

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
March 7, 2016 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Ms. Pat Hudgins.

Employees present: Mr. Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager; 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; Mr. Mike Mohler, Cemetery Sexton; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; and Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Dr. Dzewaltowski, seconded by Ms. Rozell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 1, 2016. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

SWIMMING POOL ADMISSION FEE DISCUSSION

Mr. Eastes introduced the topic to the board and discussed potentially shrinking the gap between revenues and expenses for the facilities. Mr. Clifford discussed having a longer season at the City Park Pool. The recommendation is to increase the season pass from \$45 per pass to \$50 per pass. We average 2,000 annual passes. The proposed \$5 increase would raise revenue approximately \$10,000. The Recreation Division would like to use the group pass for identified groups of 20 or more that make arrangements in advance with the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office. This would eliminate households from purchasing them and using them as individual use passes. Mr. Clifford discussed using the passes for 501.c.3 organizations, churches, non-profits, and also daycares that make the arrangements in advance. Mr. Clifford indicated that we would incrementally increase the fees annually and might be received better by the public. Mr. Eastes provided information on the scholarship assistance program for the Parks and Recreation office. He also discussed the twilight swim rate of \$1 for evening admission. Ms. Rozell moved to recommend the \$5 increase in season pass price to \$50 per pass to the City Commission, seconded by Ms. Teener. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

PARKLAND AT LEE MILL HEIGHTS

Mr. Thompson presented a map of the Miller Parkway connection with Scenic Drive showing the 15 acres of land for possible ownership by the city. Mr. Thompson indicated that there would be bike trail and sidewalks that would connect the area into Anneberg Park. If the property is accepted, we would consider this land with the current planning process to find the best connectivity points. Mr. Thompson also shared information regarding the second public meeting for the current Lee Mill Heights parkland project on March 10, 2016. Dr. Dzewaltowski asked if we have to use the land as park land or if it can be kept as green space. Mr. Thompson indicated that we would like to allow access to the land for the residents of the area and do not want to limit access. Jason Hilgers, Deputy City Manager, provided information to the board regarding the land transfer by Mr. Tim Shultz of Shultz Construction of Manhattan, Kansas. Mr. Hilgers that Mr. Shultz would provide 2/3rds of the funding for the sidewalk through the area as opposed to the City providing 2/3rds of the funding. Mr. Hilgers addressed the concerns about accepting land that would just become a maintenance area for the parks department. Mr. Hilgers indicated that Mr. Shultz is going to back fill a portion of the property to provide a flat area to create a neighborhood park area. Ms. Teener motioned to recommend approval of the City accepting the identified property from Tim Schultz to be utilized as park land, Ms. Rozell seconded the motion. Mr

Klimek amended the motion to accept the land and encourage developing a connection to Anneberg Park with a trail, Dr. Dzewaltowski seconded. On 6-0 vote, motion carried.

LANDMARK WATER TOWER HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Mr. Mel Borst and Ms. Donna Shenck-Hamlin (1922 Leavenworth St.) would like the board to consider a Memorial Day bunting decoration for the Landmark Water Tower. The bunting is being purchased by the American Legion. Mike Mohler, Cemetery Sexton, indicated that the 8 foot banner is not large enough for the tower and he supports purchasing a larger banner for the tower. Ms. Rozell moved to recommend approval of the Landmark Water Tower Neighborhood annually installing bunting on the Landmark Water Tower in support of the American Legion Memorial Day services, seconded by Mr. Bachamp. On 6-0 vote, motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Ms. Adams invited the board to come view the two current exhibits: A View From Space and How People Make Things. Ms. Adams indicated that the Discovery Center was going to have a prairie chicken viewing program again and expects a full program. Ms. Adams discussed the education open house. Military free day will be April 9, 2016, and is funded by the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.

Mr. Clifford indicated that winter activities were wrapping up and spring/summer programs and starting. The special populations program had some special events including a bingo tea party and a soup-er bowl party. Start Smart program for basketball and soccer have been very popular and will continue to offer those programs. The youth volleyball clinic was also very popular. The ice rink recognized a 15% increase in attendance from last year. The recreation division is hiring seasonal staff to help run the facilities and programs for the summer. Two Recreation Activity Leader positions have been added and hired on. One Recreation Supervisor position is being filled and anticipates that person being on board by the end of the month.

Ms. Sutton indicated that the community relations team was busy promoting activities and facilities for the recreation division. The ice rink promotion created an increase in 15-16% in admissions. Pool passes are expected to go on sale on April 4, 2016. The pools and splash parks will have their own web sites that will provide information to the public on how those recreation areas can be used. It will also provide the rules and regulations for utilizing those facilities. We have a significant software upgrade occurring right now that will allow us to direct parents to activities. The text service has been very popular. We will be including the service on receipts for summer activities to promote signups.

Mr. Thompson has not added any new projects since last month. He provided an update on current projects. Anneberg turf is installed at Twin Oaks and turf will be installed on the soccer fields starting next week. We will be opening up the park on April 1, 2016, and the soccer programs will be starting in April 2016 as well. We have had over 400 responses to the Lee Mill Heights survey. The first steering committee meeting was held on February 24, 2016, in preparation for the joint City Commission Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on April 26, 2016.

Mr. Shoemaker reported that the zoo received a \$80,000 grant from the Caroline Peine Foundation for the Tiger Sloth Bear Leopard renovation. The zoo has hosted two Science Saturday events and have had 60 participants on average per session. Scientists from Kansas State University present information and educate the public on their research. The weather has been allowing the zoo to recognize higher admissions for this time of year. The maned wolf pup has a yellow lab companion and will be spotlighted on social media for the Sunset Zoo.

Mr. Smithson provided information on the street tree program. The swimming pool maintenance has been ongoing and is increasing to prepare for the upcoming season. Blue Earth Plaza will be undergoing

maintenance to improve the water feature. The Anneberg playground should be open by end of March 2016. The parks department is teaming up with Kansas State University to Paint the Park to paint the main buildings at Anneberg Park. The parks department has seasonal laborer positions open in all divisions.

Mr. Eastes reported on the Facility Feasibility Steering Committee meetings. Mr. McMillan is evaluating the indoor facilities and indoor aquatics items discovered in the Strategic Facilities Improvement Project. Mr. McMillan will be providing an update to the board at the April 26th meeting to make recommendations on where his efforts should be focused for the current study.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Eastes indicated that Clemson, North Carolina, is in the area today. Mr. Eastes indicated that Ames, Iowa, is planning a future visit to the area as well. Mr. Eastes mentioned the April 26, 2016 joint meeting with the City Commission and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Eastes is working with Mr. Greg Lund at the county to plan a joint County Park Board and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Eastes indicated that part of the Facility Feasibility Study impacts CiCo Park which is a jointly owned property with Riley County.

Mr. Klimek would like Warner Park to remain a future agenda item. Mr. Eastes indicated that the group submitted a citizen CIP request for the changes to the disc golf course. The Parks and Recreation Department also submitted a CIP request for the master plan of Warner Park to be updated in 2017 as well. Mr. Klimek has requested that a survey be completed for Warner Park.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Klimek spoke about the Green Apple Bikes program. The group is working on incorporating. The spring program will create 400 bikes and 21 bike rack locations for the community. The group has some outstanding volunteers and is funded by grass roots donors. Kansas State University has a student funded group and will be adding bikes and racks on campus. The group has not experienced theft issues. The bikes will now be green and white. The bike program was initially started to get people to work.

Mr. Eastes indicated that the parkland acquisition, swimming pool fees, pool chemical purchase and contracted mowing contract would be presented to the City Commission on March 22, 2016.

Meeting adjourned.