

RECREATION AND PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

March 23rd, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Donald Gerkin, Tony Rosas, Michael Rodgers, Brad Rockwood, Michael Duffy, Dave Ferguson, Megan Vaughn

Members Excused: Tom Long, Kristin Darby, Caitlin Christ, Anita Taylor

Staff Present: Lisa Carroll, Will Brozy, Laura Tawes, Becky Eckard, Brad Rogers, Dawn Harry, Ann Marie Foster, Chris Duffy, Jenna Mele, Roberta Windham

Ex-Officio Member Present: Jeff Degitz

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board met on March 23, 2022 at Hashawha Environmental Center. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Donald Gerkin, Chair Elect.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Jeff Degitz, Commissioners, Board members and staff introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Michael Rodgers moved to approve the February 23rd, 2022 meeting minutes; Brad Rockwood seconded, all concurred and minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

1. **Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County Walks in the Park** – Recreation and Parks is hosting a series of Walk Carroll events including one walk each month in a different park from March through December this year. Dates and locations are listed on our web site. Commissioner Rothstein suggested offering an incentive to those who attend the walks. Lisa Carroll will look into purchasing a Fitbit for a prize drawing.
2. **Therapeutic Recreation Day** – This annual Adaptive Recreation event will be held on Tuesday, June 14 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Carroll County Farm Museum. Commissioner Rothstein suggested promoting the event with Flag Day.
3. **Family Summer Bash** – This new event will be held on Friday, July 15, 2022, from 4-9 pm. Event will include live music, food and beverages, beer & wine garden, games for kids and adults and more. Tickets \$10 in advance or \$12 day of event. All proceeds benefit the Carroll County Park Legacy Fund.
4. **50th Anniversary Closing Activity** – We will be sending out information regarding the opportunity from past and present staff, volunteers, board members and participants to share their recreation and parks story with a brief video message. Videos can be submitted using cell phones, virtual meeting format or recorded at County Office

Building. This will allow people to reconnect and participate without having to travel or attend large in person event.

5. **Piney Run Big Fish contest** – Contest is underway and last year’s winner David Neuwiller is the current leader with a 35 ½” striped bass.
6. **Capital Budget Update** – Recommended operating and capital budgets have been presented to Commissioners; recommended capital budget does not include the Union Mills Recreation Area master plan project – a topic of discussion in open session on March 17. Input for next year’s capital budget requests is due from recreation councils, towns & public via web site by April 15.
7. **State Budget Update** – Local Park & Playground Infrastructure (LPPI) funding has once again been proposed in state budget. The amount of funding will likely be between \$500k and \$1m for County projects and will be finalized before next Advisory Board meeting.
8. **Youth Fishing Rodeos** – The Henry Lysy Youth Fishing Rodeo will be held on April 23 from 8 am – noon at the Westminster Community Pond and the pier at the park will be dedicated to Mr. Lysy that day. The Krimgold Park Youth Fishing Rodeo will be held on May 22, 8 am – noon.
9. **Leveraging Staff Efforts with Volunteers** – Our team of five (5) Photo Ambassadors has hit the ground running, attending recent events and submitting photos for department usage. Over 1/3 of county parks are now supported by ten (10) organizations performing regular volunteer trash clean up days through our Helpings Hands Program

County Commissioner Comments:

County Commissioners Richard Weaver and Ed Rothstein each shared comments expressing their appreciation for the Department’s efforts and thanking the Advisory board for extending the invitation to the meeting. Commissioners Stephen Wantz, Dennis Frazier, and C. Eric Bouchat regretfully sent their regards for missing the meeting.

Commissioner Weaver spoke about the Inaugural Carroll County Veterans Celebration on Sunday, May 15, 2022 at the Farm Museum. Recreation and Parks will work to promote this event. Commissioner Rothstein suggested having a give-away, such as a Fitbit, to help promote the Walk in the Park events sponsored by the Partnership for Healthier Carroll County at local county parks.

Review of Recent Capital Improvements - Will Brozy

Will Brozy, Park Development Manager, highlighted projects that have been completed over the last 2 years using Capital Funding. This included completion of 17 projects identified in the Community Investment Plan, 29 self-help projects and 25 park restoration projects.

Election of Vice Chairman:

Michael Duffy moved to approve Dave Ferguson as Vice Chair, Tony Rosas seconded, and all concurred. This meeting concludes Kristin Darby's term as Chair and the Board expressed their appreciation to her for her efforts. Donald Gerkin assumes the position of Chair at the conclusion of this meeting.

Other Business:

Lisa Carroll mentioned that July is Park and Recreation Month. This year will have another hunt which will feature gnome stickers placed throughout the parks. If you have other suggestions, they can be submitted to Lisa for consideration.

Public Comments:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, May 25th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. On a motion by Brad Rockwood, Michael Rodgers seconded, and concurred by all, the meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff R. Degitz

Jeff R. Degitz, Director

Laura Tawes

Laura Tawes, Secretary