

Be it remembered on Monday, June 19, 2017, at 7:00 pm, a joint public meeting of the Henry County Council, the Henry County Commissioners and the Henry County Memorial Park Board was held in the W. G. Smith Building which is located in Memorial Park. The council members present were Nate LaMar, Steve Dugger, Richard Bouslog, Robin Fleming, Harold Griffin, Clay Morgan and Mike Thalls. The Commissioners present were Butch Baker, Kim L. Cronk and Ed Yanos. The Henry County Memorial Park Board present were Jeremiah Morrell, Lis McDonnell, Chad Malicoat, Tony Roach and Sandy Wright. Also, present were Patricia A. French, County Auditor and Joel Harvey, County Attorney. The HOPE Initiative Co-Facilitators, Dr. Cathy Hamilton and Jerry Cash were present. The joint public meeting was to receive the needs assessment and recommendations for Memorial Park with a vote to proceed forward after the presentation. The meeting was opened with a Welcome from Jeremiah Morrell, Memorial Park Board President, followed with the presentation of the flag. Introductions of the Council, the Commissioners, the Memorial Park Board, the County Auditor, the County Attorney, the HOPE Initiative Co-Facilitators were made by Jerry Cash. Mr. Cash also introduced the Friends of Memorial Park Board, Summer Gibson and Sheila Martin, Co-Directors. Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Martin then introduced their Friends Board individually who are Joyce Jester, Carly Guffey, Sonja Conley, Nick Dearing, Rick Couder, Lindsey Posey, Nancy Dietz and shared what talent each one brought to this Board. Next, a presentation of a \$2,500.00 check from Monsanto was given to the Friends of Memorial Park, courtesy of Bill and Lis McDonnell. Then, Dr. Hamilton gave the history of the park with its nearly 300 acres and all the wonderful memories the park holds for family reunions using the shelters, sledding down "the hill", fireworks, graduation parties, weddings, memorials, paddleboat riding, 4-H activities, golf, Saddle Club, ball players, children feeding the ducks by the ponds or playing on the playground equipment, fishing, ice skating, Whippet races, the monuments reflecting our precious veterans who gave us so much or people just enjoying the beauty of the park who turns 100 years old in 2020. Dr. Hamilton next presented the plan explaining the HOPE Initiative's role in the community and charge regarding Memorial Park. The process used was holding several community meetings. The participants were asked about the Park as we know it now: "What is good about it"? and "What are current concerns"? By the third meeting, the newly created Friends of Memorial Park was formed who provided dinner this evening for donations as well as saved the plastic water caps which will help provide funding for the Park. Someone who loves Memorial Park had donated upfront monies to help establish a 501 (c) (3) to organize Friends of the Memorial Park. Friends of Memorial Park will be a stand alone organization like the Friends of the Library or like the Henry County Saddle Club. The four (4) Friends remaining committees envisioned a year-round, self-sufficient events/activities calendar, inclusive ADA playgrounds, maintenance of park "non-negotiables", and inviting and self-sufficient amenities that would draw visitors. The recommendation is to build a 60,000 to 65,000 square foot two (2) story multi-purpose building on the south ninety (90). This self-sufficient sustainable complex would house the park office as well as the extension office, have kitchen facilities, restrooms, hold all 4-H & other year long events/programs and would include ADA playground equipment plus funding for maintenance of the park that includes the repairs of the shelter houses. Recommendation for the W.G. Smith Building is not to tear it down but repair it which includes replacing the ceiling, fixing the restrooms as well as all the other necessary repairs. Also, to change the main entrance to the side with flags and landscaping to make it a Memorial Veterans Museum with volunteers greeting the visitors.

The current funding from the Food & Beverage was \$386,000.00 plus additional \$100,00.00 match fund from the sale of the golf course. Approximately \$85,000.00 has been paid out already from this funding. Donations are coming into Friends of the Park and grants can be applied for and received plus businesses in the community are committed to partnering to make labor and other donations. The cost for the Smith Building is estimated between 1.2 and 1.5 million dollars with work completed by June 2019. The cost of the 4-H Complex is estimated at 1.7 million dollars to be completed by June 2020 in time to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Park Anniversary. The recommendation is to start both projects at the same time. Dr. Hamilton stated "Don't think poor, think healthy".

The director of the Henry County Historical Society, Tim Rainesalo, discussed the two World War I "Doughboy" located in the Park in 1929 and instructed the people in attendance on how to put the QR code app on their cell phones so they could read what he had written on this historical monument.

The Henry County Council, the Henry County Commissioners and the Henry County Park Board after several hours of presentation and discussion were asked to approve the four (4) recommendations which are (1) Convert the W.G. Smith into an interactive, historical museum that honors veterans (2) Allow the Henry County 4-H to proceed to raise funds to help build a new two (2) story, 60,000.00 to 65,000.00 square foot facility for 4-H year round activities that could be rented out for other private and public events which would make it self-sustaining. (3) Allow four (4) Committees to continue working on non-negotiable issues such as ADA compliance with the playground equipment, maintaining the ponds, marketing, war monuments, tree nursery and other amenities. (4) Authorizing a study of future governance of the park to help remove the financial burden operating the park off the county budget.

Steve Dugger made a motion to allow 4-H to proceed with plans to raise funds to build a 4-H Complex and seconded by Mike Thalls. Robin Fleming asked before the vote was taken by full Council that she wanted to know how each of the Henry County Park Board members were voting first on the four (4) recommendations. Recommendation votes went back to each individual Park Board members who one by one answered "Yes" to each four (4) recommendations. The Park Board adjourned after their votes were done. Mr. LaMar asked for vote on motion to allow 4-H to proceed with plans to raise funds to build a new 4-H Complex since motion was made and seconded was

on the floor. Motion carried 6-0. Robin Fleming made a motion to convert the W.G. Smith Building into an interactive, historical museum that honors veterans and \$100,000.00 is to be paid for the Memorial Park's Food and Beverage match from the sale of the golf course money with the balance of the golf course money being kept for Memorial Park, not for the 4-H Complex. Motion was seconded by Harold Griffin. Motion carried 6-0. Clay Morgan made a motion to allow four (4) standing committees to continue working on "non-negotiable" issues. Motion seconded by Richard Bouslog. Motion carried 6-0. Mike Thalls made a motion to authorize a study of future governance of the park to help take the financial burden of operating the park off of the county budget. Motion seconded by Clay Morgan. Motion carried 6-0. Steve Dugger made a motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Robin Fleming. Motion carried 6-0.

Commissioner Butch Baker made a Motion to convert the W.G. Smith Building into an interactive, historical museum that honors veterans. Motion seconded by Ed Yanos who loves the idea of having flags. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Kim Cronk made a Motion to allow Henry County 4-H to proceed with plans to raise funds to help build 4-H Complex. Motion seconded by Ed Yanos. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ed Yanos made a Motion to allow the four (4) committees to continue working on "non-negotiable" issues. Motion seconded by Kim Cronk. Commissioner Kim Cronk made a Motion to authorize a study of future governance of the park to help take the financial burden of operating the park off of the county budget. Motion seconded by Ed Yanos. Motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Ed Yanos made a Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Butch Baker. Motion carried 3-0.

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

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Nate LaMar

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Richard Bouslog

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Michael Thalls

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Harold Griffin

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Robin Reno-Fleming

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Steve Dugger

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Clay Morgan