

During the meeting with Mr. Kellar on an aquatic facility, he suggested that we update our master plan. Utilizing outside professional assistance is still under review by the Quorum Court. We have time to survey the public and work on an operating budget. It is important to Judge Hudson to work well with the Quorum Court, Park Board, and Park Staff. We will get quite a bit of benefit from a master plan that will include Ben Geren Park, East Sebastian County Park, and Midland Park for planning for future development. There is much work that can be done at the soccer complex. Two criminal justice service areas that have been addressed are the jail expansion and courts building. Judge Hudson's goal is to see if an aquatics facility can be justified. This could include zero entry, water toys, lazy river, water basketball, lap swimming area, large slide, a family oriented facility. He would like to find some valid way to survey the public.

The only item on the agenda under new business is a request to use Ben Geren Park for a death-defying stunt by Illusionist/Escape Artist Michal Angelo. Mr. Angelo will be secured in a straight jacket and his ankles will be tied with a rope. The rope is attached to a crane and he will be elevated five stories above the ground. The rope will be set on fire. He will have to escape his confinement before the rope burns in two. He has done close to 375 straight jacket escapes. This stunt will be at no cost to the park or the public. The proposed date is Saturday, September 8, 2007, 4:00-5:00 p.m. The proposed location is near the east entrance. The road between the two entrances will be blocked. The crane will be parked on asphalt. Yellow tape will be in place roping off an area to prevent spectators from getting too close to the equipment. It has been arranged with the Fort Smith Fire Department for a truck and EMS for an ambulance to be on site in case of emergency. He has a liability waiver which was provided to the board. The event will be advertised in newspaper, magazine, radio, television, and will be recorded for future promotions. The benefit to the park is that people will come out for the event and spend the day in the park. At this time, no vendors are planned. However, that is something to consider. It was moved by Mr. Frank Glidewell and seconded by Mr. Eddy Beshears that this request be approved subject to review by the County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

The last item on the agenda is park revenue reports which are included in the packet. It was moved by Mr. Bud Harper and seconded by Mr. Wayne Hancock that the board support Judge Hudson in pursuing his goal of working toward annual agreements with park vendors beginning in 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

The next park board meeting will be held on Monday, September 10, 2007, at 12:00 noon. It was moved by Mr. Wayne Hancock and seconded by Mr. Eddy Beshears that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary

- The 7:00 a.m. weekend/holiday tee times have been popular with the increased temperatures.
- There was a good article in the Southwest Times Record about the ASGA stroke play held August 11-12.
- Steve feels that golfers who were not able to play earlier in the year due to the weather will spend their recreation budget and play later. Some of the outings that were canceled have been rescheduled for the fall.
- Ms. Marisa Reeves has been hired for the Pro Shop Assistant position. She has customer service, marketing, and sales experience.

According to Mr. Bud Harper, parks are not money makers. They are a benefit and reward for the people who are good citizens and taxpayers, it gives them something for their tax dollars. Parks are not a business, they are a gift. Judge Hudson commended Steve Nicholls and Mike Young for assuming more responsibilities and a job well done. Mr. Eddy Beshears agrees that if the weather is right, golfers will be there. It does not matter what month it is. People budget for different things and will spend their recreation money when the weather is good.

The only item on the agenda under old business is a proposal from Mr. Dan Bardin for the old grand prix track. It includes:

- Removal of all asphalt surfaces and old existing fence surrounding the asphalt area
- Removal of existing light poles
- A strip of approximately 100 feet be paved from the building to the existing pit entrance area
- A fence to be installed approximately 50 feet from the west end of existing building to extend north to the outside perimeter fence.
- Permission to proceed in adding an additional track
- Permission to remove one tree (previously damaged by lightning)
- Permission to add three OG&E security light poles around track area
- The ability to acquire shale from the creek area to build a compacted base
- If available, park personnel to haul the shale to the area

Judge Hudson, Mr. Gene Hester, and Mr. Bobby Faulkner met to look at the facility. It would not take much to remove the old track. Judge Hudson recommends an on-site meeting with Mr. Bardin to look at the proposed additions. It looks like a good plan. It was the consensus of the board to accept the written report, work through the details, and come back in September. Mr. Bardin appears to be doing a good job.

Judge Hudson would like to work toward annual agreements with park vendors, as recommended by Mr. Brian Kellar, Program Director for Outdoor Recreation Grants, beginning in 2008. Some of these agreements were done in the early 90's and need to be reviewed. The vendors have been providing written reports and coming to the park board annually for the past three or four years.

MINUTES
BEN GEREN PARK BOARD MEETING
August 13, 2007
12:00 Noon

The regular meeting of the Ben Geren Park Board was held at 12:00 Noon, August 13, 2007, at the Ben Geren Park Community Building, 7200 Zero, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Present were:

Mr. Jerry Neel
Mr. Wayne Hancock
Mr. Frank Glidewell
Mr. Bud Harper
Mr. Eddy Beshears

Others present were:

Hon. David Hudson, Sebastian County Judge
Mr. Tom Minton, Assistant County Administrator
Ms. Sue Reed, Sebastian County Comptroller
Mr. Steve Nicholls, P.G.A. Golf Professional
Mr. Bobby Faulkner, Park Supervisor
Mrs. Paula Vincent, Administrative Secretary
Mr. Michal Angelo, Illusionist/Escape Artist
Mr. Joe Mundy, 1st Vice President, Ben Geren Softball Association
Ms. Mary Crider, Times Record

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Mr. Jerry Neel, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 9, 2007, it was moved by Mr. Bud Harper and seconded by Mr. Frank Glidewell that they be approved as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

The first item on the agenda was the Monthly Financial Reports. A total of \$88,773.43 for the Golf Course and \$6,121.19 for the Front Side was transferred to County Treasurer for July 2007. Mr. Steve Nicholls and Ms. Paula Vincent are looking at projections for the rest of the year. It was suggested by Mr. Frank Glidewell that the board look at unlimited annual tickets for 2008.

The next item on the agenda was briefing on Golf Course marketing activities by Mr. Steve Nicholls. The August and September golf calendar were included in the packet.

- There was an ad in the Times Record in June for two summer specials, a 'heat of the day' special from 11:00-2:00 and a 'Senior' special on Thursdays offering a free lunch consisting of a hot dog, chips, and drink. Approximately sixty golfers have taken advantage of these offers.
- A letter went out to random golfers in early June (expiration 7/15/07) and early August (expiration 8/31/07) offering a 'buy one, get one free' special.