Troy Community Park Committee Minutes for August 28, 2025

The Troy Community Park Committee met on August 28, 2025 at the park. Those present were Selena Smith, Jennifer Whetstine, Courtney Owens, Jackie Peden, and Mary Winder.

Smith read the minutes from the July, 2025 meeting, Wetstine moved to approve them as read, Owens seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Winder reported that the group has $4,684.86 in its account. Whetstine checked with Mike Estes with the Rec. Board about the status of the $10,000 and the $4,000 the Rec. Board members voted to give the Park Committee for the disc golf course project and other park work, as it isn’t in the Park Committee’s account yet. He said he will check on this.

Luke Terry sprayed the sericea lespedeza and Japanese hops at the park on 8-21-2025. He sent a bill for $225 and the Park Committee voted by phone to pay this bill. On 8-26-2025, Smith made a motion by text to pay the bill, Whetstine seconded the motion, and the following people voted in favor of the motion: Smith, Whetstine, Winder, Betsy Hinds, Peden, and Mike Estes.

Then, on Aug. 25, 2025, Winder sent a request to Harley Franken at the School DIstrict Office, asking her to pay this bill.

Smith provided an update on the ragweed project in the native plant area. She plans to ask Alan Winkel to mow the ragweed along the west edge of the field. Winder checked on wildflower seeds to plant in this area. Wildlife Biologist Tyler Warner had no seeds, and Luke Terry said he might have some to share this fall. Winder did get eight small packets of native wildflower seeds from a friend, which she gave to Smith. Planting in November was recommended.

Smith also provided an update on the disc golf course. On August 28, Logan Merz with Merz Ink in Nebraska, Jim Horner with City of Troy, and Smith installed the nine signs on posts at the disc golf holes along with the big sign at the start of the course. They also installed the collars for the posts that will hold the disc golf baskets. The baskets will be set on the posts in the near future, after the Quikrete sets up. There are padlocks at the base of the basket posts to keep people from removing the baskets.

Smith will contact Jake Newton about making the concrete tee pads. Merz said that a pad eight feet by three feet would be an adequate size.

Simple ideas for the course that Merz shared include: installing hooks on the back of the sign poles for people to hang their disc bags, setting out a box with a slot where people could deposit lost discs they have found, adding trash cans, and setting some benches in places along the course.

The Park Committee still needs to pay Merz for the posts and Quikrete.

A grand opening/open house is still being planned for the future.

An update on the volleyball court is tabled until Betsy Hinds is present. This could include information on a diagram of tie-down locations, when to take boundary lines in for winter, status of volleyballs, and clip on storage box (the lid is still popping open).

Smith will put the wildflower signs back in native grass patch soon.

The meeting about tree trimming/removal, etc. along the roadside through the park has been postponed until the date of the September Park Committee meeting, September 25. This meeting may include Troy Mayor Micheal Brissett, Luke Terry, Jim Horner, city council members, and Park Committee members.

We will follow up with Tip Top Tree service later, if needed.

The path through native grass has been mowed, and Winder thanked Jim Horner

Winder checked the area on the girls’ restroom wall to see if it was black, and it is fine.

Regarding the Troy Community Park’s Facebook page, Whetstine will look at the page and see if park users can post photos and/or comments, or if only administrators can do that. Also, Smith will check on the QR code that leads to the Facebook page to make sure it is working.

Peden received the geocache log book and has placed it in the geocache box at the park. She will check into becoming administrator for the geocache site.

Smith has made copies of the scavenger hunt/trail diagram signs for the mailbox at the park.

Winder brought some pieces of metal that might be useful for a sign at the rock snake. She will bring them to the next meeting, as Hinds has a relative who may be able to make the signs.

There is no update yet on naming the playground area near the Troy Community Center so there is not confusion with the Troy Community Park.

Possible grants for future–Rainbow Communications and T-Mobile Hometown grants

Smith provided an update on the native garden project from Kansas Native Plant Society. She may plant the plants in a different spot in the native plant area rather than the original idea of in the depression.

The committee members then discussed ideas and plans for the upcoming Halloween event to be held at the park the evening of Saturday, Oct. 25.

Plans call for people to get on the wagons and go for a hay ride. Starting location has yet to be determined. When they get to the park, they will get off the wagons at the shelter house to listen to spooky stories told by the THS speech and drama students. Then, the people will visit the various baskets of the disc golf course around the park and get candy treats and trinkets. The high school students, if there are enough, may be stationed at the baskets to help monitor. The children will bring their own bags for the candy.

There will be one or two projectors showing spooky projections. We will need a microphone, fog machine, and pumpkins decorated along the route. Owens will get hot chocolate, glow sticks, trinkets, flashlights, and fix a Halloween basket for a prize. Whetstine will get candy. Smith will get stepladders for people to use to get on and off the wagons. We will put glow sticks on the baskets so people can find their way. There will be a spooky backdrop at the shelter house for a photo op.

There will be two wagons and they will make a total of two to three hayride rounds, depending on attendance.

Theresa Root says THS students will be able to tell ghost stories at shelter house. Winder will tell them to please spend about 15 minutes on the stories. Winder will also ask if there are extra students if they could be stationed at the disc golf baskets.

Winder will reserve the 4-H building in case we need it. It would be good to have two people stationed there if we use it. Winder will also ask the city of Troy for barricades to block the road through the park.

The next meeting will be September 25, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the park.