

AMENDED MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM

July 7, 2014
4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Ms. Linda Teener, Mr. Bruce McMillan, Ms. Marcia Rozell, Mr. Ed Klimek and Mr. Mark Bachamp. Mr. Dave Schafer and Mr. Aaron Estabrook were absent.

Also present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation, Ella Casey, Zoo Director; Mr. Fred Goss, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner, Park Superintendent; and Chrissy Kramer, Administrative Assistant.

Visitors present: Mr. Rick Petrie and John Tveite and associates from Disc Fanatics of Kansas (DFOK), Miller Ranch Homeowners Association, Robert Ott, City Engineer, Shane Swope, Stormwater Engineer

MINUTES

Ms. Teener called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Rozell, seconded by Mr. McMillen to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 2, 2014. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

Ms. Teener recognized the new member, Mark Bachamp, and welcomed him to the Board.

VISITORS COMMENTS

John Tveite, from Disc Fanatics of Kansas (DFOK), requested to be added to the July 7, 2014, agenda to discuss the Warner Park Disc Golf Project. Mr. Tveite gave the board a letter regarding their request. Mr. Eastes stated that he will see that all the Board Members receive a copy of the letter.

RFQ UPDATE

Mr. Eastes stated that the consult list has been narrowed to 3 consultants; GreenPlay; RDG, and Pros Consulting. Interviews will be set up around July 11-14 with the consultants and the Interview Team.

MILLER RANCH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (MRHA)

Mr. Eastes gave a background on the MRHA previous request. Warner Pond is not part of Warner Park and is located on the NW corner of Warner Park. Miller Ranch is West of the pond. Speaking on behalf of the association were Wes and Sherry Wheeler and Greg Spalding. Mr. Spalding gave a PowerPoint presentation with photographs taken two weeks prior to the Board meeting showing the debris and silt that is accumulating along Warner Pond. Part of the debris is partly from the tornado that did damage to Miller Ranch. The MRHA would like to a) minimize silt; restore depth to the pond; maintain or mow the park side of the pond after the pond has been cleared; and find a method of control for the algae. Residents also would like permission to continue to mow/maintain their side of the pond.

Mrs. Sherry Wheeler presented photos. The Wheelers live where the inlet tube is and copperhead snakes are present. Cattails are an issue as well, especially when they die and layover in the pond and clog the inlet. There is trash and other debris that clogs the inlet as well. The pond may be 5 feet in depth. They also had the water tested by a biologist at K-State University. Wildlife no longer comes to the area.

Mr. Wes Wheeler stated they would like to work with the City and get this done. He further stated that he realized there were costs associated with the cleanup. The Association discussed with a contractor about cleaning out and deepening the pond. The cost would be \$180 per hour to include manpower. No time frame was given. Other considerations for upkeep were types of chemicals designed for algae, grasses, and duckweed. Also, an aerator that does not run on electricity was mentioned. Mr. Wheeler would like to request permission to continue to clean the areas that neighbors have already been cleaning; however,

they realize its city property and do not want to get into trouble. Mr. Wheeler has met with City staff two times on this issue. The City came to clean up the debris, but due to the erosion got stuck in the area. Mr. Wheeler appreciates what has been offered but more needs to be done.

Ms. Rozell stated she did not realize there was a pond at Warner Park. She mentioned that if this area were cleaned up, if the residents would have a problem with all the traffic that may come to the area. Mr. Wheeler stated he and others felt it would be a benefit to the area. Mr. McMillan advised that he went to view the area prior to the meeting and said that is a problem with the area.

Discussions ensued about the best way to handle the problem and possible funding for the cleanup. Mr. Ott, Director of Public Works, provided construction plans of the pond and said it was possible to make it a dry pond, but did not know how the neighbors would feel about that. Mr. Ott believed that cost estimates would be beyond \$20,000. Mr. Eastes stated that this pond was built for a purpose, storm water management, but it may be possible to be multi-purpose, and funding would have to be discussed and is agreeable to fixing the problem. It was the consensus of the Board to have plans submitted, then forwarded to the City Commission for review.

Disc Golf

Mr. Rick Petrie and John Tveite of Disc Golf Fanatics of Kansas discussed enlarging the disc golf park at Warner Park from 9 holes to 18 holes. Ten acres would be needed to complete the course. Mr. Tveite gave a timeline of how the disc golf course began for the new board member. Discussions began about parking, if the Park would be able to handle the course, funding, and if DFOK could discuss their ideas with the Steering Committee meeting that will take place in September. Mr. Eastes advised that DFOK can discuss their ideas with the neighborhood but not as a representative of the City of Manhattan. Mr. Eastes further stated that DFOK is welcome to attend a public meeting, to be scheduled sometime in September, with the consultants to ask questions about any master plan for Warner Park.

Mr. David McGillis, a resident for 10 years in Miller Park, spoke highly of DFOK and he would have no objections to a larger disc golf course. He submitted a letter to the Board as such.

JOINT CITY/COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING IN AUGUST

Mr. Eastes stated a meeting will be scheduled with the County Parks Board for some time in September. Mr. Smithson advised that he has spoken with someone and the County Parks Board has offered September 8 as a possible date, but no location and/or time.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Teener asked the Board for any nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Mr. McMillan nominated Ed Klimek and seconded by Mark Bachamp. On Vote – 4-0. On Vice-Chairperson, Mark Bachamp nominated Marcia Rozell and seconded by Bruce McMillan. On Vote – 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Eastes announced that a new Recreation Superintendent, Chris Curtis, has been hired and will begin work the first week of August. Mr. Thompson said there is a community input session scheduled for July 16 regarding the comprehensive plan. Mr. Smithson stated that crews have been busy working due to the wind storm. The pools are doing well and parallel parking was being done at Anneberg Park. There is also a new online grave locator on the city website. Mr. Smithson also mentioned to the Board to go by the City Park to look at the flower garden because now is the best time to see it.

Ms. Casey stated that it is mid-summer and the wedding season has slowed but will pick back up in the fall. The Gibbons exhibit opened with great reviews. Also, the AZA inspection was completed on Sunset Zoo which took approximately 2 ½ days. Ms. Casey said the Sunset Zoo is in good shape and there were only a couple of issues to be worked on. Sunset Zoo appreciates the support received from Mr. Eastes, as well as Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Goss stated that the new exhibit Ice Age Imperials is showing well. There are several large wooly mammoth footprints at area businesses in support of the exhibit. On June 29, 2014, there was a mini-concert held by Logan Mize, and over 100 people were in attendance. The National Day of Cowboy will be held July 26, 2014, from 9 to 1 p.m. There will also be upcoming children's events in the fall.

FUTURE ITEMS

Mr. McMillan mentioned that the Bicycle Safety Committee has not provided an update and one should be scheduled in the near future. Also, Ms. Teener asked that Disc Golf be discussed again.

OTHER BUSINESS

N/A.

Meeting adjourned.