the little "creek" that crosses the road at the 1st lot entrance had standing water

-there are potholes in the 2nd lot, near the entrance

Member/Guest Interactions:

I spoke with two campers. They were here from Baltimore to bike. This is their first time in the area, and they have no complaints about our facilities. They wanted to rent a kayak , but I told them the Marina isn't yet open.

Additional observations:

None

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The Park must have been well used the day before as both trash cans were full and restroom needed to be serviced. Landscape looked good.

Areas for Review:
1. I have attached a picture of two large pieces of something on the shore by the fish cleaning station. I do not know what these are but they look like they do not belong.
2. 3 of the eighteen watercrafts have their 2025 sticker so that is improving!

Member Interactions:
There were no members to interact with while I visited.

Additional Observations:

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**Amenity: Gun/Archery Range(s)**
**Committee Member: Brian Mickelson**
**Review Month/Year: February 2025**

**Overall Condition:**
The pistol, rifle, and archery ranges are currently closed for construction with progress being reported by Tom Judson. The trap & skeet area is in good overall condition. Other structures are in good condition, except as noted in previous reports or as listed below:

**Areas for Review:**
There are currently no areas for review.
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Member Interactions:
There were over two dozen individuals using all four lanes at the trap and skeet area at the time of review. This, without doubt, is a well-used facility within the group of POA amenities. I did not speak with any of the participants as all were engaged in the discharging of firearms or actively assisting those individuals.

Additional Observations:
There are no additional observations for this report.

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Amenity: Lake Ann Dam Park / Boat Ramp Park

Committee Member: Keith McCloskey

Review Month/Year: FEB 2025

Dam Park Visited 3/05

Overall Condition: Visited WED after strong wind and some rain.

Areas in great shape around waterfall and bridge. Damn docks all good

and trash cans empty and Port-a-let good.

Member Interactions: none

Areas for Review: Everything is in good shape.

Launch Area - reviewed 3/05

Overall Condition – grass starting to turn green and weeds starting to

come up. Pavilion / BBQ areas good. Port-a-let's both clean/stocked.

Trash cans good. Ramp & cleaning station well kept.

Areas for Review – many small limbs fallen around cement picnic table.

A newly assembled boat dock is tied to the leased boat space. Not sure

How long there but has a BV violation attached. Still two canoes with twenty-three
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or later registration. One piece of dock bumper still hanging loose on

right side of launch dock. This was noted in November. (see pics)

Member Interactions - none.

Additional Observations – none

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**entity: London Park**
**Committee Member: Robert Williams**
**Review Month/Year: February 2025**

**Overall Condition:** Restrooms were locked in the winter
The Pavilion area looked great
The fish cleaning station was clean

**Areas for Review**: None

**Member Interactions:** Several folks were training their dogs in the greenway area. They commented on the tracks someone carved into the grass, otherwise all was positive.

**Additional Observations:** Deep tire tracks were carved into the greenway. It looked like someone was testing their off-road mudding skills. All else looked great.

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Amenity: Metfield Park and Clubhouse

Committee Member: Keith McCloskey

Review Month/Year: FEB 2025

Overall Condition: Visited 3/05/25

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Picnic / Pickleball Area

Great shape overall. Both portable and permanent bathrooms are clean and stocked.

Clubhouse and workout facilities are in very good condition

Areas for Review: Pickleball courts have two signs and one wind screen pulling away and in need of security ties

Member Interactions: Good interaction with Cheryl at Fitness Center. She talked about how Jessica is so quick to respond whenever she has feedback or needs anything. She also said there was a small issue with the parking lot lights. Whenever the power flashes out the lights out, the parking lot lights need to be reset by maintenance to come on at dark. Not sure if anything could be done before we have a safety issue.

Additional Observations: nothing additional

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**Amenity: Loch Lomond Rec Area**
**Committee Member: Cory Spruiell**
**Review Month/Year: Feb 2025**

**Overall Condition:**

The area was moderately busy and in good condition. Bathrooms were clean and trashcans were empty. Dog park is being reseeded, and a portion is blocked off.

**Areas for Review:**

There is a metal post with the concrete still attached laying on the ground between the parking lot and large dog area.

**Member Interactions:**

The member I talked to commented on her overall satisfaction with the park but noted that the furniture looks worn.

**Additional Observations:**
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N/A

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**Amenity: Kingsdale Complex**

**Committee Member: Richard Taylor**

**Review Month/Year, February 2025**

**Tennis Center**

Overall Condition: The facility was in good shape. The clubhouse has been cleaned up and decorated for the holidays. Courts 3,4,7, and 8 are in need of resurfacing. There are numerous cracks and dead spots. The court lights are very old and outdated. The lights should be updated if/when the budget allows.

Areas for Review: Resurfacing of courts 3,4,7,and 8 and updating of court lights

Member interaction: I spoke with some tennis members, and they are all very happy with the new Tennis Director, Kelli. There were some comments from members questioning why the wind screens had been rolled up recently.

**Rec Center**

Overall Condition: Everything looked great at the Rec Center.

Areas for Review: None

**Pools**

Overall Condition: Pools are closed for the season. Everything was in good shape.

Areas for Review: None at this time.

**Mini Golf**

Overall Condition: The Mini Golf course was in good condition.

Areas for Review: None at this time.

**Playground and other areas**

Overall Condition: The playground looks good.

The Pavillion was in good shape.
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Areas for Review:  None at this time.

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AMENITY: Tanyard Creek Park

Overall Condition:

Several sunny days in February brought crowds out to the park. The overflow parking lot was half full-on Sunday March 2. Park is  in excellent working order, providing paved and soft trails for hikers, nature seekers and pet walkers.

Bathrooms are clean and in good working condition.

Poop bags available for pets.

Pavilion clean , available for rental.

Areas for Review:

The asphalt sidewalk from the main parking lot to paved trail has several areas needing repair.

Member Interactions:

Bella Vista members were pleased with the trails, waterfalls, and overall beauty.

I performed a workday on February 14 th. with the Tanyard Creek Nature Park Volunteers. The Park had very few visitors. I was lucky to interview a group of seven women who were taking a trip together out of Tulsa. Had a lengthy discussion about their travels and what their thoughts were about TCP. Impressive, that is what they said! They wanted to know who keep the Park so clean and well kept. I told them.

Additional Observations:

Would like to know where the trail Extension from the Park to Tanyard Creek Golf parking lot would be.

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Blowing Springs Greenway Trail /Trails

Alan Atkins

February 2025

Overall condition:

Clean of litter, very well maintained.

Areas for Review:

Limbs and gravel wash areas from recent storms on several sections between the front parking lot to  Euston Road.

Member Interactions:

Several interactions with dog walkers. All individuals were very complimentary of the BSGT.

Additional Observations:

Water-fill station at front parking lot/trailhead needed.

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**Amenity:  Tiree Park**
**Committee Member:  Liz Howie**
**Review Month/Year:  March 2, 2025**

**Overall Condition:**
The lawns and parking areas were well maintained and free of trash. The trashcans were not filled to capacity. The Portable Potty was maintained properly.

**Areas for Review:**

1. **Two of the five watercraft that are stored have a 2025 sticker**

**Member Interaction:**
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I have attached a picture of my interaction with members(of the floating/flying type!) as no humans were there while I was walking around!

**Additional Observation**