

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2007  
4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Bruce McMillan, Mrs. Linda Teener, Mr. Reed Scott, and Ms. Jean Darbyshire. Also present at this meeting was Mr. Curt Loupe, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Eddie Eastes, Park Superintendent; Mr. Frank Gibbs, Park Planner; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director, Mr. Mike Buchanan, Assistant Recreation Superintendent; and Mrs. Buffy Woodward, Administrative Assistant. Visitors included Ms. Beverly Page and Mr. Randy Martin.

MINUTES

Mr. McMillan called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mrs. Teener, seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 6, 2007. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

PRESENTATION FOR PAST BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. McMillan and Mr. Loupe presented awards to Ms. Beverly Page and Mr. Randy Martin for their service to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

QUALITY OF LIFE 2 UPDATE

The Quality of Life Committee has created posters and bookmarks to help promote the bond issue to the public. Information regarding the bond issue may also be accessed by going to the website [www.qualityoflife2.org](http://www.qualityoflife2.org). The committee has been making presentations and raising awareness. Mr. Randy Martin stated that resources, volunteers, and leadership are needed to get the bond issue passed.

STAFF REVIEW

Mr. Scott asked if the number of incoming animals listed on the report was year-to-date. Mr. Loupe said that he would check on it. Mr. McMillan asked if quotes were received for the resurfacing of the tennis courts. Mr. Gibbs answered that quotes were received and that the two tennis courts and the basketball court in City Park will be resurfaced, but that the CiCo tennis courts will have to be done at a later date. He also mentioned that there is money in the budget for the resurfacing. Mr. McMillan asked what the status was of the playground for the Brookfield neighborhood. Mr. Gibbs and Mr. Loupe gave the project history and explained that other variables need to be resolved. Mr. McMillan asked what the horticulture division would be responsible for in taking care of the 4<sup>th</sup> Street Redevelopment project. Mr. Eastes stated that the City will be responsible for the west side, and Dial will be responsible for the east side.

ACCEPTANCE OF PICTURE DONATION FOR THE DEPOT

Mr. Buchanan stated that Mr. Dean Taylor had access to a picture of the depot from Mr. Bill Johnston. Mr. Taylor would like to donate the picture to the Depot and have it hung there if acceptable. Mr. McMillan stated that the picture would need to be hung appropriately. Mr. Buchanan stated that many users of the Depot are interested in the Depot's history. Mr. McMillan said that he would encourage the acceptance of the picture and will coordinate how to appropriately display it. Mrs. Teener stated that the Whistle Stop Campaign picture would be nice to display as well.

DISCUSSION OF PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

Mr. Loupe stated that input and direction from the Board is needed regarding fee increases. People are concerned about the staffing of the possible indoor pool. Ms. Darbyshire mentioned that she was concerned about the closure of the pools due to staff problems, and that if fees are raised scholarships need to be available. Mrs. Teener stated that scholarships are already available. Parks and Recreation needs to stay competitive with their wages. Ms. Darbyshire said that staff training and certifications should be taken into consideration; wages should be above average. Mr. Buchanan explained that part of the staffing problem is due to the Child Labor Law. Mrs. Teener asked if the City covers the cost of training seasonal staff. Mr. Loupe stated that the staff pays their own training fees. The Board needs to determine what is an acceptable increase in fees. Mr. McMillan stated that he would like to see a list of the fees to be raised. Ms. Darbyshire said that comparisons from other communities would be helpful too. Increases should be phased in.

FEMA UPDATE

The flooding on May 4, 2007, caused damage to parts of Anneberg Park, Northeast Park, and Linear Trail. Mr. Eastes gave an overview of the repairs that have been completed as of date. This information has been submitted to FEMA. FEMA is expected to pay 75% of the cost and the State of Kansas is expected to pay approximately 10% of the remainder. He also presented the Board with two pages of cost estimates for projects that still need to be done.

GRANT UPDATE

Mr. Loupe stated that two grants that the department had submitted have been awarded. One grant is to help create wetlands near Anneberg Park and the other is from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for safety surface material.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following are future agenda items: FEMA update, grant update, Quality of Life 2 update, and the need for new Board members.

It was moved by Ms. Darbyshire, seconded by Mr. Scott to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by acclamation.