

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
June 6, 2016 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Mr. Mark Bachamp, Ms. Pat Hudgins, and Mr. Dave Schafer.

Employees present: Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; and Ben Chmiel, Planner.

Guests: Mr. Phil Anderson and Commissioner Linda Morse

HISTORIC COURT HOUSE SQUARE (COLORADO PARK) IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Mr. Thompson discussed the project that will be with CDBG funding. Mr. Thompson showed photos of some of the areas that are going to be improved with the project. The sidewalks are failing and need to have repairs. This site is part of the historic district on the National Historic Register. It is listed in the application as the Historic Court House Square. The area is currently used by Seven Dolores Catholic School, Boys and Girls Club, and the Municipal Court. Mr. Thompson gave some history of the site. One constraint of the area is that Kansas Gas Service has a Cathodic Protection System on the site that provides some limitations of how that area of the park can be developed. Mr. Thompson explained the proposed improvements to the property. The sidewalk is going to receive much needed improvements in 2016. Future phases would include new seating areas and pathways and more trees. The Department of Public Works has requested to add bulb outs on the corners facing Juliette Street for safety of children walking to school. Additional improvements could occur on the southeast corner around the old jail building. Discussion ensued about improving the quality of turfgrass in the open space, possibly by adding irrigation in the future.

MINUTES

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

FLORAL HALL (ROUNDHOUSE) STATE/NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

Ben Chmiel, Planner and staff liaison to the Historic Resources Board, will present a proposal to nominate Floral Hall (the "Roundhouse") in City Park to the Kansas Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Mr. Chmiel provided the history of the structure. Mr. Chmiel also gave a background of the preservation efforts for Floral Hall. Discussion ensued regarding funding, maintenance and effects on the future of the park and surrounding neighborhoods. The board asked about limitations on future use based on being on the Kansas Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Teener moved and Ms. Rozell seconded a recommendation in support of the nomination and subsequent listing of Floral Hall (the Roundhouse) to the Kansas Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places. On vote 4-0 vote, motion carried.

PHIL ANDERSON – MANHATTAN BRIDGE PIER PROJECT

A new sign welcoming all to Manhattan on one of the old bridge piers at the Highway 177 entrance to Manhattan was recently completed. The effort stemmed from longtime Manhattan resident Blaine Thomas who wanted to see a sign by the bridge. The powder coated letters were attached to the pier with

donated work from three different sign companies in Manhattan and a fundraising effort lead by Phil Anderson and Jim Williams.

Fundraising began in 2014 and lighting will be installed at the sign as funds are secured. The pier with the new art-deco themed sign belongs to the Kansas Department of Transportation and it took some time to be sure all requirements were met. An acknowledgement plaque will be placed to commemorate all those who donated. The letters for the sign were made by JS Sign and Awning and MTS Custom Coating, both of Manhattan.

A planting bed on the north end of Blue Earth Plaza could provide an appropriate site for a plaque acknowledging efforts towards the welcome sign. The group hopes this will be in place by the end of July. Mr. Anderson informed the board that there will be a reception to unveil the plaque and planting bed at Blue Earth Plaza on August 17<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

#### STAFF UPDATES

Ms. Sutton provided an update on web visits being over 17,000. Pool pass sales have increased with the passing of Memorial Day weekend. Flint Hills Discovery Center had over 1,100 in attendance at the military appreciation day. The Amazing Dinosaurs exhibit has been well attended. The summer youth theater programs have generated quite a bit of interest with performances of *The Addams Family* and *The Little Mermaid, JR.* Youth sports have great participation this summer. All three pools are open and functioning each day.

Mr. Shoemaker shared that April and May are busy months for the zoo with school group visits. Summer camp registration opened and camps are almost completely sold-out. The Wine in the Wild event was sold-out and the proceeds from this year will benefit the Expedition Asia Project. The maned-wolf pup is out for viewing daily. The zoo has an emergency response team that will respond if a situation similar to the Cincinnati Zoo arises.

Mr. Smithson indicated that the crew has been inundated with projects this year. They worked hard to get the pools opened. They continue to work to completion on Anneberg Park Playground. The landscaping at City Hall has been completed by the parks staff. Matt Lamb was promoted to Park Supervisor position that was vacated with the retirement of Dennis Drown. We partnered with the Tuttle Creek Lake Association and had the fishing derby at Dishman Lake.

Mr. Thompson provided an update on current projects. City Park Parking is nearly completed. The Douglass Center has a new roof, new coat of paint and new trim. The DCC Annex will receive some repairs as well. Triangle Park is nearing completion as well.

#### FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Sutton reminded the board that the annual election of officers would be held at the July 11, 2016 meeting.

#### FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Klimek welcomed Commissioner Morse to the meeting. Mr. Klimek shared that Bruce McMillan Architects, P.A., had met with city commissioners individually. Commissioner Morse indicated that she wanted to be sure we are meeting with surrounding school boards as well. Ms. Rozell indicated that it was an ideal time to work with the school district for the gymnasium space. Commissioner Morse indicated that we need to determine what we need and what we can support for the ballot questions. Ms. Teener indicated that the joint meeting was helpful, but that additional time to discuss the presentation would have been preferred. The board would like to see concepts on the spaces that would be presented to voters. Ms. Sutton provided information that the City Commission needs to provide approval for the

design group to prepare those models before moving forward. Commissioner Morse questioned what level of conceptual design would be presented. Ms. Sutton indicated that a conceptual design would be presented. The intricate details will be determined after the design phase.

Meeting adjourned.