

Agreement moves forward on airport park

If approved Summersville School would maintain the field for use

BY JOSH JONES

SENTINEL NEWS STAFF

MT. VERNON — The future of the airport's park was discussed during Monday's Airport Authority Board of Commissioners meeting.

Jay Tate, president of the Summersville Grade School Board of Education, said the school was seeking a partnership with the airport for leasing the airport park, after it was recently announced by the city that they were looking to lower the amount of parks it would be maintaining.

"We found out that you guys actually own the ground in the Summersville park area. If any of you

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AIRPORT PARK — The Mt. Vernon Airport Authority Board of Commissioners gave a consensus during Tuesday's meeting to develop a plan with Summersville Grade School to lease out the airport park to the school for use on the condition of them maintaining it.

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have been there, worked there or had children there, our school has always actively looked for a baseball field, a softball field and those types of things. We just don't have the space," Tate said.

Tate said that the school has found itself land locked in recent years after building a gym and retention pond and they were wanting a dual purpose baseball and softball field, with the first year focusing on mainly having the athletes practice there.

"So, we are hoping to enter into a lease with you guys to lease those properties from you. For the maintenance of those properties as well as we are going to upgrade and make a ball park," Tate said. "It will definitely meet the needs of whatever you guys

have. We know we have height restrictions. And, we are not going to make any major manipulations of those grounds. But we would like to proceed forward with getting upgrades to the ball diamonds and taking over the general maintenance of that facility."

Tate mentioned that the Summersville School board voted at their previous meeting to move forward on this agreement.

"We are in the stages of now getting the leases transferred from the city to us, we have a mowing person ready to go," Tate said. "We want to see how it is going to work for at least a year with you guys, revisit this next year at this time and see that everything is still good. But we would probably go right to work on making baseball fields and any improvements."

According to Tate, the goal of maintaining the park is for both the student

athletes and the Summersville community.

"We are probably the primary ones that use that ground," Tate said. "So, our kids will be excited to have that. We want to make sure they stay in good condition."

After a few questions the board gave a consensus to move forward on the agreement.

"I am really excited to start this partnership with you, looking forward to it," said Ryan Wellmaker, commissioner.

IN OTHER BUSINESS:

- The board approved a bid of \$49,877 from Geissler Roofing for a membrane roof for the ARFF Station.

- The board heard an update on Balloons Over Mt. Vernon, which is May 18 and 19, mentioning the current events they have planned and are currently seeking sponsors.

- The new airport sign is expected to be installed very soon. *MAY 12, 18*
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