

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
April 4, 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, Ms. Pat Hudgins, and Mr. Dave Schafer.

Absent: Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; and Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director.

GREEN APPLE BIKE PROGRAM

Mr. Eastes provided the board with an introduction about the Green Apple Bike Program and asked the board to consider the request to have bike racks in city parks for the program. He indicated that this was not up for a vote at this meeting. Mr. Klimek indicated that he is on the board for Green Apple Bikes. Ms. Linda Mayes, Assistant to Ward Morgan at Civic Plus, was tasked with creating a free bike share program for the community. The program currently has 11 racks around the community. GAB program is adding six additional racks on the Kansas State University campus. The program is always looking for volunteers. If you see a bike and you are not able to pick it up and return it, you can text the number on the bike. The program also needs individuals to maintain the bikes and put together new bikes. GAB identifies a person who needs an essential bike and gives them a bike, helmet and a lock to secure a donated bike. Individuals who are getting an essential bike are asked for a \$125 pledge that covers the cost of bike maintenance, a helmet and a lock to secure their bike. GAB is expanding onto the KSU campus through the efforts of a student organization that was awarded \$10,000 grant to add 50 bikes and 6 racks.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Teener, seconded by Ms. Rozell to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 4, 2016. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Shoemaker shared that the zoo hosted community appreciation day in March. Attendance was pretty good this year considering the cold weather. Starting April 1, 2016, the zoo starts its summer hours. "Pup" date on the Maned Wolf pup and Labrador puppy are growing and doing well. The Lions club installed a new lion bench in the playground area and it provides a great photo opportunity for visitors.

Mr. Smithson shared with the board that the City Forester accepted the Tree City USA designation from the Arbor Day Foundation for the 39th consecutive year. The Parks department has added a Turf Specialist to help maintain the new field surfaces at Anneberg Park and other specialty areas city wide. Approximately 120 KSU students came out to Anneberg Park to help "Paint the Park" and painted some of the buildings at Anneberg Park. A Manhattan high group volunteered to assist with the Special Populations program community gardening program.

Ms. Adams indicated that the Prairie Chicken booming experiences have sold out and they were seeing 20 or more birds. Nancy Kassebaum will be recognized as a Friend of the Flint Hills on April 16, 2016. The FHDC is partnering with Manhattan Town Center to promote the upcoming Amazing Dinosaurs exhibit. Military appreciation day will be held on April 9, 2016. Anyone who presents with a military

identification card is granted free entrance into the facility. This event is sponsored by the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation.

Ms. Sutton shared that the ribbon cutting at Twin Oaks occurred at April 2, 2016. In March, the website had over 12,000 visitors and over 31,000 unique page views. The activity guides for the summer are out and we have had a little over 1,500 registrations in one week. Season pool pass sales began today and can be purchased at the customer service counter. Season passes can be renewed online. Mhkpools.com gives people all the information for the pools and aquatics classes.

Ms. Sutton provided a recreation update for Mr. Clifford. The recreation division has added some new faces. Mr. Mike Buchanan has been hired as the Recreation Activity Leader for Adult Sports. Mr. Andy Haar has been transferred into the Youth Sports Recreation Activity Leader position. Ms. Tarica Lare has been hired as the Recreation Supervisor for Humanities. The summer theater program is enrolling now. Little Apple Day Camp is a little over half full with enrollment after one week of registration.

Mr. Thompson updated the board on the City Park Parking project. The parking areas are open and getting use, we still have some punch list items and expect end of month completion. The Douglass Center improvements will be starting this month. The center will receive a new roof, siding and fascia repair. The Twin Oaks Complex at Anneberg Park is complete and there is a tournament being hosted again this weekend. The soccer field is expected to be completed in the next week. We are hosting a soccer tournament on April 15 & 16 at the soccer complex and expect that will bring a lot of kids to the new surface. The Parks division is wrapping up the playground improvements this month. The park at Lee Mill Heights is still in concept design. The City Commission accepted the 15 acre tract and this land will be added to the concept that will be presented to the public. The Big Reveal for the Amanda Arnold 6th graders will be this month at the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Mr. Thompson provided information on the Big Blue River Linear Trail extension. The Knox Lane project is waiting on the easement finalization.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Eastes indicated that the Parks and Recreation department has been submitted as a 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) item for the Warner Park Master Plan. The disc golf group has also completed a Citizens CIP request. Those citizen CIP requests are all submitted to the City Commission. Mitchell Brenn, Vice-President of Disc Golf Fanatics of Kansas, informed the board that they have indeed submitted a CIP request for the City Commission. The group has some questions about the process for parks. Mr. Eastes indicated that if the CIP item was not approved during the budget process, the Parks and Recreation department would continue to try to find a way to complete a Warner Park Master Plan. Currently, the department is proposing an outside firm completing the master plan process because of staff constraints. The group inquired about park master planning process and if that process applies to all parks. Mr. Eastes indicated that master plans are recommended for parks and any changes that occur within parks. Master plans allow for planning for parks and ensure community support.

Mr. Schafer asked about the additional 15 acres being added near Lee Mill Heights and how that affects staff constraints for master planning purposes. Mr. Eastes indicated that Mr. Thompson was adding that land into the current master plan at Lee Mill Heights. That land is being master planned with the assistance of the National Park Service grant. Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Eastes to give consideration to completing a neighborhood survey for the Warner Park use. Mr. Eastes indicated that the park did not have the adequate amenities to provide increased usage by groups. Dr. Dzewaltowski indicated that he would like the department to be consistent with treatment of groups that are asking for special use or adaptations to the park area.

Mitchell Frederickson with the Disc Golf Fanatics of Kansas group informed the board that maximum attendance is about 30 people for weekly events and a typical tournament hosts approximately 90 people.

The group would not expect to have more than 90 people on the course at one time. The tournaments do not currently have a lot of spectators. The largest concern of the disc golf group is that the CIP request will not be approved by the budget. The group has asked to have space for the sport at the Lee Mill Heights park area. The group does not want to be left off the planning for the park spaces for the City. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board supports providing space for the disc golf group and would like to share that support with the City Commission.

Mr. Eastes provided an update on the Facility Feasibility Study Steering Committee. The four priorities identified in the Strategic Facilities Improvement Plan are currently being studied by Bruce McMillan Architects, PA. Priority 1 was indoor gym space and space has been identified at two middle schools. Priority 2/3 discussed adding/moving tennis courts at CiCo Park. A master plan will be proposed to identify the needs at CiCo for the entire area. Priority 4 was an indoor aquatics facility. This facility is being proposed as a separate facility at CiCo Park. On April 26, 2016 at 5:30pm, there will be a Joint City Commission and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting and Bruce McMillan will be presenting this information at the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared with the board that the department is going to evaluate our current program fee structure. The department hopes to have that information put together for the 2017 budget process that starts in August 2016.

Mr. Eastes invited the board to attend the ribbon cutting that would be scheduled later this month for the soccer field that has received a new turf surface at Anneberg Park. An invitation will be sent out when a final date has been determined.

Meeting adjourned.