MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Chairman Nelon 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 Stephen Nelon; Vice Chairman Warren Watson; Rick Covil; and Jamie Dunn

Board Members Absent: Secretary-Treasurer Miguel Santibanez

Staff Present: Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager; Greg McCool, Tryon Public Works Director; Brad Gordon, Harmon Field Park Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier

Approve Minutes from October 3, 2023 regular meeting
The Minutes from the Harmon Field Board's October 3, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Covil made a motion to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting on October 3, 2023 as presented. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Approve Financial Reports for October 2023
The corrected October 2023 Harmon Field financial report was presented by Fatland. According to the report, Harmon Field had received $259,488.33 (54.20%) of its amended annual budgeted revenues for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and had spent $128,304.51 (26.80%) of amended annual budgeted expenditures for FY 2023-2024 leaving a fund balance of $246,847.02 as of October 31, 2023.

Fatland reported that Rotary Club of Tryon Foundation had donated $2,000 for the open-air gym renovation. $78,650 had been transferred from the Tryon General Fund to Harmon Field for paving. Polk County would reimburse their allocated funds for Harmon Field paving as a reimbursement to Harmon Field. Paving would begin Monday, November 13, 2023 and should be completed by Wednesday, November 15, 2023. Fatland thanked Tryon Arts & Crafts School (TACS) Director Will Barclift for obtaining a Polk County Community Foundation grant to pay for paving on the part of the parking lot belonging to TACS.

A mower ordered several months ago arrived and the expenditure would be spread over five-years at a low interest rate for Harmon Field cash flow purposes.

Fatland explained the last minute correction to the financial report. After review of twelve months revenue and expenses for the Harmon Field equestrian facility and basing projected revenues and expenditures for FY 2023-2024 using the last half of FY 2022-2023 amounts, the $17,000 originally budgeted for Horse Show Expenses was reallocated as $7,000 to Horse Show Expenses and $10,000 to HF Equestrian Restoration Expenses for maintenance and repairs at the Harmon Field equestrian facility. .

Watson made a motion to approve the financial report for October 2023 as corrected. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Lights for Tennis and/or Soccer Without Paid Reservations

Harmon Field Park Superintendent Gordon presented information regarding lights for sports facilities at Harmon Field. Current reservation fees for lighted tennis courts were $25 per hour for tax district residents and $35 per hour for non residents. Current reservation fees for lighted soccer field was $35 per hour regardless of residency. In the past, some park users had used tennis or soccer field facility lights without paying for a reservation. Cost of electricity and maintenance to provide lighting was significant. Gordon did not believe it would be fair to allow tennis players to use lights for free if soccer field or baseball field users had to pay for lights. Gordon had locked all light controls pending a decision by the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors on how to proceed. Gordon and Tryon Public Works Director Greg McCool had checked on general cost of various remote lighting control systems. Fully remote cell-phone operated systems would cost thousands per field. Currently the only affordable control system for after-hours lights control was a dial-timer control unit. This unit could be set to turn the lights on and off at preset times that would be set by the Harmon Field staff after a paid reservation had been made.

Mont Cooper and Gary Link presented information on regional pickleball and potential for revenues for Harmon Field that could help pay for lighting for sports facilities using an online booking system with yearly membership fees for pickleball and non-profit fundraiser events featuring pickleball tournaments.

It was decided to require paid reservations for lighting of sports facilities. Meg Rogers requested that reservations be made at least two days in advance so staff could schedule light controls. Until dial timers could be installed, Gordon would work with Tryon Police and Fire Department staff to turn lights on and off for paid facility reservations. Mr. Jose Chavez asked about getting lights for soccer on Friday nights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm. Gordon suggested that Chavez could make reservations for multiple Fridays at one time.

Equestrian Facility Update

Dunn reported that the 2024 horse show season was shaping up. Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association (BRHJA) had committed to four three-day show rentals in 2024. Carolina Schooling Series had not yet finalized their dates yet, but would be holding some one-day shows at Harmon Field in 2024. Dunn had met with Town Manager Jim Fatland, Harmon Field Park Superintendent Brad Gordon and Town of Tryon Cashier/Secretary Meg Rogers to discuss changes in procedures to address some horse show issues that included most cost-effective way to keep show rings watered during events, revising show contract to require horseshow manager to contact Harmon Field Superintendent Gordon regarding which barns would be in use and where trash cans and other movable equipment needed to be placed for each show. Dunn reported that the Polk County Libraries Trick-or-Trot event was an awesome mix with the Friday

evening BRHJA horseshow activities and many Trick-or-Trot participants came over to watch the horseshow to the enjoyment of both the spectators and the competitors.

Rental Updates

Gordon reported that facilities rentals were very good. The pilot lights on the stove top and oven were now being kept lit so users would not have problems starting this equipment up for use at their events. One group that rented the cabin on Saturday, October 28, 2023 left glitter all over the cabin floor and tore the cover off the gas log wall control unit.

Park Superintendent's Report

Harmon Field Park Superintendent Gordon provided three handouts: A "Completed Projects Since October Meeting", "Upcoming Projects for Harmon Field" and "Big Projects Needing Attention" (See below). Playground mulch had received lots of public compliments. Addition of a pollinator garden near the cabin or field house with support from a local garden club to provide maintenance was discussed briefly. The concession stand dining area cover had been ordered and would be delivered in approximately six weeks.

Completed Projects Since October Meeting

- Gazebo by playground was pressure washed and re-stained. Swing was taken to shop to be tightened and stained.
- Open picnic shed was pressure washed along with all picnic tables.
- The two small picnic shed's by playground were pressure washed along with picnic tables. The one green kids table was taken to shop to use as pattern for new ones.
- Playground was mulched with BIG Thanks to Town of Tryon Street Department and Sanitation Department.
- Old concession stand roof, and outer fascia boards painted.
- Ring closest to barns had hooks and board installed, had to order these since last meeting.
- Numbers were painted and installed on barns A and B.
- New dog park signs installed- "Please pick up after your dog."
- Replaced the two dog park trash cans and put nicer Tryon ones by restaurant and put the ones at restaurant by picnic tables and another by picnic tables across bridge at cabin.
- New zero turn mower was delivered, and bagging system was ordered for the unit.
- Repainted old bike rack and put near restaurant.
- Installed new padlocks with same key number where existing padlocks were and installed locks on tennis court lights and soccer field lights. Gave key to Tryon Police Dept.
- Stove and oven pilot lights lit and left burning. Have had a few complaints about how hard the stove is to get going when people rent cabin.
- Have totally moved out of the shop near entrance for maintenance purposes. The mowers are over there along with log splitter and sports management equipment.

The dirt portion has straw and landscape hand tools .- Dog training equipment would go in dirt portion in back of big shop if she agrees.

- Have brought over two more picnic tables from Rogers Park and will rebuild them for use around park.
- Have had Chris Ross, a golf cart mechanic, take and look at Jacobsen golf cart. Says it needs new batteries.
- Seeded and strawed circle around tree in front of cabin and area outside playground beside cabin.
- Trimmed the bushes at field house bathrooms. The only exception is the big camellia that is blooming, just took a little off the top and sides.
- Installed yellow post by drainage culvert in grass field parking and started along back of barns.
- Have cut and cleaned out the two drainage areas between gazebo and old concession stand. (one was cut by Brian who brought his Ventrac machine to show us how it worked. It is a mini bush hog with wide wheels meant for hills and banks). Cleaned one drainage area behind gym that Brian cut.

Upcoming Projects for Harmon Field

- Finish cutting and cleaning drainage areas behind soccer field
- Pressure wash screen shed, picnic tables and repaint interior and exterior of building.
- Pressure wash and re-stain the exterior of cabin
- Replace fascia boards as needed on cabin and small picnic sheds by playground.
- Cut back and limb trees along walking path from Presbyterian Church to Harmon Field Road equestrian entrance.
- Clean ditch line beside cabin.
- Limb big trees around park.
- Tennis court- Leland Cypress cut off fence, weeds pulled or weed eat down, vines pulled off fence, hitting boards repainted along with post holding them up, sign by gate fixed and repainted, gazebo cleaned and fixed as needed, bushes trimmed and nets fixed or replaced as needed.
- Open air gym- missing boards around top replaced and piping insulation redone by steps.
- Field house storage area cleaned and straightened for YMCA and Harmon Field use (soccer goals, basketball equipment and event trash cans etc.)
- Floors in bathrooms painted with epoxy paint and up walls about 1 block high
- Partition Boards in field house bathrooms replaced.

Big Projects Needing Attention

- Cabin deck replaced
- Fascia boards around horse barns replaced- as needed
- Horse ring boards replaced
- Barn side panels replaced as needed
- River banks cut down for visibility

- Tennis courts redone for tennis and pickleball- you can buy inserts that have both or paint lines for both and use a regular tennis net but just lower however many inches.

Update on Open Air Gym

Tryon Public Works Director Greg McCool reported that the rough framing on the new walls of the storage room was done and the wiring roughed in. Installation of the wall siding would start soon. Construction/demolition dumpster would be removed from site soon.

Other

Pickleball – Mont Cooper introduced Gary Link who made a short presentation on the physical and mental health benefits of pickleball for seniors and for players of all ages. This expanding new sport was becoming the new way for couples and families to connect in a way that had been missing since family sit-down meals at home became a thing of the past. Cooper and Link also presented information on community benefits from non-profit fundraiser pickleball tournaments and facilities support from membership fees. Cooper and Link suggested the Harmon Field open-air gym as an ideal location for pickleball with use of movable nets and multi-use court striping. Chairman Nelon informed Cooper and Link that staff and the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors were working on finding funding to build pickleball courts at Harmon Field.

Dog Training Classes Lease Contract – Fatland reported that a draft rental contract had been developed for dog trainer Dina Zaphiris to rent facilities at Harmon Field to hold small group paid dog training sessions. A flat fee of $270 per 6-session class was recommended by Fatland based on at least 10 students participating in each 6-session class and 15% of the total fees paid by 10 students for the class would be approximately $270. Zaphiris had indicated she wanted to schedule two 6-session classes before the end of 2023 and had reviewed the lease contract and was okay with the contract terms.

Streambank Restoration Project Area Maintenance – Watson reported he met an engineer from Quibble Associates, the company that did the streambank restoration work at Harmon Field. Mr. Warren Eadus was willing to come speak to the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors on procedures to maintain the streambank project areas and suggestions on obtaining volunteer assistance to do the maintenance work. Warren asked that Mr. Eadus be invited to attend an upcoming Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting.

Harmon Field Christmas Parade Participation – Gordon asked for permission to use the small Morris the Horse as Harmon Field's entry in local Christmas Parades in December 2023. Gordon could pull the horse using his truck with Christmas Lights and a sign reading "Merry Christmas from Harmon Field."

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 5:30 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Council Meeting Room

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Nelon at 6:02 pm.

Submitted By:

Meg Rogers

Meg Rogers, substituting for
Miguel Santibanez
Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:

Steve Nelon

Stephen Nelon
Chairman