MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Tuesday, October 3, 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; Secretary-Treasurer Miguel Santibanez (arrived late at 5:35 pm); Rick Covil; and Jamie Dunn

Board Members Absent: None

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 September 5, 2023 regular meeting
The Minutes from the Harmon Field Board's September 5, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Watson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the regular meeting on September 5, 2023 as presented. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Approve Minutes from September 12, 2023 special meeting
The Minutes from the Harmon Field Board's September 12, 2023 special meeting were reviewed. Watson made a motion to approve the Minutes from the special meeting on September 12, 2023 as presented. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 4 to 0.

Approve Financial Reports for September 2023
The September 2023 Harmon Field financial report was presented by Fatland. According to the report, Harmon Field had received $158,706.11 (33.15%) of its amended annual budgeted revenues for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 and had spent $98,233.36 (20.52%) of amended annual budgeted expenditures for FY 2023-2024 leaving a fund balance of $179,886.15 as of September 30, 2023. Fatland stated that the budget would be amended to reflect the Polk County Community Foundation grant award.

Fatland reported that special playground mulch had been purchased for $20 per yard for a total of $2,300. Two metal picnic tables had been ordered for the playground at a cost of $1,600. The new entrance signs would be grant funded. The rest of the grant funding would be put to good use.

Covil made a motion to approve the financial report for September 2023 as presented. Dunn seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Request to Use HF Facilities by Muddy Sneakers Program

WNC Muddy Sneakers Program Manager Chehala Andriananjason presented information about the Muddy Sneakers program for 5th grade students to study the environment through field trips to local parks and state parks. Participants in the program have been visiting Harmon Field for years. The participants needed no special facilities other than restrooms and parking. Visits at Harmon Field were usually scheduled to arrive around 9 am and leave by 2 pm. Groups were small, less than 12 students plus instructor and school representative. The participants explored the park and participated in planned fun activities that involved hands-on-science and caring for nature by leaving no trace. The visit coordinators usually contacted Harmon Field staff to be sure no big events were scheduled that would make parking and access difficult. Vehicles usually parked in the paved lot near the open-air gym. The Muddy Sneakers program wished to continue to visit Harmon Field and would send dates to the Town of Tryon to put on the Harmon Field calendar.

Request to Rent HF Facilities for Dog Training Classes

Professional dog trainer Dina Zaphiris provided information on her credentials and presented a proposal to the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors asking to reserve facilities at Harmon Field to offer dog training classes to paying customers. She hoped to find a low cost venue so she could keep the cost to clients low. She proposed to offer obedience classes, "Canine Good Citizen" classes, and possibly agility classes (if storage could be arranged on site for the agility equipment). Her program would need a space of 100 feet by 100 feet for agility training. Watson asked which areas of Harmon Field would be most suitable for this program. Zaphiris suggested areas adjacent to the open air gym with use of the gym if weather conditions made outdoor classes impossible. Watson and McCool suggested the area across the river, generally called "Hog Heaven" to reduce the amount of distractions adjacent to the training area. Watson stated that Saturdays were very busy at Harmon Field, which might interfere with classes. Zaphiris stated that Saturday and Sunday would be her busiest training days and the program would need access on these days. Fatland asked when she would like to start and Zaphiris wanted to start as soon as possible. Chairman Nelon stated that the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors was interested in discussing a contract for Ms. Zaphiris to rent facilities for her program at Harmon Field because of the community need for such a program if a mutually agreeable fee schedule to charge for the facilities she needed could be worked out. Zaphiris left her resume with McCool. The Harmon Field Board of Supervisors directed Fatland and McCool to work on developing a rental contract for this facilities lease.

Concession Stand Shade Structure Discussion

Architecture diagrams of a proposed covered dining area in front of the Harmon Field concession stand were reviewed. As requested by the Harmon Field Board the primary structure would be made of wood. The architect had recommended adding screened sides to the structure, but the contractor had recommended open sides. The tenant was concerned with cost of the structure and was assured that Harmon Field would be paying for the construction of the dining area. The tenant expressed his concerns about

the length of time to complete this improvement at the concession stand and the impact of the delay on his business.

Harmon Field Entrance Signs

Fatland presented images of the proposed grant funded directional signs. He asked whether the Board preferred landscape or portrait versions of the signs and the Board indicated they preferred the wider landscape orientation for the 4-foot by 5-foot signs. Fatland reported that Tryon Arts & Crafts School (TACS) was awarded a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation for paving their part of the parking lot adjacent to the Harmon Field open-air gym. The Harmon Field paving project would have funding from Polk County, Town of Tryon, Harmon Field and the TACS grant. The new Harmon Field directional signs would be installed after the paving project was completed.

Equestrian Facility Update

Dunn reported that there were some water issues at the recent one-day high school teams horse show. Dunn had authorized a discount to the show because of the water issues in hopes that this organization would consider renting Harmon Field facilities for more future shows. Leasing or buying a water truck from Lewis Pack might be needed to address this issue. Watson stated that the smaller shows using only one of the horse show rings were a good size show for Harmon Field. Watson asked if the concession stand was busy during the recent show. McCool reported lots of activity at the concession stand. Chairman Nelon reported that two families were playing kickball at Harmon Field at that time.

The upcoming 3-day Blue Ridge Hunter Jumper Association (BRHJA) show on October-27-29, 2023 would be contracting for Pack's water truck services, so the water issue should not affect them. The BRHJA show had already sold out 143 stalls with 60 horses on a waiting list for stalls generating maximum stall revenue.

Another 3-day show was scheduled for July 2024. Dunn would have the Spring 2024 show dates for the November 6, 2023 Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting. Dunn told the Board that the individual rings had names and the signs needed to be refreshed. It was suggested to refresh the name signs with white text on a green background like the new directional signs. Repairs to the rails on the show rings was discussed briefly, but McCool reported that, for now, staff could refasten loose boards with screws as needed. Dunn confirmed that rail replacement could wait. Fatland thanked Dunn for all her work with Harmon Field staff to operate the equestrian facility at Harmon Field.

Rental Updates

McCool reported that all Harmon Field reservations were now being scheduled by Meg Rogers at the Town of Tryon administrative office.

Park Superintendent's Report

Public Works Director Greg McCool provided two handouts: A "To Do List" of maintenance work to be done at Harmon Field with highlighted items completed so far and a "Report of the Work Completed & Currently Being Done". (See below)

TO DO LIST (with work completed in shaded areas)

- Move picnic tables to underneath tree by restaurant-DONE
- Mulch tree rings from front entrance to playground bathroom-DONE
- Mulch tree rings behind ball field B-DONE
- Limb trees where mulching as mulching-DONE
- Clean up flower bed area by ball field B and mulch-DONE
- Move metal by tractor shop-DONE
- Move bench behind the shop by tractors
- Straighten tractor shed post that is bent and take down lights that don't work
- Fix picket fence by Harmon Field Road 9-12 ft rails and 1 end post, 25 foot yellow chain for across road
- Yellow Chain for across road at tomato fields and cut walking path around path-DONE
- Add dirt along sidewalk from restaurant to bathrooms and slope away
- Pressure wash sidewalk and baseball concrete/bleachers, blow leaves out restaurant to bathrooms
- Pressure wash open air picnic area, tables and stain, fix concrete patch area
- Fix pickets on gazebo-DONE, pressure wash and stain gazebo
- Clean horseshoe pits, redo wood as needed, add sand
- Fix bike rack by playground and covered shed, paint as needed
- Pressure wash covered picnic shed and tables and wooden walkway, clean gutters along covered shed, buy new outdoor ceiling fans
- Prune and mulch flower bed behind covered shed
- Pressure wash cabin, Prune/mulch beds-DONE, clean up around cabin trees etc. Replace bench board and screw down decking that is loose-DONE, Replace outdoor light at porch area-DONE, Stain cabin.
- Check for wasp nest in all buildings-DONE
- Mulch exercise equipment along walking trail
- Beside storage building at barns water boxes need 4 posts painted and installed in ground-DONE
- Clean and brush the golf putting green
- Fix gates and such around all ball fields-DONE
- Fix out of bounds post at all ball fields, repaint as needed
- Replace bat holder at ball fields dugouts
- bathroom beside playground pressure washed, bushes trimmed back and mulched-DONE. Door closer for women's adjusted-DONE, Door closer for men's adjusted.
- Bathroom at gym needs pressure wash, windows cleaned and outdoor lights replaced-more work on inside-different list
- Tin at basketball court along dirt road picked up and taken to shop-DONE
- Rails outside bathrooms beside gym sanded and painted

- Limb trees and cut back growth along walking path around park, Priority is behind soccer field with fence-DONE
- Clean and fix what is needed at tennis court gazebo-DONE
- Remove box at red and white fence
- Add gravel to walking path behind ball fields
- Fix fence and top boards around equestrian side rings, ask about rebar sticking up along fence-DONE
- Get rid of grass inside sheds at equestrian side-DONE
- Check out holes/drainage areas behind barns possibly use post and paint safety yellow
- Check hole at rose of Sharon in field by need to add rock/dirt-DONE
- Hole at bridge needs to be formed and concreted
- Trees in field by old shop need to be limbed
- Electrical panels in field by old shop need to be fixed, cleaned and painted. Same for ball field panels
- Call DENR about river bank cleanup
- Call Newman's and Epperson Tree Services about playground trees and tree over open picnic shed-DONE
- Call about stump grinding at front entrance
- Order signs-"This area is closed-sorry for inconvenience"
- Signage for dog park needs replacing-("clean up after your dog")
- Number signs on barns need replaced and liability signs
- Fire extinguishers and sharps containers for barns
- Stalls need to be swept out and mats straightened, doors painted, and boards replaced on all barns
- Concession stand by soccer field needs roof painted and door fixed then cleaned out
- Office area of open air gym needs to be cleaned out
- Need to get trees planted at dog park

WORK COMPLETED /WORK BEING DONE CURRENTLY

- Mulching of the property is currently being worked on. Front entrance to the track has been completed (except large trees on left as you come in). Equine area is completed. Dog park trees are completed. Track to hog heaven and around gym area is left to do.
- All green –coated trash bins with cans inside on property have been removed, cleaned and cans sprayed with odor neutralizing spray.
- Epperson Tree Service has been scheduled to bring up tree canopy at playground by 12 – 15 feet from ground, tree beside open shed is scheduled for limbing.
- Service Master has been scheduled for deep clean of the cabin
- Gazebo beside open air shed has been repaired and ready for stain
- All ballfield lights have been looked at by company for repair or bulb replacement
- Ball field gates have been adjusted
- Overgrown area on walking path behind the soccer field to bridge has been cut back and cleaned

- Cabin outside light has been replaced along with bench board and rotten seat bracing
- Cabin deck floor has been adjusted-screwed down as needed
- Hole at bridge has been addressed and has wash stone in the hole and will be patched with asphalt when street department patches again
- All horse rings have been drug to help maintain footing
- Grass cutting has been done each week along with all weed eating by Hipp's Lawncare
- Bike rack beside cabin has been taken to shop to be cleaned and painted
- Playground is being inspected and manufactured mulch is being ordered
- Shop along the main entrance is being cleaned up to be more aesthetically pleasing when driving in
- New tines for the equine rings drag have been replaced and more ordered
- Rotten boards on bleachers at equine ring have been replaced
- Bushes and beds have been cleaned around cabin (except back, these were blooming at time)
- Picnic tables have been brought to Manzolina'a and put under shade tree across the road
- Screen on covered shed that was hanging loose reinstalled and screen door repaired (would not close)

Update on Open Air Gym

Town Manager Jim Fatland updated the Board on the gym room renovation plans and funding. The Polk County Community Foundation awarded a grant of $25,000 for the gym room renovation. The amount requested was $55,000. Fatland would take the Polk County Community Foundation grant award to the October 2023 Tryon Board of Commissioners meeting to formally accept the grant and approve the grant contract. The Harmon Field Board of Supervisors authorized Fatland to seek additional funding to cover the remaining $29,422 for the gym room renovation. Fatland stated his intention to contact Rotary Club of Tryon Foundation regarding grant funding for the project.

Three walls of the gym room would need to be replaced. Tryon Arts & Crafts School Director Will Barclift asked when the wall replacement would begin. Public Works Director McCool stated that the first wall demolition was scheduled to begin on October 5, 2023. Barclift thanked McCool for his good work so far.

Other

Introduction of new Harmon Field Park Superintendent Brad Gordon – Public Works Director Greg McCool announced that Brad Gordon, formerly a public works employee with the Tryon Water Plant had applied for the position of Harmon Field Superintendent. Fatland stated his pride in the park at Harmon Field, the employees and citizens. The Harmon Field Board congratulated Gordon on his new position.

Invasive Plant Removal Project Report from Greg Miner – Miner reported that the Polk County Appearance Commission had awarded a $3,000 grant over 2 years ($1500 per year with Harmon Field matching funding of $1500) for the eradication of bamboo at Harmon Field. The first year of the project had been so successful, that Miner recommended reducing the amount needed for the second year to $900 from the second year grant and $900 Harmon Field matching funding to do the second year cutting back of the bamboo to complete the eradication. The Board thanked Miner for his work to remove invasive plants at Harmon Field

Polk County Public Library Trick-or-Trot Event at Harmon Field – Polk County Public Library representative Amelia Medrano presented information on their proposed Trick-or-Trot event to be held in Harmon Field on October 13, 2023 (rain date October 27, 2023). The free event would involve free Halloween theme activities and prizes during a 2-mile family fun run/walk around Harmon Field. The event would begin and end near the Harmon Field main entrance between baseball field B and the dog park. The event would be followed by a free Polk County Recreation community campfire event at the start-finish area. The participants would be asked to avoid parking in the cabin area since a private event was scheduled at the cabin. No food would be sold at the event. The Harmon Field Board fully supported this free event.

Dog Park Users Thank You for Input Session on September 12, 2023 – Mr. Fulton and Mr. Bradley expressed their sincere thanks to the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors and Harmon Field staff for the public meeting with dog park users on September 12, 2023 and for the prompt action to improve the conditions at the dog park. They were impressed with the rapid response.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 5:30 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Council Meeting Room

Motion to Enter Closed Session for Personnel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6)

Covil made a motion to enter closed session for personnel pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6). Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0 to enter closed session at 5:20 PM.

Motion to Return to Open Session

Covil made a motion to return to open session. Motion was seconded by Watson, Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0. Meeting was returned to open session at 5:30 pm.

Watson made a motion to reduce the Harmon Field concession stand rent to $500 per month until further notice. Santibanez seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Adjourn
Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Nelon at 5:34 pm.

Submitted By:

Miguel Santibanez
Secretary-Treasurer

Approved:

Stephen Nelon
Chairman