

The monthly meeting of the Washington County Park Authority was held Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6:30 pm at the Washington County Gov't Center.

Present: Jim Hutton, Lisa Wilson, Claude Worrell, Steven Statzer (Chairman), Ben Casteel, Jennifer Blankenship, Rusty Belcher

Guests: Rick Call (invited by Jim to observe the meeting as he considers rotating off and suggests Rick as a potential replacement), Kevin Hill (filling in for Tony), Kathy Johnson, Jason Berry

Absent:

**Park Authority Meeting Agenda** –August 18, 2025  
6:30 PM, Washington County Government Building

1. **Public Comment:** Rick Call attended the Touch-a-Truck event and witnessed some of the issues with the gates including a lady trying to put in money with a line backed up. He also spoke with Tony about issues exiting with a trailer or boat due to a fence. Kathy Johnson relayed a concern from a camper of a man that threw a beer bottle out of his truck and was concerned about the glass. There was a complaint about ADA bathrooms not being available.
  
2. **Washington County Park Authority Manager Report:** Tony Fetty tendered his resignation on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025. Kevin Hill introduced himself as Tony's fill in. He currently maintains all county facilities. His intent is to keep the lights on and the wheels rolling until the end of the season October 31. He did check in on the park this morning. He is aware of issues with the gate, splash pad, and reservation system. He may use some of his workers to help to get the gate up and running. The splash pad is a money issue. He recommends beginning the search for November 1<sup>st</sup>. Tony left his phones and laptop, but wiped them clean before leaving. He suggested the idea of going cashless and believes that will be an easier and quicker setup. Discussion ensued around the gate issues. Kevin offered to be open in case anyone has questions and to refer public comments or concerns to him (423) 383-4800.

Tony recommended that several sites be made seasonal. These are included in the list that he provided before his departure. Season passes are now working on 1 gate, but not lane 2. Tony did leave a good amount of information in the form of a .zip file with several documents including assets, contacts, grant information, and . This was made available to all board members by the Chairman.

Ben made a motion to proceed with new business (7a) and discuss the Park Manager vacancy.

3. Recreation Department Report: N/A (see discussion under 7a)
4. Submitting and approval of the July Minutes (attached): Jim motioned to accept the minutes, Rusty seconded, All in favor, minutes approved (7-0-0)
5. Approval to pay the July Bills and Approval of the July Financial Report: Ben made a motion to approve the financial report and pay the bills, Claude seconded; all in favor motion carries (7-0-0)
6. Old Business:
7. New Business:
  - a. **Park Authority Manager Vacancy** – Kathy suggested reconsidering the health insurance package that was offered to Tony (park authority paying 100%). Jennifer poised the question of whether we are hiring for a park superintendent or a manager. Kathy also suggested that the position should be year-round rather than seasonal.
    - i. Jason Berry discussed having a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the potential of joining Parks and Recreation with the Authority as early as August 26. Jennifer asked if this would be a part of a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Jason offered that it could be added on the agenda as part of a regular meeting. Kevin suggested that if the Board of Supervisors and the Authority agreed that there should be a manager with assistant managers that run the campground and recreation branches. Jennifer explained some of the background and how this was the intention when Tony was hired. Jason suggested that because of changes from the COVID pandemic that the recreation side was then unable to operate.
    - ii. Discussion ensued around the splash pad project and the accurate costs of being able to complete the project.
    - iii. Discussion ensued around Beaverdam Park in Damascus and whether the Authority (whom currently manages it) or the County (whom invested but does not own it) should be running the park or if the Town of Damascus should resume with running the park.
    - iv. Kevin suggested that we should examine working hours and that he would not want to work weekends. He suggested the potential that for people that worked weekends could be paid for drive time. Kathy

suggested that an additional stipend for weekends could be given.

- v. Some discussion ensued about ADA-compliance for bathrooms. Jennifer suggested that there should be one at the shower house. Kevin said he would examine to see if one exists.
  - vi. Kathy suggested that you can change a position description as long as you give them 30 days. Kathy offered to assist with job descriptions.
  - vii. Jennifer made a motion to post a job announcement for the Washington County Park Superintendent after Kathy Johnson reviews the description. Claude seconded, motion carries unanimously (7-0-0)
  - viii. Ben made a motion to recess at the end of this meeting to a joint board meeting with the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on September 9 at 6:30 PM Rusty seconded, motion carries (7-0-0)
- b. **Bill Changer for Gate Fees** – Kendall Williams suggested that from an audit standpoint we should consider going cashless. Ben made a motion that the board table the discussion of the bill changer and going cashless until we complete a survey of current park constituents. Rusty seconded, all in favor, motion carries unanimously (7-0-0)
  - c. **Permission for audit** – Rusty made a motion to approve the Chairman to sign the paperwork to proceed with the audit, Lisa seconded, all in favor, motion carries unanimously (7-0-0)
  - d. **Permission to proceed with contract for Kevin Hill to act as fill in for Tony as park superintendent** – Jim made a motion to approve, Rusty seconded, all in favor, motion carries unanimously (7-0-0)
  - e. Jennifer made a motion to send out a survey to campers to gather information about the future of the park, Jim seconded, all in favor, motion carries unanimously (7-0-0).

#### 8. **Board Member Action Items:**

- A. Ben Casteel -
- B. Jim Hutton -
- C. Jennifer Blankenship-
- D. Steven Statzer-
- E. Claude Worrell-
- F. Lisa Wilson-
- G. Rusty Belcher-

Claude made a motion to recess the meeting at the conclusion of business. Jim seconded, All in favor (7-0-0). Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Next meeting will be held September 20 at the Washington County Government Building

Sincerely,

Steven Statzer, Chairman

BIC