

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
March 2, 2015 - 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, Mr. Mark Bachamp, and Ms. Pat Hudgins.

Employees 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; Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; Mr. Lance Evans, Senior Long-Range Planner; Mr. Spencer Hawkins, Parks and Recreation Intern; and Ms. Chrissy Kramer, Administrative Assistant.

Visitors: Ms. Diane Meredith, Mr. David Sauter, Mr. Mel Borst, Ms. Kathy Dzewaltowski, Mr. Mark Knackendoffel, Ms. Linda Glasgow, Mr. Vince Oleen, and Mr. Brad Streeter.

Minutes

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Rozell, seconded by Mr. Bachamp to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 2, 2015. On vote, motion carried 7-0.

City Park Master Plan Update

Mr. Eastes gave a short summary of how the plan is proceeding. Mr. Eastes then turned over the update to Mr. Thompson, who gave a presentation regarding the progress of the City Park Master Plan; this included several upcoming meetings as well as scheduled events to let the community know about the Plan. An event is scheduled for March 14, 2015, at City Park from 9 am-1:30 pm entitled 'What would Johnny Do?' Also scheduled is a City Park Walk from 9 am-10 am.

Jorgensen Park tree house

Prior to Ms. Diane Meredith and Mr. David Sauter speaking, Mr. McMillan stepped down due to a conflict of interest in this matter. Ms. Meredith and Mr. Sauter, residents at 1912 Stratton Circle, constructed a tree house on property they believed was theirs. The structure is actually located on City-owned property in Jorgensen Park. The City received a call regarding the tree house and contact was made with the owners. Mr. Eastes had discussions with them and recommended that they come before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Meredith and Mr. Sauter would like to know what options may be available for the tree house to remain where it is, and possibly to have an easement and/or purchase a portion of the property where the tree house is located. Discussions on the matter included that a variety of issues would need to be addressed such as review by code services, permits, zoning, and preparation of a survey and legal description. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Klimek asked if Ms. Meredith and Mr. Sauter would be willing to purchase a portion of property where the tree house is located, to which they acknowledged they would. The Advisory Board (excluding Mr. McMillan) was in agreement to see what options would be available to see if it were possible for Ms. Meredith and Mr. Sauter to purchase parkland or acquire easement to the area of the Park where the tree house is located.

Monthly Report

Mr. Fred Goss spoke to the board and stated that on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., an announcement will be given at the Flint Hills Discovery Center regarding a substantial donation of \$750,000 over a five year period and invited the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to attend.

Landmark Water Tower Parkland dedication consideration

Mr. McMillan again excused himself from this discussion due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Eastes introduced the topic and provided background on the public property surrounding the Landmark Water Tower near the intersections of Sunset Ave., Leavenworth, and Evergreen. Mr. Eastes reminded the board

about a memorandum from the City Manager's Office and a recent request from a citizen to purchase a portion of the property where the water tower is located. The City Commission has directed this issue back to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for discussion on the possibility of dedicating the land as a park. The grounds are currently maintained by the Cemetery Division and Public Works Department maintains the decommissioned water tower. Discussions began about the value of dedicating the land as a park, the process of disposing of parkland, potential uses of the property, and maintenance of the property and water tower. Mr. Thompson stated that if the site were designated as a pocket park, it would add to the park inventory and specific park improvements such as benches or signage could be determined later.

Mr. Mark Knackendoffel, member of the Riley County Preservation Alliance and a distant neighbor of the water tower property, spoke about this issue. Mr. Knackendoffel stated that the owner of a home adjacent to the water tower property is interested in purchasing a portion for property and encouraged the Board to consider the character of the site. Mr. Knackendoffel is agreeable to a small portion of the land being sold, and would like the remaining portion of the property made into a park.

Mr. Mel Borst, a resident of the neighborhood where the water tower is located, and a member of the Landmark Water Tower Site Conservation Group, would like the parcel of land dedicated as a public park to Sam Kimble, Jr. and Cora Kimble for their civic contributions. The Group offered assistance in future development of the park and is attempting to locate the original street lamp to place back on the property. In the past, attempts have been made to tear down the water tower; however, it was cheaper to paint the water tower than disassemble it. A Citizen CIP has been submitted to add sidewalks around the site and south on Evergreen towards Poyntz Avenue.

Ms. Linda Glasgow gave a history of Samuel and Cora Kimble, who were instrumental in the development of the areas surrounding the cemetery. Ms. Glasgow is in favor of dedicating the site as a city park.

Ms. Kathy Dzewaltowski lives near the tower and supports making it a pocket park, and further states adding it to the state historical register would be appropriate. Ms. Dzewaltowski encourages the board to save the water tower and name it in honor of the Kimble's.

Mr. Vince Oleen, a neighborhood resident is surprised that it is not a historical marker yet. Mr. Oleen, who lives three houses down and walks the area, mentioned that he has seen high school students eating lunch on the platform and it would be nice to see a better place for people to have a place to sit. He also suggested a sidewalk for the area. Mr. Oleen is in favor of making the parcel a pocket park.

Mr. Klimek then opened the discussion to the board. Discussions began about the potential homeowner requesting to purchase the property. Mr. Evans stated that the project was withdrawn from the Board of Zoning Appeals most recent agenda. After discussions, a motion was made by Ms. Rozell to recommend to the City Commission that the Landmark Water Tower site be dedicated as a pocket park; seconded by Ms. Teener, with the addition of considering the Kimble's name for naming purposes of the pocket park. Motion carried, 6-0-1 (Mr. McMillan had excused himself from this discussion).

Cereal Malt Beverage sales at Twin Oaks – Brad Streeter

Mr. Eastes gave the advisory board a synopsis of the proposal from Streeter Enterprises, the City's contracted concessionaire, to sell cereal malt beverages at Twin Oaks. Mr. Eastes expressed concerns regarding the sale of cereal malt beverages at Twin Oaks and has spoken to Mr. Streeter regarding his concerns. Any recommendation from the Board will be sent to the City Commission for discussion.

Mr. Brad Streeter introduced himself and stated that his company runs the concessions at Twin Oaks and other City recreation facilities. The City receives a percentage of the sales. Sales have decreased for various reasons over the last couple of years. Mr. Streeter offered a proposal to the advisory board and would like to sell cereal malt beverages at all 92 adult programs. Mr. Streeter mentioned that the Board should visit Twin Oaks during game time to see what is happening. Ms. Hudgins voiced support for the

potential revenue to support the facility, but expressed concern about monitoring wrist bands. Ms. Teener asked for clarification and Mr. Streeter provided information on access to Twin Oaks and where beer would be sold. Mr. McMillan stated without support from City Staff, he would not be in support of cereal malt beverages sales at Twin Oaks. Mr. Bachamp suggested a test run with a Special Use Permit was mentioned to see how alcohol sales would go at Twin Oaks. However, Mr. Streeter stated that a limited event would not be feasible for him economically. Ms. Rozell stated that she liked that proceeds from the alcohol sales would be returned to the facility and that the proposal was to sell during adult-only events. Mr. Schafer acknowledged that the concessionaire needs to make money at the concession stand. Discussion ensued regarding alcoholic beverages in the park, who would monitor drinking in designated areas, and how the policy would be enforced. Mr. Eastes expressed concerns with the City promoting cereal malt beverages in the park. Mr. Curtis stated that intern Spencer Hawkins contacted several municipalities regarding beer sales, where the majority only allowed the sale of beverages at special events. After further discussion, Mr. Klimek and Mr. Schafer expressed support for allowing cereal malt beverages sales at the four adult-only tournaments. Ms. Rozell made a motion to forward a recommendation to the City Commission to allow Streeter Enterprises to offer 3.2 beer for sale at Twin Oaks during the 92 adult-only events (tournaments and league games) during the 2015 season. Second by Ms. Teener. Mr. Bachamp asked for clarification on the motion and the Board had further discussion. Mr. Klimek called for a vote and the motion carried, 6-1, Mr. McMillan opposed.

Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan 2016-2021

Mr. Eastes gave a synopsis on capital improvement projects for 2016-2021. A presentation was given for each division of Parks and Recreation. Prioritization is given to each project and forwarded to the City Commission and the process was explained to the board. The more urgent the project, the sooner the project will begin. Mr. Eastes stated that the CIP's will be discussed at the City Commission tomorrow.

Monthly Report

Mr. Smithson stated staff was busy with park maintenance. The city has begun a new street tree program and requests can be made at www.mhkprd.com/treerequest.

Mr. Curtis stated that the ice rink was officially closed. Park staff tore down the ice rink and Riley County Police Department would be using the pavilion for an emergency location for to Fake St. Patty's Day coming up.

Mr. Shoemaker advised that the warm weather has raised the current numbers of attendance. March 21, 2015, is Free Appreciation Day from Noon to 5. Summer camp registrations begin shortly.

Ms. Sutton stated that pool passes are currently on sale and will include photographs this year. School yearbook photos can be brought in, or new photos can be taken at the Parks and Recreation office.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Eastes gave a quick update on the Parks and Recreation offices. Mr. Thompson announced that he has been appointed to the Governor's Council on Fitness. This Council reports to the Secretary of the Department of Health & Environment and make recommendations regarding health and fitness. Mr. Eastes also mentioned the joint meeting of the City Commission/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on March 24. A draft of the Strategic Facility Improvement Plan may be ready in late May. Surveys have been sent to some citizens for completion.