

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
APRIL 2, 2001
4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Ms. Beverly Page, Mrs. Phyllis Moore, Mr. Gerald Reeck, Mr. Roger Brannan, Mr. Larry Weaver, and Ms. Jean Darbyshire. Mrs. Marie Steichen was absent at this meeting. Also present at this meeting was Mr. Terry DeWeese, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Ivan Wilkinson, Recreation Superintendent; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director; Mr. Jerry Dishman, Park Superintendent; Mr. Frank Gibbs, Park Planner; and Mrs. Debbie Dugan, Parks and Recreation Administration Supervisor.

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Page. It was moved by Ms. Darbyshire, seconded by Mrs. Moore to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 5, 2001. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

AWARD PRESENTATION

Mr. DeWeese introduced Mr. Ron Fehr, City Manager, to the Board. Mr. Fehr presented Mr. DeWeese with the "Distinguished Fellow" Award, which was given to Mr. DeWeese at the annual Kansas Recreation and Park Association (KRPA) Conference in January. Mr. Fehr stated that Mr. DeWeese has served as Past President of KRPA and as served on other committees. He has also served on the Board of Trustees for the National Recreation and Park Association. Mr. Fehr thanked Mr. DeWeese for his dedication to the Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM (CIP)

Ms. Page explained that the Board would need to make a recommendation on the Capital Improvements Program and submit a letter to the City Commission on their recommendation.

Mr. DeWeese stated that the Board had received two Citizen Requests to consider as part of the CIP process. Mr. DeWeese introduced Mr. Lowell Jack to the Board. Mr. Jack gave an update on the Larry Norvell Band Shell Project. He stated that the estimated cost to complete this project would be \$300,000. He informed the Board that this project has been accepted as part of the Manhattan Community Foundation. He also explained that letters have been submitted to 26 foundations to receive grant support for the project. To date, there have not been any grants received. Mr. Jack explained that fundraising efforts continue and the goal is to raise \$150,000 before the fall of 2001. Mr. Jack requested that the City of Manhattan match the fundraising efforts of \$150,000 through the Capital Improvements Program.

Mr. Bill Warner, 1907 Bluestem Terrace, explained that he had special interest in this project, because he plays in the Municipal Band. He stated that the current stage is too small and high, has poor circulation, and is in poor shape. Mr. DeWeese explained that the structure of the stage is sound and boards are replaced as needed.

Mr. DeWeese introduced Mr. Bill Warner to the Board. Mr. Warner explained that improvements for Warner Park were not listed in the Capital Improvements Program. He stated that his CIP request is to improve signage at both ends of the park, road and parking lot from Schuss Road, and safety concerns.

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Mr. Weaver inquired about the safety concerns at Warner Park. Mr. Warner explained that he would not go into detail, at this time, on the safety concerns, but gave an example of a prairie fire on the east end of the park and not having access or water to the area.

Ms. Darbyshire inquired about restoring the area to a prairie park. Mr. Warner explained that 10,000 cedar trees need to be cut down and that ATV's and dirt bikes have been abusing the area.

Mr. Warner stated that the west end of the park looks better with the road improvements that have been made.

Mr. Dishman explained that the City would begin removing the cedar trees this fall and winter. Mr. DeWeese explained that signage is currently being worked on.

Mr. Weaver and Mr. Brannan discussed their priorities for the CIP, and then left the meeting for a prior commitment.

Ms. Jan Garton spoke in support of the maintenance building and moving the playground from 2003 to 2002 for the Northeast Park.

Further discussion was held on the Northeast Park. Mr. DeWeese explained that Ms. Garton would give a report to the Board at a later meeting.

The Board held discussion on Warner Park and made the following motion: It was moved by Mr. Reeck, seconded by Ms. Darbyshire to discuss, in June/July, the Warner Park Boundary issue and to develop a process to address the other issues of Warner Park. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

The Board held considerable discussion on their priorities for the Capital Improvements Program. It was moved by Mr. Reeck, seconded by Ms. Darbyshire that the number one priority for the Board is the restroom/maintenance building for Northeast Park. Other high priority items include the Administrative Building expansion, restroom/gift shop at Sunset Zoo, and sports lighting. The Board also recommended a number of important maintenance and infrastructure repair items as funding becomes available and recommend funding them.

Approved by Chairperson Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board

Date