

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
June 1 - 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.

Absent: None.

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; and Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director.

Visitors: Mr. John Casiano, Lee Mill Heights subdivision resident.

MINUTES

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

NO SMOKING SIGNS IN PLAYGROUNDS

Mr. Eastes introduced Virginia Barnyard from the Riley County Health Department representing the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition. The FHWC is offering to purchase signage for City Parks to indicate Smoke Free zones in playground areas. City Ordinance does not allow smoking on City property. Mr. Eastes mentioned signage is already in place at ball fields and bleachers for Arts in the Park. Mr. Eastes suggested we look at playgrounds and shelter areas because this is a high call volume for smoking complaints. Mr. Klimek suggested we only put them in playgrounds. The coalition indicated research suggests it could affect behaviors of playground users to police each other. Mr. Klimek indicated that he did not feel this would be a priority for RCPD. A motion was made by Mr. Schaefer to place the signs in the playgrounds. Ms. Hudgins seconded. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Mill Heights subdivision three families in attendance potential for a park to go into the area. John Casiano talked about the neighborhoods three cul-de-sacs with 33 plus children with backyard landscaping that does not allow individual play areas. The families would like to have a park for the residents to have a recreational opportunity in the neighborhood. There is no other park that is accessible by bike or walking for families to get their children outside and involved. Mr. Casiano was not speaking on behalf of a neighborhood association. Mr. Eastes provided history of park land discussion in the Lee Mill Heights area. The City will be having neighborhood meetings to try to develop park land in the area in the near future. City Administration recognizes a need for the community in the Lee Mill Heights area. Mr. Thompson indicated that analysis from the city indicates approx 200 families within a half mile radius to the area of proposed park land. Mr. Bachamp indicates he would like some discussion with homeowners near Anneberg Park area to get more connectivity with Lee Mill Heights and Anneberg area.

CITY PARK MASTER PLAN CONCEPTS

Mr. Eastes indicates that Mr. Thompson has been delivering City Park Master Plan information through a variety of different venues. The theme for City Park Master Plan is "What Would Johnny Do?". Mr. Thompson presented a recap of the community engagement to date and the two concepts of the City Park Master Plan to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Discussion topics included parking, the number of ballfields and tennis courts, how trees are impacted by each proposal, covered pool and bleachers, 11th and Fremont intersection improvements, gardens, the history of Baker Field and a previous attempt to remove it, details of the Johnny Kaw plaza and summary of the projects completed since 2006. Also discussed was traffic flow through the park, accessibility to all activity areas and the impact on

surrounding streets if through-traffic was removed. Mr. Thompson expects to combine the two plans into a third plan to present as a final draft. The City Park Master Plan concepts will be presented to the City Commission at a Work Session on August 25, 2015.

#### STAFF REPORT

Casey Smithson stated the water parks are all open, rose garden fountain is back from repair, and Splash Park and Blue Earth Plaza have water. The tree replacement program is in full swing. Cemetery staff did a great job of preparing for Memorial Day. The Youth Fishing Clinic had 100 kids participate.

Chris Curtis advised that the recreation staff has been busy with summer programs. Swim lessons begin the first full week of June. Twin Oaks hosted 3A State Softball and Baseball tournaments. Due to weather, the softball games were rained out and had to be rescheduled because they were on non-turf fields. The baseball games were played because they were on artificial turf fields. Twin Oaks has lost a couple of tournaments this year due to weather and not having enough artificial turf fields.

Scott Shoemaker stated that Wine in Wild to be held on Saturday June 6, 2015, almost sold out. June 5, 2015 the zoo will unveil the cheetah exhibit. The zoo has two cheetahs. Summer camps have started, zoo staff are busy with educational camps and kids at zoo each day. The zoo has a litter of swift fox kids born, doing fine so far. Swift fox are nervous animals. They have been keeping the area cordoned off to reduce stress for the mom.

Angie Sutton indicated that the survey for City Park Master Plan had doubled just since 8am that morning. The survey is being promoted through social media outlets for the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation page on the City website has had 35,000 non-unique visitors in the last 30 days. Non-unique visitors are those that have been to the site in a prior session.

#### STRATEGIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Eastes updated the board that we are still waiting for a final draft of the proposal from RDG Consulting. The May meeting had been cancelled in anticipation of having a special meeting to view the report, but the consulting group required more time to finalize their report. The Steering Committee is scheduled to meet on June 15, 2015 to review the report from RDG. The Steering Committee will be in attendance at the next regularly scheduled meeting to present their recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Meeting adjourned.