

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular meeting at the Richlands Recreation Park on March 20, 2017 at 7:00PM with the following present:

Recreation Director: Fred Phillips

Other Town Staff: George West (Street Department), Frank Dorton (Chief of Police)

Richlands Town Council Members: Mary Ann Strong

Recreation Commission Members: Frances Meadows, Craig Earls, Joe McCall, Tony Cordle, LaRhonda Lindsey, Anthony Cox, Jeff Hurst

Richlands REC Commission Mary Ann Strong opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the March Commission meeting.

Mary Ann Strong- We did not have a response from Brandon Smith for the February and March meetings. The board discussed him living outside of Richlands and Honaker is outside of "local" area. We need to be cautious about removing him per the rules.

Tony Cordle- He is on nightshift and may not be able attend due to his schedule.

Mary Ann Strong- We have not received any communication from him that he will not be attending the meetings.

Craig Earls- Provided the Commission with the February meeting minutes. Mary Ann Strong requested a change to page one, she emailed Brandon Smith and not texted him.

Tony Cordle- Motion to approve the February meeting minutes with requested changes. Jeff Hurst seconded the motion. Mary Ann Strong- Any further discussion on minutes? No discussion, approved 7/0.

Tony Cordle- I will talk to Brandon Smith to see if he wants to still be on the Commission. However, if you live in Honaker I do not feel you should be on the board. I think it is safe to remove him. Motion for Mary Ann Strong to remove Brandon Smith from the Commission, LaRhonda Lindsey seconded the motion. Mary Ann Strong- Any further discussion on minutes? No discussion, approved 7/0.

Fred Phillips- This is the project we have going on in the small conference room here at the Rec Park. The wet bar and lights are being installed for this room. We have the TV and we are finishing the painting and carpet. The old lights were pulling 8.5 amps and the new LED lights only pull 2 amps. This should help us save some on the electricity. We do need to purchase table and chairs for this room. Downstairs we are starting to remove the walls in the old bathrooms for the weight room. We are putting a divider in current gym so that we have new bathrooms. We will also have automatic flushers and baby changing stations for use in the new bathrooms. Everything will be LED and automatic. We are waiting to secure the additional 75K for the weight room. We used the detainees from Honaker to do a lot of the manual labor like busting out the walls etc. Richlands Youth Basketball League (RYBL) finished up with another successful basketball season. Jeff Hurst is in charge and will purchase new small goals for the younger kids. He also gave money towards the 6.5K on the bathrooms. The town is footing bill for labor.

George West- We hope to cut the floor within the next few days for the new bathroom plumbing. We are upgrading the water flow up here in these bathrooms as well. The smaller lines do not have enough flow for the current bathrooms, so they must be upgraded at the same time.

Fred Phillips- During the construction downstairs, over the next 2 months, the bathrooms upstairs will be used. This was Ronnie Cordle's idea and we are taking off with it. This building has been here since 1976 and not a lot has been done to it since it was built.

Tony Cordle- We would like to have a couple of cornhole tournaments here to help with the Rec Park and the upgrades will be great for that.

Fred Phillips- People like to give towards new things and we want to keep the momentum going.

George West- Will we have detainees or workers to help?

Fred Phillips- Yes, we will have help with the detainees.

Anthony Cox- Maybe we can look at using Vocational Center students to help with the concrete and block work.

Tony Cordle- Jeff did a great job this year with RYBL and we thank you for your hard work with the league this year.

Craig Earls – Little League Agenda Items

We are having a lot of requests to use the Williams complex field and Flanary complex fields for co-ed softball tournaments after we no longer have control over the fields. We are planning to invest heavily in the fields this year and we would like to have a process in place to request the fields outside of the time little league has the fields to ensure that they do not play when the field conditions do not allow for it. We want to find a solution that fits everyone.

Fred Phillips- Why do you only have it for a few months anyways? Can we adjust the agreement so that Little League has it for the entire period?

Craig Earls- We are certainly interested in working through those details. I think it is worth it for us to look at the agreement and see if that is a possibility. That would solve a lot of the problems. Also, what is the current rule around taking money down at Williams field? I know we had some issues with that a few years ago when the High School was taking gate money.

Fred Phillips- If you take money down at fields, it has to break even, and we cannot take money home. You can't change for attendance, but if you take a tournament fee you can't leave with it. It must be donated to an organization etc.

Tony Cordle- Do we have room down by basketball court for practices?

Fred Phillips- Yes we do. Also, if people rent the shelter and see the ball field there they will use it.

Craig Earls- We think that is ok, we are talking more along the lines of tournaments. A few years ago they played in the pouring rain and it really messed the fields up. We just want to prevent that from happening again.

Tony Cordle- Brandon Smith had way too much control of the field here at the Rec Park. We need to make sure that does not happen again.

Fred Phillips- Could they give a donation to field \$100/per tournament to help with expenses on the fields?

Tony Cordle- I am not for sure if they would be able to pay that since they do it for charity a lot of times.

Mary Ann Strong- A form with a deposit is a good idea.

Craig Earls- We don't have to take action now, but can work on it over the next few months to get an approach.

Joe McCall- We do need paperwork to change the fields and we need to make sure it is done the right way.

Tony Cordle- When you eliminate fields they are gone for people to practice. I am from Raven and we don't want to go to the school to practice due to fields.

Anthony Cox- The fields are rough down there to practice on.

Craig – Smoking areas at the Flanary and Williams complexes.

Fred Phillips – We should all meet with Frank Dorton to define the designated smoking areas.

Chief Dorton: AS long as they have room that is marked off we are good, that should be all we need.

Mary Ann Strong- Traffic Flow for the Rec Park is still an issue. Ronnie Cordle came and talked to Town Council about the traffic flow suggestions.

Chief Dorton- Ronnie wants a one way street for the rec park. The big issue is out here where you are coming the left hand turn at the dumpster. What we suggest is leave it no parking at the dumpster. Also, take out the parking where there is no lane. At the entrance to tennis courts we will have hash marks and a no left turn sign at the entrance and force them around. That will open 150ft of parking at the tennis courts. We cannot put a physical barrier due to large tractor trailers.

Fred Phillips- This is not a road, so we would not be able to give them a ticket. If you took the barrier down you they will still come in the wrong way.

George West- We can have a sign for "do not enter" as well.

Chief Dorton- We do not have a way to stop everyone, but this should improve the situation.

Frances Meadows- This is a great start.

Jeff Hurst- The paint may help and we also put the sawhorse there to help control the traffic. We could also do something in the newspaper etc. to help get the word out.

Frances Meadows made a motion to approve the new traffic flow with paint and new signage. LaRhonda Lindsey seconded the motion. Mary Ann Strong- Any further discussion on minutes? No discussion, approved 6/0.

Frances Meadows- Who do we need to ask about the sign on the light pole. We would like that on the red light.

Chief Dorton- The town would be the one to put it up. We have RR Xsing signs so we may be limited on where we can put the sign.

Mary Ann Strong- Maybe by next meeting we can look and see what we have as options for the signs. Gorge can you check on that?

George West- Yes, I can check.

Jeff Hurst- Soccer project

One of the charitable foundations called back last week, and it seems like they may want to help with it. We requested 75K but not for sure what they will give. They need more information from us to move forward. They may be interested in matching funds if we can raise more. We discussed budgets and looking at how we can raise the remaining amount. That progress was encouraging. We are talking with the contractor to see what the foundation amount will be. We also had a bidding war for the turf and were able to talk them down quite a bit.

Tony Cordle- Whoever does the foundation do they need to be certified by the turf company?

Jeff Hurst- The company will send someone to check to make sure it is good. Getting the compaction ratings for the stone is important. We sent other requests to more foundations. We had Del-rick take a look but we are waiting on the engineer to figure out the costs.

Frances Meadows- Have you talked to the hospital about fundraising?

Jeff Hurst- Yes, we are looking at talking to them, but we have not talked to them yet.

Frances Meadows- If you have a large donation do you have any option for name on the complex?

Jeff Hurst- We have some that want a name and some that don't, but we have thought about that.

LaRhonda Lindsey- When you have the foundations signed up they will get individual contributions etc.

Jeff Hurst- We are meeting with Tim Taylor and Brad Ratliff about the lease agreement of the field. Brad will write it up as a 5 year and auto-renewable lease. Brad is going to give us some leeway on usage if outside entities want to use it. We would guidelines and things for them to go by in the agreement. There is an exit clause if we don't have seasons on the field for 3 years wit will expire etc.

Mary Ann Strong- Great progress. I was at an Economic Committee meeting and they asked about the picnic shelters at rec par.

Fred Phillips- They have graffiti and bad things going on up there. People go up there to party and they cut the wires. We took the picnic tables and painted them, but it is not used that much. There are things up there that concerned people and we have bad ruts in the roads up there. So, it is not safe or useable. It is probably best to just leave it alone, it is a tough situation.

Tony Cordle- The only way to do it you could install the metal gate.

Fred Phillips- People came prior in on bikes and rode trails up there.

Tony Cordle- What happened to the walking trail for the river with VT?

Fred Phillips- Project job stopped

Frances Meadows – Rod Curry talked to them, and they were interested, but the money seems to be the issue.

No further comments.

Next meeting - April 17

Mary Ann Strong- Adjourned meeting.