

Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Board Minutes

April 24, 2012

6:00pm

Present: Andy Ward, Frank Schmidt, Jane Birdwell, Roger Lancina, Lori Cordell, Mike Kelly

Absent: Glen Garrett

Staff Present: Tim Ellis, Amy Mitchell, Jack Presley

Andy Ward called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Minutes were not approved from the Orientation Meeting because minutes were not taken.

Agenda Items:

Parks Director Report

Amy Mitchell distributed and discussed the Director's Report for the second quarter of 2012. Included was information related to improvements to the Community Center and Peay Park through application of the LPRF Grant. She listed the special events that would take place April – July, gave participation numbers for youth sports leagues (513 rec soccer, 200 softball, and 475 baseball), discussed updates at Pleasant Green Pool including refurbishment completion, swim team and lesson information, and marketing, explained what was going on at Mansker's Station including school tours, education series, Master Gardeners, and discussed projects completed over the last year including lighting fields 1 and 2, infield renovations on fields 5-8, parking lot paving, trail paving, rebuild of the blacksmith shop, gym floor refinishing, changing lighting in gym and game room, and refurbishment of the pool.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

- a. Handicap Parking – Jane Birdwell stated concerns related to the need for more handicap parking at Moss-Wright Park. She said that van access spots need to be added and other areas needed to be looked at for adding spaces.
- b. Additional Ball Fields – Jane Birdwell stated that she had been approached about the need to add additional ball fields to Moss-Wright Park. Amy Mitchell stated that the only available area to do that was in the bottoms. Tim Ellis said that since it was a flood way, it would be difficult, if not impossible, because of the need for chain link fencing. Mike Kelly stated that softball numbers were down but they still get the same amount of time as baseball (2 fields each). Amy Mitchell stated that softball gave baseball use of one field one night during the week and all day on Saturday. Andy Ward suggested that we needed to encourage the leagues to work together for a fair amount of time.
- c. Mansker's Station Maintenance – Jane Birdwell is concerned about the maintenance needs of both the fort and the Bowen House and stated that a maintenance plan needed to be put in place. Frank Schmidt asked if Mansker's Station was a revenue generating program. Amy Mitchell said it was not, but the staff is in the process of building a program and that the goal was to be more of a cultural asset than revenue generating.
- d. 4 Mile Classic – Frank Schmidt brought concerns related to the condition of the trail and stated that in his opinion, the race should not occur if the trail does not get paved prior to the scheduled date of the race. Amy Mitchell was going to try to check with the asphalt company to see if it was possible to get onto a paving schedule prior to July 28.

- e. Trail – Andy Ward raised concerns regarding the combination of pedestrian and vehicular traffic on the roads in the park. He stated that we need to make it a priority to get more dedicated areas to pedestrians. Tim Ellis stated that this would be accomplished through the greenway project.
- f. Amphitheater – Andy Ward suggested that a venue for people interested in music and arts would be a good addition to the park system and suggested Pleasant Green as a possible site.

Frank Schmidt made a motion to recommend improvements. Second by Mike Kelly.

Comments from Board Members and Staff

- Roger Lancina advised the group that the Senior Games started Monday, April 30.
- Tim Ellis advised that the budget process was ahead of schedule and that there were several improvements in the plan for the parks.
- Frank Schmidt stated that there were ladies concerned about the trail lights not being on in the morning and suggested that the timers be changed.
- Andy Ward stated that there was a hole in a slide. Amy Mitchell advised that the slide had been taken out of use and that the part was on order.
- Lori Cordell was pleased that Pleasant Green was getting dedicated marketing and that the idea of an amphitheater at Pleasant Green sounded like a good idea.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm.