

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
SUNSET ZOO NATURE EDUCATION CENTER ROOM 105-108
SEPTEMBER 8, 2014
5:00 P.M.

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

Also present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Fred Goss, Flint Hills Discovery Center; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; Mr. Chris Curtis, Recreation Superintendent; and Chrissy Kramer, Administrative Assistant.

Visitor: Ms. Jane Gibson, Citizen of Manhattan, KS.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. Mr. McMillan mentioned the name “Hodgins” should be “Hudgins” and ‘Section Committee’ should be “Steering Committee” in the previous minutes of August 4, 2014, and the Minutes will be so amended. It was moved by Mr. McMillan to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Teener to approve the amended minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 4, 2014. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

CICO PARK DETENTION STRUCTURE

Mr. Thompson stated that a Public Works project to address erosion and flooding concerns downstream of CiCo Park has been planned for several years. Mr. Bachamp is involved with the project and advised that he hopes the project will be completed by May 2015. Shane Swope, the City’s Stormwater Engineer, is to present more information at the Joint Meeting.

BLUE & KANSAS RIVER KIOSK

Mr. Thompson informed the Board about a joint project with the County, Manhattan CVB, and State Wildlife and Parks to install kiosks at Manhattan’s two Kansas River access points. The project is primarily state-funded. More information is to be presented at the Joint Meeting.

STRATEGIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN- RDG

Mr. Eastes stated that the City Commission has approved the Steering Committee. RDG has provided a schedule of dates and a tour has been set for October 2. The City Commission requested a larger Steering Committee based on the desire to have a diverse committee representing the community. Mr. Thompson passed out business cards that were developed to promote the project. The cards featuring the project website, www.cityofmhc.com/parkplan, were passed out at Purple Power Play in the Park and will be given out at upcoming community events as well. Ideas for park improvements have already been submitted online. More information is to be presented at the Joint Meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION OFFICES

Mr. Eastes stated there was a neighborhood meeting and five citizens offered comments. Parking appeared to be an issue but overall no other concerns. The final design should be completed

sometime this year. Mr. McMillan stated that there was a meeting this morning to seek a bid in November to be approved by the City Commission by the end of the year. Discussions began about parking spots for city and employee vehicles as well as patron parking.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Goss stated that the exhibit Ice Age is winding down and two exhibits - Animal Secrets and Flint Hills Forces – 1917 to 1960 Into Early 2015 and will be featured at the same time. There are five to six exhibits being planned for 2015. The Flint Hills Discovery Center Free Day was a success with approximately 1450 people from 12-6 p.m.

Mr. Shoemaker advised that Grandparents Day sponsored by ESB Financial with 659 people in attendance. Brew at the Zoo sold out again this year and a survey has been sent to participants. Attendance is slow during the weekdays due to schools being in session. Weekend attendance is great. Zoo animals are being shipped in/out due to the upcoming weather change.

Mr. Eastes introduced Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director for Parks and Recreation, to the board. Ms. Sutton gave some background on her work history and stated she had worked for the Zoo previously. Ms. Sutton stated she is excited to return to Manhattan and be part of the Parks and Recreation Team. Mr. Klimek mentioned media coverage as a great tool to benefit Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Thompson stated that a design kickoff meeting for the City Park Pool parking lot renovation will be on September 9, 2014, for review of the existing lot and pool entrance. SMH Consultants is assisting with the project. A Request for Qualifications has been prepared for the Anneberg Park Sports Turf and Field Lighting project. The plan is to have a consultant under contract in November, design by early 2015, and completion of the project in early 2016. A public workshop for the Comprehensive Plan Update will be held on September 10, 2014, at the Headquarters Fire Station to review potential land use changes. Discussions began about fields, lighting and other upgrades to the sports fields.

Mr. Curtis stated that the pools have now been closed and indoor activities are currently being planned. Some fall sports are finishing up. Senior trips are ongoing. Aquatic financial numbers should be available in October.

Mr. Smithson advised that painting is now in progress for Cico and Northview pools. The Rose Garden is in full bloom until the weather turns. Warner Park had a cross country meet this past weekend and Peace Lutheran Church assisted with the cleanup.

FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Eastes stated that the Request for Proposals for the Goodnow Cabin will be brought before the Board for review when completed. The Steering Committee will meet with RDG on October 2. Mr. Kiel Mangus, Assistant City Manager, will be involved in the City Pool parking lot and pool entrance and will give a presentation in October or November. Discussions began about parking at Anneberg Park and how to resolve issues of parking on the grass, making signs, roping off or fencing selected areas and also social media usage for parking updates. This issue will be brought up as an Agenda item in October.

Meeting adjourned.