

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
October 5, 2015 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Ms. Linda Teener.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; and Mr. Chad Bunger, Senior Planner.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Mr. Dzewaltowski to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 17, 2015. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

Ms. Marcia Rozell and Ms. Pat Hudgins joined the meeting.

MANHATTAN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

Mr. Eastes indicated that Mr. Thompson has made some administrative changes to the language in the RFQ presented at the last board meeting in September. He requested an official motion of support to the City Commission to present the RFQ. Mr. Thompson outlined his changes in the Introduction section because of changes requested by Community Development department. The Scope still includes all four priorities identified in the Strategic Facilities Improvement Plan (SFIP). Language was added about a potential steering committee to keep stakeholders engaged in the process. Mr. Thompson asked for a motion to approve the RFQ for the City Commission.

Mr. Klimek asked where the steering committee was added to the RFQ. Mr. Thompson indicated it was at the top of page three. Mr. Klimek was asking where the funding was going to be found for the proposed facilities from the consultant. Mr. Eastes responded that the consultant would need to identify potential funding sources. The funding of the plan would have to be very clear to the community.

Mr. Klimek asked about the Outdoor Tennis Complex identified as a priority. He felt the City should not put all tennis courts in one complex and they should be spread throughout the community. Ms. Rozell indicated that it would be important to have a complex for tennis tournaments. Mr. Klimek indicated that he was not very comfortable with having all the tennis courts in one location. Mr. Schafer indicated that Kansas State University (KSU) only put six courts in their new recreation complex. Mr. Eastes indicated that we have nine courts currently and they are spread out. It is a potential cooperative effort with Manhattan High School to have a complex that could be used by the school district for their programs. The scope of services was intentionally left vague to let the consultant direct us on what we should do with our tennis courts. Mr. Thompson indicated that the focus groups and other data in the SFIP recognized a need for a tennis complex. Mr. Klimek indicated that he didn't recall the SFIP recognition of a tennis complex need. Mr. Schafer discussed using the KSU complex for tournaments. Mr. Eastes pointed out to the board that the RFQ is only trying to identify consultants that have the capabilities of developing the tennis needs of the community. Mr. Klimek indicated that he felt the RFQ is only asking for one complex. Mr. Eastes repeated that the RFQ was trying to ensure that the consultant had the qualifications to complete the task of developing a plan for tennis needs in the community.

Mr. Klimek would like to give direction to the consultants to work with the school sites in the same way that Douglass Community Center is highlighted. Mr. Dzewaltowski indicated that Douglass Center was only pointed out due to specific funding provided by Community Development.

Ms. Rozell made a motion to accept the RFQ as presented. Mr. Dzewaltowski seconded the motion. Motion carried on 5-0 vote.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Eastes introduced Mr. Randi Clifford as the new Recreation Director for the Recreation Division. Mr. Clifford brings more than 30 years recreation experience to the department. Mr. Clifford expressed his excitement about the upcoming changes in the community and the department. Mr. Klimek asked for more detailed background from Mr. Clifford. Mr. Clifford shared his work experience at St. John, Coffeyville, Salina, and Dodge City, Kansas.

NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCY COMPETITION (NDRC) GRANT AND WILDCAT CREEK WATERSHED RESILIENCY PROJECT

Mr. Eastes introduced Mr. Chad Bunger, Senior Planner and Flood Plain Manager, from the Community Development department. Mr. Bunger presented a background on flooding on Wildcat Creek. Mr. Bunger addressed the efforts made to date to reduce the risk of flooding with the creek. The State of Kansas is actually the applicant. NDRC is actually funds left over from Hurricane Sandy that is being distributed in grant form to communities that are affected by natural disasters. The grant will focus on three areas:

1. Reduce Flood Risks
2. Reduce Stormwater flows, Improve Water Quality, and Quality in the Agricultural Area
3. Develop Wildcat Creek into an Amenity for the Watershed and the Region

Mr. Bachamp asked how the current potential hurricane would affect the grant. Mr. Bunger expected that the dollars are already allocated to the grant. Mr. Klimek had discussions with Ron Wells, Riley County Commissioner. The County was in support of the application for the grant funds because it wasn't going to be a forced buyout for property along the creek. Mr. Bunger indicated that 20% of the budget could be used for planning and there is a 5% cap on the administrative use of funds based on HUD guidelines. The Community Development department is asking for a resolution of support to present to the City Commission.

Mr. Schafer made a motion to recommend the boards support of the National Disaster Resiliency Competition (NDRC) Grant and Wildcat Creek Watershed Resiliency Project Application. Mr. Bachamp seconded the motion. On 5-0 vote, motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Scott Shoemaker announced that on the 17th of September the Zoo received their Aquarium and Zoo Association (AZA) accreditation. The Zoo will not have to do another AZA accreditation inspection until 2019. Safari Adventure day was hosted on October 2nd for ages K-6 for an all day workshop. Two Colobus monkeys, that came to us from the Dallas Zoo, are currently on 30 day quarantine and then will be on display. We have two Malaysian tigers that are coming to us from the Cincinnati Zoo. They will have a 30 day quarantine and then will be on display as well. Spooktacular on October 24 & 25 from noon-5 and is possibly the largest event the zoo hosts 4,000-5,000 children.

Casey Smithson informed the PRAB that the parks crews have completed repairs on Hudson Trail to make it safer for school age children who use it for school access. Parks crew also worked on landscaping on the Douglass Center area. Anneberg playground resurfacing will start this week and plan to close half of the park for each phase and we will be working on the playground for a month and a half.

Blue Earth Park Electrical Upgrades are going to be getting started very quickly. We use the park for the Festival of Lights starting in November. North end of park will be operational to the public during the upgrades. The parks crew built a temporary parking lot for the Lee Mills Height park land. The wet spring has delayed street tree planting and work has started on that again. Mr. Smithson participated in a Wildlife Parks and Tourism float trip and had some interaction with Friends of the Kaw and the Governor. Ms. Rozell asked about splash parks in the community. The Splash Park is closed down. Blue Earth water feature is still on and anticipate turning that off at the end of October unless the construction requires an earlier shut off. Mr. Klimek asked if there was coordination of signage for the river access points. Mr. Smithson indicated that those signs are being installed and the City was involved in developing language on the information posted at the two access locations that are in the Manhattan community. Mr. Klimek also asked about the drainage issue on Linear Park Trail near the Pecan Grove. Mr. Smithson indicated that they will be re-grading again.

Wyatt Thompson announced the soft opening of the master plan process for the Lee Mills Heights park land. We partnered with Kansas Native Plant Society and they had three guides that provided different lengths of tours to participants. The prairie wild flower walk had 50 participants. We are waiting for an e-mail on the grant application with National Park Service Grant. We are working on the Heritage Trust Fund Grant to fund a project at the Union Pacific Depot. We have a 2016 CIP item to work on the exterior of the building as well as stabilization of the subfloor on the structure to continue to extend its life. We are working with Community Development with this grant application and it will be presented to the City Commission October 20, 2015. That grant would fund 80% of the work that would occur next year. City Pool parking lot project has started and fencing is going up in City Park near the pool. Douglass Center parking lot, CDBG project, is completed. We have some other projects for 2016 for the facility to improve the exterior. We upgraded electric service and lighting at Triangle Park.

Randi Clifford shared that the final Arts in the Park event was held on October 4, 2015. We also hosted a 48 team youth soccer tournament at Anneberg Park this past weekend. He reported that we will be hosting our 7th annual Punt, Pass & Kick competition at Griffith Park Wednesday evening. Randi expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Inter-City visit to Columbia on Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and getting to meet and become acquainted with other community members on the trip. Randi is focusing on getting familiar with programs and staff during his first month on the job. He is also discussing the future of the department with anticipated changes and needs of staff.

Mr. Eastes pointed out that the offices are moving along. The structure is coming together with exterior walls, windows, sheet rock, etc. Registration numbers are about 50% online registration for 2015. We are seeing success that people appreciate the convenience of online registration. Anneberg project is moving along real well. There is a lot of dirt moving around, but we were still able to host a soccer tournament this past weekend. The department has a lot of positive changes on the horizon.

Mr. Klimek indicated that Lyle Butler would like the Parks and Recreation department to present to the Chamber of Commerce Board in November to identify changes to the community.

Meeting adjourned.