

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular meeting at the Richlands Recreation Park on October 21st, 2019 at 7:30PM with the following present:

Recreation Department: Jessica Reynolds

Other Attendees: Phillip Lowe (Little League), Mark Gillespie (Little League)

Richlands Town Council Members: Mary Ann Strong

Recreation Commission Members Present: Craig Earls, Jeff Hurst, Joe McCall, Frances Meadows, Corey Whited, Tony Cordle

Recreation Commission Members Not Present: LaRhonda Lindsey, Mike Webb, Joel Horn

Jeff Hurst opened the Richlands Recreation Commission meeting and welcomed everyone to the October Meeting.

Old Business:

September Meeting Minutes Approval

Jeff Hurst: For old business, we need to approve the September Meeting minutes. Does anyone have any corrections, additions, or deletions to the September meeting minutes? Tony Cordle made a motion to approve the September Meeting minutes. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further comments, motion carries 6/0.

New Business:

Little League Field Use Agreement Update (Jeff Hurst/Mark Gillespie-Richlands Little League)

Jeff Hurst: After the last meeting in September Mark and Phillip made some adjustments to the wording for the field usage agreement that we talked about. I know we had some questions last meeting and they are here to help answer any questions we may have. Do you have anything to add Mark?

Mark Gillespie: No, we want to keep the agreement short and to the point.

Tony Cordle: I have a concern, and don't want to be difficult. Years ago, Brandon Smith had absolute control over the Recreation Park softball field. I made a mistake in supporting that. With the Sr. League field we would like to discuss having full control over the Sr. League field as well. Having 100% control could cause some issues if others need to use it from time to time.

Jeff Hurst: I talked to several and we want to resolve this as soon as we can. We would like to propose to review it yearly as well. We may not want to tie down for a long term. We don't want to waste time as well, but with this being official and maybe give it a year trial and evaluate if we need to adjust it.

Mark Gillespie: The only reason why we wanted the Sr. baseball field year around is for the high school. More and more kids are coming back into the program for baseball and we need the facility for fall ball and its intended purpose. We need to make sure we have a spot for the boys to practice.

Tony Cordle: We just want to make sure that we have access to the field.

Mark Gillespie: As we do now, you can always come to the board and request specific access to the field. We are willing to work with the commission and Rec Park to get it taken care of. We just want to make sure we have a place for the boys to practice.

Joe McCall: One thing is for sure is that with you guys spending money you don't want people to mess them up. Is it possible to update the agreement when the league President is changed?

Mark Gillespie: That's right. We want to make sure they are not getting messed up. Craig and Mary Ann knows how much work is put in and how they get messed up the amount of work it takes to fix them. I think some soccer uses it now, we just move the stuff. We can update the agreement when league President is changed.

Tony Cordle: I think that is fair and we can do that.

Mary Ann Strong: The Little League board is renewed yearly, so we could do that.

Corey Whited: I think that we should at least review it yearly.

Frances Meadows: I think we should review it each year.

Corey Whited: I agree.

Tony Cordle: Yes, I am good with that. We can do it in October or November.

Phillip Lowe: Yes, that will give 3 weeks if we do it in October.

Frances Meadows: I make a motion to approve the agreement (attached) with addition that we will review this yearly at the October Recreation Commission meeting. We approve the agreement as written, with yearly review at the October meeting. Tony Cordle: Seconded the motion. No further comments, motion carries 6/0.

Smoking Policy for Recreation Parks (Mary Ann Strong)

Mary Ann Strong: I had a text from a concerned citizen about smoking at Critterville.

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, it is hard to enforce, but the police can be called if needed. Also, it is hard to enforce here at the Rec Park without a designated area, but we do ask them. You are not allowed to smoke at any State Park and you are also not allowed to smoke in your vehicle either.

Jeff Hurst: I walk around down here after soccer matches and we have seen them down here, even by themselves. It is bad when you have smoking at the doors of games.

Tony Cordle: We can put an area for smokers of here if we need it.

Craig Earls: I know at Critterville that has helped a lot. I normally tell people if I see them smoking.

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, we do need a designated area here so we can send people.

Recreation Updates (Jessica Reynolds)

Jessica Reynolds: Everyone please meet Emily Ball. She has been with us for 3 weeks, and this is her first week on the actual schedule. We are so excited to have her and is great asset to the team. She has picked up very quickly and is a whiz at it. I will be out soon and she is part time at 29 hours. Mostly Emily and Dave will be here to cover while I am out.

Jessica Reynolds: We are wrapped up with Soccer and we did have some parking issues. Basketball registration forms will be here soon and we will be starting very soon.

Jeff Hurst: We will put them out November 8th, and will be due by December 8th.

Jessica Reynolds: We have heard rumors about us not playing this year, but we are playing and are expecting a good turnout. We do have the Haunted Forest this weekend and so far we have had good participation. Emily has coordinated this as her first event. Please give her the support. Old Jonah will there telling stories around the fire.

Other Topics:

Craig Earls: Are there anything we can do to help Little League?

Phillip Lowe: The trees at the T-Ball field could be addressed because it will not get a lot of sun. That will really help.

Mary Ann Strong: Yes, this is something we can possibly get done with Tim and Rusty.

Craig Earls: It looks like some of the trees are overhanging the field which could be a danger. I think the town should cut them down if possible.

No further comments.

Next meeting – November 18th, 7:30 PM at the Richlands Recreation Park

Jeff Hurst - Adjourned meeting.