

Approved April 7, 2021
Ruth Mellor

**St. Charles County Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Landhaus in the Park at New Melle Lakes
300 Foristell Road
New Melle, MO 63365
January 13, 2021**

Members Present: Will Klein, Shelley Machens, Ruth Mellor, Eric Montgomery, Bill Wallace and Robert Wohler

Absent: Yvonne Deyo, Nathan Goff, Larry Henderson and Terry Hollander

Department Staff Present: Ryan Graham and Mary Glascock

Public Present: Shirley Pecoraro

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by Chairperson Ruth Mellor.

Public Comments:

Gary Gerber inquired as to what additional amenities would be added to the New Melle Park. Mr. Gerber lives near the park and is a former employee of the previous golf course.

Shirley Pecoraro commented on the great job staff did in creating virtual videos due to the cancellation of the Candlelight event at the Daniel Boone Home. She shared her NAI award. Congratulations!

A motion was made by Robert Wohler to approve the October 2020 minutes. Bill Wallace mentioned that the word motion was missing. Correction noted. Shelley Machens 2nd the motion. All in favor 6/0 Minutes approved with correction.

Board Communications:

Department report – Ryan Graham updated members on the park happenings.

The 2021 Budget has been approved. The department use tax is up, however, revenues from rentals and programs is down due to Covid.

Even with the shutdown of some facilities and cancelation of programs during 2020 it was a very busy year. Park attendance for 2020 was at 4,552,000, doubling the previous year.

Staff will be busy with several project this year to include:

- YAP improvements – addition of a playground splash pad, big wheel track and expansion of building. Rebranding of park.
- New Melle Development – roadways, composting restroom, pavilion, kayak launch & playground. Engineering/design of additional areas of park.

- Riverside Landing – construction to begin in February & will include camping, boat/kayak launch, parking & restrooms. Looking to open in the fall.
- Matson– connect Matson trail to the Katy Trail and eventually to Boone. Matson phase I will include shelters, restrooms and utilities.
- Hays - the house is now open to the public. Tours are available through Boone.
- MO Bluffs – completion of group camping area to include composting restroom, parking and shelter.
- Hiring of 7 new positions – Ranger, Park Supervisor for New Melle, Horticulturalist, Natural Resource Specialist, 2- Park Maintenance Workers and a Natural Resource Aquatic Specialist.

Board Members:

Ruth inquired about putting the sign on Z. Ryan is working on it.

Will asked if we would be putting in any additional cabins. We are looking to add additional cabins at Klondike on the bluff. These will be more upscaled cabins.

Bob thanked the parks for the work done at Indian Camp Creek with the loop road.

Bill inquired about the rebranding of the YAP. No new name has been submitted and approved at this time. We are still working on it. If you have any suggestions, please send them to Ryan.

Park Foundation Report:

- The Foundation continues to hold its meetings by Zoom.
- Approved Board Expectations & Conflict of Interest policies
- Possible fundraisers include a Virtual Run/Walk for this spring
- Approved appointment of new member – Matthew Jones of Lake St. Louis
- Looking to help support Greens Bottom Roadway project at Pitman Hill for access to Katy Trail
- Working on developing recognition signage for Foundation assisted projects.

Old Business:

Will asked if there were any plans for the piece of property across from Veterans Park. Currently there are no plans for development.

Bob received a nice comment from a park user when he arrived today. The gentleman said, “this was as good as it gets”. He and his wife use the bench to have picnics.

Will inquired if the parks have had any increase in vandalism with the increased attendance? No, we have not. Are there any concerns about the swimming at Klondike continuing in 2021? Staff is hoping that when the pools reopen use of the lake will decrease. Our staff does inform

Approved April 7, 2021
Ruth Mellor

users that they are not to swim in the lake and have the get out. However, once we leave they are right back in.

New Business: Fee changes were tabled. This may be postponed to 2022 depending on how this year goes.

Agenda for April 7, 2021 meeting:

A motion was made by Will Kline to adjourn meeting. A second was provided by Robert Wohler. All in favor 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.