

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
December 2, 2013
4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Ms. Linda Teener, Mr. Bruce McMillan, Mr. Dave Schafer, Mr. Ed Klimek, Mr. Aaron Estabrook, Ms. Marcia Rozell, and Ms. Ashalen Sims. Also present at this meeting were: Mr. Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager; Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner; Mr. Mike Buchanan, Recreation Superintendent, Mr. Peter Clark, Civil Design/Traffic Engineer; and Ms. Chrissy Kramer, Administrative Assistant.

MINUTES

Ms. Teener called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Schafer, seconded by Mr. Klimek to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 7, 2013. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

DISCUSSION OF TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROJECT

Mr. Eastes apologized for the short notice of discussing the 2014 Transportation Alternatives (TA) projects, administered through the Kansas Department of Transportation. He introduced Peter Clark, Civil Design/Traffic Engineer with the Public Works Department, who has been working with Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner, to develop a project. The application is for the Knox Lane Multi-Use Path. A 10-foot wide pedestrian-bicycle path will be proposed on the south side of Knox Lane from Casement Road to Northeast Park. Mr. Clark and Mr. Thompson presented conceptual plans, photographs of the existing corridor, and a review of the Northeast Park Master Plan. Mr. Clark stated that the costs would be \$220,000 for construction, \$30,000 for construction engineering, and approximately \$10,000 for right-of-way acquisition. The design would be completed by City Staff. The TA grant would cover 65% of the costs, with the City paying 35%. Discussion ensued regarding the need for the project, benefits to the neighborhoods, the required width of the path, and access to the path from the neighborhood on the north side of Knox Lane. Mr. Klimek asked if the Sidewalk Fund could be used for this project if the grant was not awarded. Mr. Clark replied that the Sidewalk Fund was typically for smaller projects. Mr. McMillan asked if the property owners were contacted regarding the acquisition process, to which Mr. Clark said that no formal contact has been made. Only if the grant would be awarded, would the process move forward. Mr. Clark requested a letter of support from the Parks and Recreation Board to include with the application. Additional letters of support will be requested from individuals, business owners, and other groups who may stand to benefit from the project.

It was moved by Ms. Sims, seconded by Mr. Schafer to support the overall concept for Knox Lane. Discussions continued with a revised recommendation to approve the support for the project and pass on suggestions and comments to the City Commission and staff that may improve the project. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

POOL YEAR-END REPORT

Mr. Eastes opened discussion with past comments from the October meeting regarding affordable family pool season passes. Mr. Eastes stated that Mr. Buchanan developed scenarios for the 2014 season.

Mr. Buchanan presented a power point presentation to show three main scenarios for pool season passes. The first was based on an 80 punch card for \$180 or \$45 per person for a family of four. It is unlimited and a better bargain. Everyone would need a FOB to keep track of usage and the pass would expire at the end of the season. Or a 10 punch, \$25 passes for people who may not be able to afford the 80 punch card. There would be no discounted rate for small children.

Scenario #2 would provide a discount for multiple FOBs - After the first purchase of \$45, a discount would be offered for a second purchase of an FOB at \$35, but they must be purchased together and have unlimited use of

the FOB. This is more affordable than the first scenario but there would be a difference in revenue. The \$25 FOB would not be included in this option unless used as a large group.

Scenario #3 takes away the FOB and goes straight to cash purchases and there would be no use for the FOB and this option would be the simplest. There would be no twilight fee offered. This would make the biggest deficit.

Ms. Rozell stated that it was convenient to have an FOB rather than cash-on-hand. Mr. Schafer mentioned raising the price to \$50 due to the season pass being given to others outside the family in order to gain entry to the pools. Ms. Teener mentioned that some families may not be able to afford scenario #1 and scholarships should be offered. Mr. Buchanan said that the twilight fee would still be available for Scenario #1. Ms. Teener and Ms. Sims liked the first scenario but wanted to look into a group rate.

After lengthy discussion, it was moved by Mr. Estabrook, seconded by Ms. Sims to accept Scenario #1 and #2 to the City Commission, but to include a group rate. On vote, motion carried 7-0. However, more discussions occurred. It was then decided to amend the motion made by Mr. Estabrook to recommend Scenario #2 to include the group rate. Ms. Sims seconded the motion. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Shoemaker advised that Military Appreciation Day at the Zoo was not as busy as previous years but that the weather was not good. The lemur leopards are now on exhibit and there are only 72 in captivity.

Mr. Goss stated that 500-600 people attended the lighting of the tree at Blue Earth Plaza. Thru Artists Eyes will be held until January 7, 2014.

Mr. Thompson discussed construction at Longs Park with the restroom area being almost complete.

Mr. Buchanan stated that winter classes and registrations are going well.

Mr. McMillan asked about the ice rink participation and Mr. Buchanan stated it was going well.

FUTURE ITEMS

Ms. Rozell asked about having a Linear Trail update. Ms. Teener asked for a future update on the TA grant and also to have someone from the Bike Committee at a future meeting for an update.

Mr. Estabrook mentioned the Pott County land in Lake Elbo that was purchased by the School District and if there was a comprehensive plan. Mr. Thompson stated it was in the early stages.

Mr. Klimek mentioned having the board go on a tour of the Parks and Recreation facilities. Ms. Teener stated that a tour could be scheduled. Mr. Schafer mentioned making suggestions on what is the most important to see with regard to the facilities.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Klimek stated that he would like to thank the City for their participation with helping in the preparation of the Festival of Lights.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned.