

March 24, 2022 – Park Authority Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm at The Washington County Building by Ben Casteel and zoom.

Present: Ben Casteel - Chairman, Jennifer Blankenship (zoom), Keith Owens, Jim Hutton, Claude Worrell, Tony Fetty, Keith Bazyk, Joy Allen

Absent: Michael Johnson.

Public Comment: None Available

Park Authority Manager Report:

1. Trying to get everything situated and cleaned up so we can open. Once we get everything in running order after winter, we will start working on the new gate. We do not have electronics but waiting to see how Splash Pad develops financially.
2. We have one new guy at the County Park. I have another person in the works for the park and two in the works for Glade Park

Recreation Department Report: Joy Allen

1. Beaver Dam is up and running.
2. Working on summer programs currently, it is a busy time.

A motion to approve the February 2022, minutes was made by Jim Hutton and seconded by Keith Owens. The motion passed 5-0-0.

A motion was made to approve the March payroll by Jennifer Blankenship and seconded by Jim Hutton. Motion passed 5-0-0.

A motion was made by Keith Owens to approve the February financial report and seconded by Keith Bazyk. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Old Business:

1. Splash Pad Project- I talk to Mount Rogers on a regular basis and we are waiting.
2. Park Authority Responsibilities- After talking to Mike Rush and County Administrator, with the transition of Keith Owen's retirement and us trying to grow the authority, it seems it would be best to change the name of the authority to include Parks & Recreation.
 - a. After much discussion, Ben Casteel made a motion to restructure and rename the current Washington County Park Authority to a Washington County Parks & Recreation Authority with the guidance

and approval from the Washington County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Keith Owens. Motion passed 6-0-0

New Business:

1. Leo Sholes Park Update- Keith Owens gave an update on the history of Sholes Park and the communication from today about Leo Shole being booked and Glade Softball not able to use the fields. There has been no communication from Glade Area Little League on scheduling practices and games, whereas, Cornerstone and Damascus called back in January to make their reservations. In years past, little leagues get first priority. When I hadn't heard anything from Glade, we made the reservation with Cornerstone.

After much discussion, the board decided to create a packet full of rules and regulations with an application for each little league department that will need to be reviewed, filled out and returned with their practice and game schedules for 2023. This will need to be returned by Jan 31, 2023, to be eligible to play in the 2023 season. Communication is a must moving forward. Keith Owens said he would communicate with the Glade Area Little League.

Ben Casteel suggested to call a special meeting at Leo Sholes Park, possibly grill some hotdogs and talk to the community to see what they would like to see at the park.

2. Whitaker Hollow Park Future:
What do we want to do with WHP? Do we work with DWR and ask for some help or do we give it back to DWR? We have to give a 175 day notice before giving it back to DWR.

After much discussion, it may be best to turn it back over to DWR.

A motion was made to move April's meeting to 6:30 PM next month. Also, the May meeting will be at the Campground.

Next scheduled meeting is April 28, 2022, at 6:30 pm at The Washington County Building.

A motion to adjourn by Jennifer Blankenship and seconded by Keith Owens. Motion passed 6-0-0.