

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
OCTOBER 6, 2014
4:30 P.M.

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

Also present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Fred Goss, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Mr. Chris Curtis, Recreation Superintendent; Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer; Mr. Shane Swope, Stormwater Engineer; Mr. Lance Evans, Planner, Community Development; and Ms. Chrissy Kramer, Administrative Assistant.

Visitors: Wes & Sherry Wheeler, Manhattan, KS

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Bachamp to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Rozell to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 8, 2014. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Klimek welcomed Pat Hudgins to the board.

WARNER PARK DETENTION POND

Mr. Eastes stated that citizens from the Miller Ranch area were in attendance and appreciated their comments at a previous meeting regarding the detention pond. Mr. Swope, Stormwater Engineer, and Mr. Johnson, City Engineer, presented several power point slides on the functionality of the detention pond. Diagrams were shown of the detention pond area. Mr. Swope stated that the pond is functioning as designed. He also recommends not removing siltation from neither the pond nor using stormwater funds. If stormwater funds were to be used, a possibility is to convert to a dry detention pond with a cost estimate of \$15-20,000. Removal of silt would cost approximately \$40,000.

Mr. Wes Wheeler, who lives in the area, stated that the pond is now less than one foot deep. He would not approve of a dry pond and believes it would be a detriment to the community. After cleaning of the area by the Parks and Recreation Department staff, people have been utilizing the trail and pond and wildlife has returned. Ms. Sherry Wheeler stated the property is not owned by Homeowners Association. She would not like to have a dry pond. She also mentioned houses purchased in the neighborhood were bought with consideration of the aesthetics the pond would offer.

Mr. Johnson stated that rock could be placed at the two inlet tubes to help with erosion along with mowing the area, however, dredging the area would be costly and the City does not have the equipment to dredge. Mr. Johnson suggested meeting with the Homeowners Association prior to the next City Commission meeting to discuss the matter further.

Lengthy discussions began on the best way to handle the detention pond for all parties involved. After discussions, Mr. Klimek suggested that the matter be forwarded to the City Commission with a recommendation from the Advisory Board to keep the wet detention pond and allow necessary rock placement with routine mowing maintenance.

Manhattan Urban Area Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Eastes discussed land use and parks and potential future development. Mr. Evans shared a slide show on Manhattan 2035 and gave a comprehensive plan overview. The City is working with Pottawattamie County and Riley County. Draft goals and policy statements that pertain to parks, recreation, and open space planning were presented to the Board for consideration.

Mr. Evans stated that meetings are scheduled and there will be opportunity to make any necessary revisions to the draft goals and policy statements prior to the completion of the plan. Mr. Thompson has also assisted and stated that land use studies are also involved. Discussions began about potential uses.

Anneberg Park

Mr. Eastes stated past practice had been to place no parking signs in selected areas and stated that the public needs to be educated on parking areas. There is not enough parking for tournaments and the traffic engineer has looked into options for parking. Discussions began about potential ideas on how to improve parking.

Preliminary Pool Report

Mr. Eastes stated that pool fees will go before the City Commission on October 28 for review. Direction is needed on pricing for the 2015 pool season. Mr. Curtis stated that 2014 was a good year with over 131,000 attendances with 84 days of operation with the three pools. Discussions ensued about past pool revenue and solutions to improve revenues. Discussions also began on the transfer of prior years punch passes, possibly creating a photo pass, group passes to include a discount, party packages, facility rentals, and hours of operations and keeping the pools open longer in the summer. It was suggested to find out how other cities operate their pools. The Board recommended an unlimited entry season pass that was not transferrable be considered.

Monthly Report

Mr. Curtis provided a report to the advisory board of costs associated with recreation programs. Mr. Klimek stated the information would assist with the Strategic Facilities Plan.

Mr. Smithson stated the pool painting was completed for Cico and Northview Pools. Fall cleaning began of city park areas and Church of the World provided 124 volunteers to assist with the fall clean-up, which was approximately 248 hours worth of work. Mr. Smithson commends the volunteers for their participation. The weekend staff is no longer working due to the fall season. The splash park will be closed for the season on October 10 @ 5:00 p.m. Blue Earth Plaza will be closing nearer to Halloween. The Parks Department also assisted the Sunset Zoo with the resurfacing of playground at Sunset Zoo.

Mr. Shoemaker stated that the Parks Department did assist with the resurfacing and it is well received by zoo patrons. Spooktacular is coming up on the weekend of October 18. Mr. Shoemaker stated that the zoo has a new addition, a baby Chacoan Peccary. These animals were once thought to be extinct.

Mr. Thompson stated that the comprehensive plan is ongoing.

Future Agenda

Mr. Eastes stated that Mr. Thompson is working on an RFP for the Goodnow Boy Scout Cabin and may be ready for review at the November meeting. Mr. Kiel Mangus should be attending the November meeting for further discussion on the city pool parking area and entrance. The joint City Commission/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be December 9 for an update on the Strategic Facilities Improvement Plan. Mr. Eastes began a Strategic Facilities Improvement Plan update on RDG and the city participants. The first committee meeting was on October 2, 2014, and Mr. Eastes stated the names on the steering committee. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2014. Mr. Eastes outlined a tentative schedule and hopes the final plan will be submitted to the City Commission in April, 2015.

Mr. Thompson stated the website has received a number of ideas and comments via email. Mr. Klimek mentioned Mr. Ron Vine had a discussion about surveys and can provide an appropriate survey to send.

Mr. Eastes stated the city expansion is ongoing and no alterations have been made. The plan goes to the planning board on October 20, and then will be forwarded to the City Commission on November 4.

Meeting adjourned.