

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
August 3, 2015 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Ed Klimek, Ms. Linda Teener, Mr. Dave Schafer, Mr. Mark Bachamp, Mr. Dave Dzewaltowski, and Ms. Pat Hudgins.

Absent: Ms. Marcia Rozell

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; and Mr. Ryan McKee, Recreation Supervisor.

Visitors: Mr. Jeff Hancock, SMH Consultants; Mr. Bruce Snead, Mr. Mitchell Brenn, Ms. Barbara Anderson, and Mr. Thomas Krause.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Shafer, seconded by Mr. Bachamp to approve the minutes as amended of the regular meeting held on July 6, 2015. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE

Mr. Eastes reminded the board that the by-laws indicated that meetings following on observed holidays are scheduled for the next Monday of the month. The next Parks and Recreation meeting will be held on September 14, 2015. Mr. Klimek indicated that this fall the board would need to be in attendance as much as possible due to upcoming agenda items and strategic planning.

NEW PRAB MEMBER

Mr. Klimek welcomed Dave Dzewaltowski as a new member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Dzewaltowski has been a member of the Manhattan community since 1987 and has experience with physical activity in kids and childhood obesity through various positions at Kansas State University Department of Kinesiology.

Pat Hudgins joined the meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Eastes notified the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board that we have a number of projects that are occurring with the SFIP, City Park Master Plan and Anneberg Improvements.

Angie Sutton reported on the Rhythm and Brews Event in City Park on July 31 and August 1. Ms. Sutton provided the fall activities and programs to the PRAB members. Little Apple Paddle event in conjunction with the CVB and state parks was a success. Water Safari at Sunset Zoo had record attendance.

Ryan McKee provided a summary of the Little Apple Paddle worked with Marsha Rozell with the CVB and Tuttle Creek State Parks Todd Lovin and Joyce Dixon. The event had close to 100 participants floating the Big Blue. No complaints were heard from participants.

Scott Shoemaker reported that things are going really well at zoo. The zoo had almost 1,700 in attendance at Water Safari, about 400 more attendees than previous record. Thanks to fire department for being in attendance and spraying water for the event. Brew at the Zoo tickets went on sale at noon for August 21st

event. Event is capped at 500 tickets and 230 tickets were remaining for the event. The event is more than half sold out in five hours. Animals are handling the weather well.

Casey Smithson reported that crews are busy with mowing and trimming because of wet weather conditions. Levee has been mowed this year as is our scheduled time. Blue green algae bloom watch posted at Jerry Dishman Lake at Anneberg Park. City and KDHE are testing the toxin levels for public safety. Mr. Shafer asked if the odor at Anneberg Park is related to the blue green algae. Mr. Smithson replied that the algae bloom does create an odor and that was one of the triggers for further testing of the lake. Mr. Klimek provided information regarding items noticed on Linear Trail to Mr. Smithson.

Fred Goss reported that National Day of the Cowboy event saw almost 600 participants, an increase of 100 from last year's event. Family Day is upcoming on September 13, 2015, and is a free admission day. The Tallgrass newsletter is going out to the membership and circulating around the community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Thomas Krause, Boy Scout, is working towards an Eagle Scout project to put down gravel and help improve a section of trail on the east side of Warner Park. He envisions this to help improve usability of the trail and drainage. He is also going to work on signage to access the park. Mr. Shafer clarified that the project can be administered by Mr. Smithson and the board would like a presentation at the end of his project.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eastes notified the board that the Frank Anneberg Park improvements will be presented for approval to the City Commission on August 4, 2015. This project will provide turf and sports lighting for the Twin Oaks Complex and one soccer field at Anneberg.

The SFIP will be presented for approval to the City Commission on August 18, 2015. Scott Crawford with RDG Consulting will be in attendance to make the presentation of the final report to the commission. The four priorities identified are creation of indoor facilities, improvement to safety and playability of existing field surfaces, improvement neighborhood/community parks and development of indoor aquatics. Mr. Klimek indicated that he and Eddie Eastes had been in discussion with Genesis Corporation and their indoor workout facility.

The City Park Master Plan will be at the City Commission Work Session on August 25, 2015.

Wyatt Thompson working on multiple projects. CiCo Park drainage project has been completed with Public Works Department. Landscaping, trees and native grasses are all planted. Pool sidewalks with additional ADA accessibility were added as part of the project. CiCo pool parking lot will be prepared on the west section that was used for construction staging. This project will be bid with the City Park Pool Parking (CPPP) project.

Public Works completed some drainage improvements on 14th Street and starting a mill and overlay project shortly. Public Works will be working on the 11th and Fremont intersection to add turn lanes and signals. The sidewalk will also be expanded to an 8 foot width at the north east corner of City Park as a result of this project. Mr. Klimek asked if Parks and Recreation funds were being used for the intersection construction. Mr. Thompson clarified that PR funds were only being used to fund the sidewalk improvements only.

City Park Master Plan (CPMP) received over 1400 responses to the survey asking for input on the two concepts presented in June 2015. The two concepts and a summary of the feedback will be presented to the City Commission on August 25, 2015. Anticipate developing a final plan and concept to bring back

to the PRAB and Commission targeting the October meeting for the project wrap-up. The CPMP is influencing, as well as being influenced by, the CPPP. The CPPP, North Park parking project and CiCo parking project are being combined to capitalize on cost savings from contractors for those bids. Bidding will be in September with potential starting time in October 2015.

Fremont Corridor pedestrian improvements are being funded by a grant from Flint Hills Regional Transportation Authority for close to a half million dollars for various improvements around the City. This was to improve pedestrian connectivity to ATA bus routes.

Douglass Community Center and Douglass Park have a lot of projects that are funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. We currently have a parking lot improvement project out for bid to change from a milling parking lot to asphalt or concrete. There will also be some landscape improvements to dress up the building. We will also have some building improvements that will include new roof, siding, and some trim and fascia work as well. We will also be replacing some of the chain link fence on Yuma Street that is ratty.

The Lee Mill Heights park land grant was submitted last week for National Park Service Grant. We got a lot of positive feedback from stakeholders. One stakeholder gathered 141 signatures on a petition to submit with the grant application. We have a lot of community support in the planning process. We feel we have a good chance of receiving the grant and are targeting the October time frame to begin the planning process for the park.

We have a small project at Triangle Park that we are trying to complete. This is Phase II of a 2013 project and we will be replacing the brick sidewalk and improving the electrical connections. This is a City/University funded project.

Another CDBG project planned for 2016 construction is the Colorado park near Municipal Court park Juliette and Colorado Street to replace existing sidewalks around the perimeter. There might be an opportunity as part of the CPMP to improve sight furnishings and signage as well. Ms. Hudgins asked if the project would hinder the use by Boys and Girls Club of this space for their programming during construction. Mr. Thompson indicated that it would be perimeter sidewalks and shouldn't affect the core of the park and that we would plan alternative routes for them to access the park during construction.

We have a number of trail project going on around the community. Kansas River Trail Signage has had some hiccups at the State level and we are still waiting for the kiosks to get them installed. We are working on replacing some concrete panels along the Hudson Trail to improve the surface there. We are working with Public Works on the Knox Lane pedestrian/bicycle path which is a KDOT transportation alternative grant funded project. We hope to bid in March or April 2016. This will create a pedestrian/bicycle path from Casement Road to NE Park through Knox Lane.

Mr. Eastes announced to the PRAB that Wyatt Thompson had been promoted to Senior Park Planner and Angie Sutton has not had a title change, but has been elevated for her duties to include the entire department. Our department is busier than it has been in the past and they have been elevated to help the department accommodate that work load.

Mr. Klimek asked about end of season pool accommodations. Mr. Eastes indicated that Angie Sutton had been working on that project in the absence of the Recreation Superintendent. Ms. Sutton informed the board that we have traditionally kept one pool open through Labor Day and it is traditionally Northview. The Commission requested that we keep City Park Pool open instead of Northview Pool. We are working with pool staff to figure out how many employees are able to work through the extended season. We need about 16 lifeguards available daily to keep City Park Pool open through Labor Day. We are

limited to the staff that we have available to accomplish that request by the Commission. Mr. Shafer asked about input from others about which pool the community would prefer to remain open. Ms. Sutton indicated that we are already keeping all three pools open one week longer than traditionally. Mr. Shafer suggested that we use the website to get responses from the public on their opinion. Mr. Klimek asked what dictates how many lifeguards we need at each pool. Mr. Eastes gave the background requirement of line of sight necessity of lifeguards to provide a safe environment to the public. We can reduce the number of lifeguards based on the number of patrons in attendance at the facility, but we have to maintain a minimum for public safety.

Meeting adjourned.