

The monthly meeting of the Washington County Park Authority was held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Washington County Building.

Present: Jennifer Blankenship, Lisa Wilson, Tony Fetty, Jim Hutton (Vice Chairman), Stuart Wright, Ben Casteel (Chairman), Steven Statzer (Secretary).

Absent: Claude Worrell.

Guests: Wayne Stevens, Glade Spring Little League Board and Parents

Agenda

1. Call to Order: meeting was called to order at 6:39 PM.
2. Public Comment: 5 members of the public were present for comment:
David Mccracken, an umpire and volunteer with the little league to speak against the fee for usage of the field at leo sholes.
Devin Phillips, spoke against the fee, citing increases in little league registration costs and requests for assistance.
Adam Poole, Asked why the little league cannot assist with the operations for the park to offset costs, while expressing concern over the fee schedule.
Justin Frye, concessions manager. He stated they had to remove their own trash, and is concerned about the charge for facilities when the facilities available are limited according to his statement. The county issues \$5,743 to the LL program annually. According to him, the registration fees are eaten up by the items for the field, and at the end of the season, it has run into the negative.
Wayne Stevens spoke about the payment to the park authority last year, and his concern about the local teams being charged. LL registration fees had increased by \$65 with a result ending in the negative, with 167 children registered.
3. Washington County Park Authority Manager Report:
 - Ben and Tony met with members from each organization to discuss scheduling, the timeframes required some minor work, but overall worked out fine.
 - To backfill Jason's position, Tony has begun the hiring process.

- Tony's truck broke down on Friday, but is back on.
 - Christmas in July has been moved to July 20th.
 - Spring cleaning at the park has begun.
 - Jim and the Service authority met to locate and begin work with the splash pad.
 - On March 3rd, board members and Students/Employees completed a tree planting.
4. Recreation Department Report: N/A
 5. Submitting and approval of the February Minutes: Steven Statzer made the motion to accept as amended, and a 2nd was given by Jennifer Blankenship. Motion passed 6-0-0
 6. Approval to pay the February Bills and Approval of the January Financial Report: The motion to approve was made by Steven Statzer, with a 2nd brought by Stuart Wright. Motion passed 6-0-0
 7. Old Business:
 - a. Leo Scholes Ballfield Scheduling: Steven Statzer made a motion to investigate and set up, if possible, a method to replace ballpark usage fees for teams with volunteer hours. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Motion passes 6-0-0.
 - b. The board made the decision to hold the next meeting at Leo Sholes park, weather permitting.
 8. New Business:
 - a. Potential Board Member Candidate
 - b. Mendota Trail/Legislative Update: The board was informed of the status of the DCR study about the Mendota Trail.
 - c. Highlands Festival: Jennifer Blankenship mentioned an opportunity to have a promotional event at the park for the festival.
 9. Board Member Action Items:
 - A. Ben Casteel - Park open Press Release
 - B. Jim Hutton -
 - C. Jennifer Blankenship - Park open press release
 - E. Claude Worrell -
 - F. Steven Statzer -
 - G. Stuart Wright -
 - H. Lisa Wilson -

Steven Statzer made the motion to Adjourn, with a second from

Jim Hutton, the motion passed 6-0-0 and the board adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Sincerely,

Ben Casteel, Chairman

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