

MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Vice-Chairman Watson called the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

Board Members Present: Chairman Warren Watson; Vice-Chairman Lynn Cromer; and Secretary-Treasurer Rick Covil;

Board Members Absent: Miguel Santibanez and Steve Sloan

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, Brad Gordon, Park Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier

A fee waiver request form Polk County EMS was added to the agenda and moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Request from Polk County EMS for Fee Waiver

Barry Gibbs of Polk County Emergency Medical Services presented a request that the Harmon Field cabin and screened picnic shelter rental fees be waived for an event on Friday, August 16, 2024 to honor paramedic Ben Warren for 30 years of service to Polk EMS and his retirement. The facilities were available on the date requested. Covil made a motion to waive the rental fees for the cabin and screened picnic shelter for the Polk County EMS event on August 16, 2024. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Election of Officers

Chairman: Covil nominated Warren Watson for Chairman. Cromer seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made and nominations closed. Warren Watson was elected Chairman by a unanimous vote of 3 to 0.

Vice-Chairman: Covil nominated Lynn Cromer for Vice-Chairman. Watson seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made and nominations closed. Lynn Cromer was elected Vice-Chairman by a unanimous vote of 3 to 0.

Secretary-Treasurer: Watson nominated Rick Covil for Secretary-Treasurer. Cromer seconded the nomination. No further nominations were made and nominations closed. Rick Covil was elected Secretary-Treasurer by a unanimous vote of 3 to 0.

Approve Minutes from July 2, 2024 regular meeting

The Minutes from the July 2, 2024 regular meeting of the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors were reviewed. Covil made a motion to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting on July 2, 2024 as presented. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Approve Financial Report for July 2024

The July 2024 Harmon Field financial report was reviewed. According to the report, Harmon Field had received \$5,794.70 (1.54% of its annual budgeted revenues for Fiscal Year 2024-2025). Total Operating Expenditures were \$20,568.40 (6.39% of annual budgeted expenditures for FY 2024-2025) and Capital Expenditures totaled \$0.00 (0.00% of annual budgeted expenditures for FY 2024-2025). Total Expenditures were \$20,568.40 (5.45% of annual budgeted expenditures for FY 2024-2025).

Fatland explained that the revenue for the new fiscal year was low because the FY 2024-2025 property and Harmon Field special tax district taxes were just beginning to come in. Fatland would present a budget amendment at a future meeting to move the past year balance of funding for unfinished gym improvement project into the current fiscal year.

Cromer made a motion to approve the Harmon Field Financial Report for July 2024 as presented. Covil seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Banners for Baseball Sponsors

The Board discussed the request from Polk County Recreation/YMCA to display sponsor banners at the Harmon Field baseball facilities. The banners would be on display during the season on the outfield fencing attached on the inside of the fence. The Polk Rec/YMCA would sell sponsorships for the sponsor banner to be displayed. The funds would be applied the baseball program's expenses. Covil did not want the banners to become a maintenance problem for Harmon Field staff. Watson asked about the maximum size of the sponsor banners.

Cromer made a motion to approve allowing Polk County Recreation/YMCA to display baseball sponsor banners at Harmon Field baseball facilities. Covil seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Park Superintendent's Report

Harmon Field Park Superintendent Gordon presented his report.

- Contractor was hired to fix the bridge at the cabin, grade the area between the bridge and cabin to eliminate water pooling, grade both baseball fields and grade between the dog park and ballfield B. Contractor said it would be about 3 to 4 weeks before he could begin, but it was on his schedule. Staff would add crushed rock on both sides of the repaired bridge
- A donation was received for lighting and string lights were installed in the screened picnic shelter along with a switch to operate the lights and fans. Visitors did not have to use the breaker box switches any more. The breaker box would be locked. String lights were also on a timer.
- Field house bathrooms near the gym had been pressure washed and the metal wire that was an eyesore was taken down along the bathroom windows, but the nice part was left on the electrical room for security purposes.
- Outside lights with photocells were replaced on the field house bathrooms building.

- Outside lights on the small bathrooms building near the playground were replaced. New bulbs installed did not work so staff had to replace light fixtures. Fans were also replaced in both the men's and women's bathrooms.
- Ceiling fans in the cabin were replaced and now have LED lights. The old ones were missing blades, had non-working light sockets and missing fan speed control cords.
- Pet guidelines signs ordered from YETI were installed around the park reading:

Pet Guidelines

Pets must be kept on a leash

Pets are not permitted on the walking/running track

Pets are not permitted on the sports fields

Clean up after your dog

- Event booth table runner was purchased so Harmon Field could set up a booth during the upcoming Trick-or-Trot, Spring Fling, and other future events where Harmon Field staff could interact with the public.
- Gordon had contacted Thermal Belt Outreach about the half-marathon event and had gotten the okay from them for rentals at a negotiated flat rate fee of \$1500.
- Gordon had spoken to Ben Renkema, coordinator for Gravel Gallop bicycle event and staff were looking into a flat rate to charge for large events rather than a percentage of ticket/registration fees. Gordon had spoken with Jason Kilgore at Henderson County Parks & Rec about how Henderson County does similar event charges and how a flat fee is what they used.
- Soccer goals for Tryon Elementary School were finished and well appreciated. The goals go well with the new sod the school laid down.
- New rules signs will be ordered for the track to replace the current one that is falling apart and faded. One sign for each side of the track will be ordered so patrons who park behind the tennis courts will see signage like those who park at the ballfields & cabin side.
- Tryon Planner/Network System Support Tim Daniels and Dispatcher Blake Arledge were consulted about putting rental scheduling on the website. (i.e. an online facility rental app). This would reduce paper copies and multiple e-mails about rentals. The online scheduling would have a list of what was available with each rental with pictures.
- Jason Kilgore with Henderson County Parks & Recreation sprayed both soccer fields and did one fertilization. One more fertilization still needed to be done. Gordon would also be ordering six tons of lime for the soccer fields.
- The walking path signs with mileage on them were in the process of being repainted and put back out. They would be done one at a time to be sure they go back in the right spot and to let the paint dry overnight.
- Gordon would be ordering chalk and paint for the baseball fields in the next few weeks once he found out from YMCA the tentative dates.
- Parents and coaches had narrowed baseball affiliation choice down to two leagues and were going to meet with each one and see which league would fit best with Polk County.
- Gordon wondered what the color codes on the riverbank restoration project site indicated.

- Fatland asked for update on status of playground mulch. Gordon reported he added some from surplus he had on hand as needed and it was holding up well.
- It was noted that guests/residents at the cabins across the street from the Harmon Field equestrian area were sometimes parking in the equestrian area. Watson stated that a chain used to be put across the equestrian facility gate to prevent vehicle access. Gordon said he could chain the equestrian entrance if the Board wanted this done.

Update on Open-Air Gym

Concrete pad was poured and Town Manager Fatland had to call contractor Derek Champion a few days ago since we had not heard from him. He got his voicemail and Tryon Public Works Director Greg McCool called and Derek promised he would be coming out the week of August 5, 2024 to continue work. Polk County Community Foundation grant agreement for the project had a project deadline of September 30, 2024, so an extension would need to be requested from the Foundation. Watson was not happy with all the delays in completing this project. At the July meeting, the Harmon Field Board had asked for a completion schedule from Contractor Derek Champion. To date no schedule had been received from the contractor. Items yet to be completed included the ceiling, storage room kitchen, painting, and building the screened porch. County inspection would be required before opening the facility for use. Dominion Energy had offered to sponsor the grand opening event that would include a basketball tournament with participation by Polk County and Tryon elected officials.

Other

- **Community Center Building Update** – Fatland reported he was working on grant applications to Golden Leaf Foundation for roof repairs to stabilize the building and make it safe and secure. This would be a 100% grant with no match funding required. Fatland was also working with a group considering a lease if it would be approved by the Parks & Recreation Trust Fund.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 5:30 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Council Meeting Room. Two members would be unable to attend. Watson made a motion that the meeting be rescheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 5:30 pm. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Covil made a motion to enter closed session at 6:03 pm for contracts discussion pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5). Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Board returned to open session at 7:03 pm.

Cromer made a motion to revise the Harmon Field Concession Stand lease agreement to be month-to-month lease with monthly rent set at \$500 per month for the duration of the lease plus \$175 per month to be applied to the unpaid utility bill owed by the tenant

until paid off and a late fee of \$50 to be applied if monthly rent was not received by the 5th of the month and subject to returned check fee according to the Town's fee schedule if applicable. Covil seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote to 3 to 0.

Covil made a motion to approve the revised draft Equestrian Facility Rental Application Form for use for all equestrian facility rentals through December 31, 2024. Cromer seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at by Vice-Chairman Watson at 7:07 pm.

Submitted By:

Approved:



Rick Covil
Secretary-Treasurer



Warren Watson
Chairman