

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
April 6 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Park Planner; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Mr. Chris Curtis, Recreation Superintendent; Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; Mr. Robert Ott, Director of Public Works; Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer; Mr. B.J. Edmonston, Engineer II and Mr. Peter Clark, Public Works Traffic/Civil Design Engineer.

Visitors: Mr. Rod Kalivoda, Victor Steiner, Kent Foster, and Doug Meloan, Kiwanis Club. Mr. Tim Schultz, Shultz Construction.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. McMillan, seconded by Ms. Teener to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 2, 2015. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

11TH AND FREMONT INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Eastes stated he appreciated the Public Works employees attending the meeting and to guide this discussion regarding the potential traffic safety concerns they have about the potential impact at City Park. Public Works has looked at several options. Mr. Peter Clark, Public Works Traffic/Civil Design Engineer introduced himself and started a presentation on the impact and interaction this project will have with City Park and introduced Mr. B.J. Edmonston, Engineer II, for further discussion. Mr. Edmonston stated that several designs have been discussed with internal management. Taken into consideration were accident volume, geometric changes, improving access to City Park and adjoining neighborhoods, safer movements for pedestrians as well as bikes and vehicles. The reason for this project is due to the volume of accidents at this intersection which warrants additional turn lanes. The scope of the project will be to signalize 11th & Fremont, add a turning lane, storm sewer improvements, and update curb ramps for ADA accessibility. Potential impact would be tree removal, green space impacts from curb to sidewalk, and removal of parking spaces on Fremont. The sidewalk will be moved closer to the existing tree line. Financing will be provided as a joint project between Community Development and Public Works at an estimated cost of \$300,000 to include funding from a Community Development Block Grant. Final steps will include a neighborhood meeting, a final design, bid letting and construction to begin in the Summer of 2015. Mr. Edmonston anticipates a 20-30 advance notice to citizens in the area. It was discussed that the fraternity house be notified prior to their leaving for the summer. Mr. McMillan mentioned that he did not see in the initial plan to have a push button crosswalk signal at the corner of N. Manhattan and 11th Street. Mr. Clark stated that nothing has been budgeted but believes there are designs being made for future projects. Mr. Thompson added that the City University Project will pave portions of exiting parking on N. Park Road where N. Manhattan crosses Fremont. The project is currently in design and has a component to shorten the crossing distance as well as restripe crosswalks. There is not a budget for a push button crossing but could be budgeted at a later time. Mr. McMillan also mentioned how dark the area is at night. Mr. Clark believes a solution should be made at the intersection and is committed to exploring and moving forward with an option to explore and investigate this issue. Mr. Thompson's design will make improvements with the sight distance with the southbound traffic and make the crossing shorter. To look into the utilization of a signal will require more data. Lengthy discussions began about the accident ratio, tree removal, as well as the amount of traffic in the area. Mr. Clark estimated approximately 9,000 cars per day travel on 11th Street, although Fremont has less but as a side street still warrants a traffic signal. Mr. Clark has submitted forms to Kansas Department of Transportation in the

past 5-6 years to get a safety grant. The project was not submitted this year due to it not meeting the criteria and believes the City should find a solution. In using Community Development Block Grant money and internal city funds, Mr. Clark believes it can be done in a cost-effective way.

Mr. Klimek stated that no formal motion needs to be done but the advisory board needs to advise where it stands on this issue. Mr. Klimek is not in favor of the project and does not like the idea of losing green space and parking. Mr. McMillan stated that with the N. Park paving, additional spaces will be made to which Mr. Thompson confirmed approximately 4 spaces. Ms. Rozell is in support of the project, even though green space will be reduced, in order to improve the intersection. Ms. Teener believes this is a dangerous intersection and taking out green space is minor, when talking about the safety of the intersection. Mr. McMillan is in support of the project but is concerned with the sidewalk at the edge of the traffic lane. Mr. Schafer is in favor of the project but concerned with cost/benefit ratio. Mr. Klimek stated he thought it best to wait for Kansas Department of Transportation to come in with funding for improvements. Ms. Hutchins is concerned with KDOT funds being reduced and if this occurs, when would the project be completed. After no further comments, Mr. Eastes asked Public Works personnel if they were comfortable with the directions/comments and could move forward with internal discussion. (PW Employees were off-camera).

LEE MILL HEIGHTS PARK PROPERTY UPDATE

Mr. Eastes stated it has been some time since the board has viewed the tract of land since the purchase and substantial donation of land by Mr. Tim Schultz to the City in 2008. A power point presentation was shown of the potential areas of discussion. Mr. Schultz is developing a portion of property and would like to switch properties along with donating an additional section of land. The City would gain additional property, with replatting, a new legal description begin done and the land being annexed into the City and become dedicated park land. Rob Ott, Public Works Director, stated there will be a neighborhood meeting on Friday, April 10 for discussion. Public Works will plat and annex the property along with working with Mr. Schultz. Originally, this property started as a water line project but due to the terrain, water lines were buried only 3 1/2 feet. Parks and Recreation is in favor of this transaction and feels it would be a benefit to Parks and Recreation and used as a park plan. A small playground area with parking access, a shelter and a trail head with vistas overlooking the area are possible. The portion of land relinquished would be a challenge to use effectively. Mr. Shultz stated the total plan was to get all of Miller Parkway paved completely, however, it was put into a benefit district instead of paid by the City. Mr. Shultz stated he gained one lot but would be donating \$25,000 back to the city and would like it to be used for this park plan. Unit 10 is the last component of Lee Mill Heights with Unit 9 already being sold out. Mr. Schultz has attended 2 homeowner's association meetings and believes they are excited about the prospect of a new park plan. Mr. Eastes stated that with the \$25,000 donation would go a long way with the development of the project.

Ms. Rozell made a motion to 'swap the triangle piece of land to do the exchange, however that works out with the City and Mr. Schultz and accept the financial donation'. Seconded by Ms. Teener. On vote, 6-0.

CITY PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Eastes turned this discussion over to Mr. Thompson and added that he appreciated Mr. Thompson's efforts on this plan. Mr. Thompson gave the advisory board a power point presentation and added that it will be posted on the Parks and Recreation website, www.mhkprd.com/citypark. Mr. Thompson stated there had been 15 community input opportunities for comments and received good feedback. A rundown of how this information was promoted was given. Some suggestions were achieving more green space to organizing and consolidating what was already in City Park, to pedestrian and bike paths, more bathroom facilities and water fountains. Pool discussions were longer seasons, and an indoor pool. The online survey had 529 responses with 87% from Manhattan, in the 66502 zip code - 76%, with an age of 21-40 and 62% were women. Mr. Thompson gave a breakdown of the questions asked in the survey and stated most were favorable but there was room for improvement. The next steps will be to break down all the information received and develop concept ideas and graphics for people to respond. On May 9, 2015, a 'What Would Johnny Do?' workshop will be held during the Yard Art in the Park car show, as well as

other park activities, to take advantage of the people attending and to get potential feedback. Lengthy discussions began about the survey and feedback received. Ms. Rozell mentioned receiving feedback from participants when games are held at the park. Mr. Thompson advised that the survey was closed but could be opened up and any information received could be added to that data.

KIWANIS REQUEST

Mr. Klimek stated that the Kiwanis were interested in the Manhattan lettering on Bluemont Hill. Mr. Thompson stated the Kiwanis approached Parks and Recreation approximately last fall with an idea on improving the area. The Kiwanis have a history with the letters; including building them as well as maintained them in the past. Mr. Rod Kalivoda, with the Kiwanis Club, along with Victor Steiner, Kent Foster, Architect, and Doug Meloan, President of the Kiwanis Club were in the audience. Mr. Kalivoda stated that the 100 year anniversary is coming up and the International Organization asked if there were any projects available in the community. Mr. Kalivoda suggested improving access to the Manhattan letters and making it handicap accessible and ADA compliant. Mr. Foster gave a presentation showing the area surrounding the Manhattan lettering to include a topographical survey done by Schwab-Eaton Engineering along with a proposed area to show a viewing platform, approximately 13' across and 25' long with a 20' long access ramp to include railings along the platform. The steps currently located there would remain in place. Potential materials would be a platform of wood or steel set on concrete piers and anchored. A low maintenance material would be best for the platform. There would be no access underneath the platform and would be closed off. Also, is a possibility of having additional steps on one side of the platform leading to the trails. Discussions began about the presentation and the materials to be used. It was mentioned that this area is considered a city park and the project would need to meet city specifications and requirements. Mr. Eastes stated that it would need to meet city standards and would be a cooperative effort. The ownership of the structure would need to be addressed but the Kiwanis Club believes that it would be city owned. Mr. Eastes advised that the Kiwanis Club was involved with the shade structure at City Park and assisted with funding and believes this would be similar to that project. The Kiwanis has committed themselves to the care and maintenance of the letters but the City would also make sure the area is properly maintained. No contractual arrangements have been made. The Kiwanis are hoping to have assistance with labor and materials. Mr. Foster is estimating the cost of the project \$30,000-\$50,000. A structural engineer will be assisting to make sure all city requirements are met. A trail association may also be involved in assisting with helping improve the trails. After some discussion, Ms. Rozell made a motion that 'We, the City proceed in talk about the construction of the proposal, the designs'. On unanimous vote, 6-0.

STAFF REPORT

Casey Smithson stated now the weather is warmer, Blue Earth will be up and running by Friday, April 10. The splash pad at City Park will be running approximately May 15 and the pools will be filling with water for lifeguard training around the first of May. Also, irrigation is ongoing.

Chris Curtis advised that the recreation staff has been busy with sports activities. In February, the ice rink closed and thanked Kelly Cook and staff for a good job. Mr. Nelson advised that Ms. Sutton had to leave but wanted to point out some things. The Manhattan Parks and Recreation website had over 21,000 page views and gave credit for her efforts. The Summer Activity Guide will be out in a week or so, but is now available online. The Barrier Free performance is this Thursday/Friday at the Manhattan Arts Center and the Spring Dance is set for April 18.

Scott Shoemaker stated that the warm weather helped attendance and on Community Appreciation Day, there were over 4,500 in attendance. April 1 began summer hours of 9 to 5. A red panda will be paired with the red panda already at the Sunset Zoo. The zoo's two red-crowned cranes are sitting on two eggs and these are highly endangered, so this is important news.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated at the Arts and Humanities Advisory Board, board member Joleen Hill gave a past booklet on Johnny Kaw, and will have useful information and it will need to be highlighted in the office.

Discussions began about Johnny Kaw.

Mr. Klimek mentioned the Strategic Facility Plan. Mr. Eastes brought up the presentation from the City work session and stated there are 97 pages and it is available on the Parks and Recreation website for review. The steering committee has requested that the presentation be available as they meet in order to refer to Ron Vine's comments. The steering committee met on March 25, and is working on and prioritizing recommendations. The next meeting is set for April 13 & 20. Due to those meetings, Mr. Eastes stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will not have their regular meeting. Mr. Eastes is hoping that RDG will have a final report available for review to present to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and hopes to schedule a special advisory board meeting in late May for review. The Board will then make a recommendation to the City Commission to adopt a final plan in June, noting that the final plan will be substantial. Mr. Eastes stated that the park offices are being worked on now that the weather is nice. A 2015 late winter completion date is hopeful. Mr. Klimek commented on the walkway breaking up at City Hall. Mr. McMillan stated that it will be replaced, not all at once, due to needed access. The sidewalk is approximately 20 years old.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated there were three items that were considered by Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Twin Oaks cereal malt beverage was tabled by the City Commission, however, Streeter Enterprises has rescinded their request due to some reluctance for it to occur. The Jorgensen Park tree house has been removed and Mr. Eastes appreciated the homeowner's attention in moving it. The City Commission did not want to sell any park plan. The Landmark Water Tower is dedicated park land and is scheduled at the City Commission meeting set for April 7. Mr. Klimek mentioned Arts in the Park on May 9, 2015, and stated that it will be different this year by the addition of festivals being held at the time of the Arts in the Park. Rhythm and Brews will have the same approach and working on trying to expand the July 4th event as well. Mr. Eastes stated that the program has a good following.

Meeting adjourned.