

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
August 1, 2016 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Ms. Pat Hudgins and Mr. Dave Schafer.

Employees present: Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Ms. Ella Casey, Assistant Director of Sunset Zoo; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; Mr. Tim Kellams, Intern; and Mr. Matthew Zayas, Intern.

Guests: Mr. Christopher Renner, Mr. Scott Hulshoff.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Dr. Dzewaltowski to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 11, 2016. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion made by Mr. Bachamp for Mr. Klimek to remain as Chair, seconded by Ms. Teener. Motion made by Ms. Teener for Dr. Dzewaltowski to become Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Rozell. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

FLINT HILLS DAYLILY SOCIETY DONATION

Ms. Sutton introduced Mr. Thompson, who presented a presentation regarding where daylilies could potentially be planted near the City Pool parking lot in City Park. While many areas were used for other various horticultural activities, two areas were left unplanted. These remaining areas are potentially available to the Flint Hills Daylily Society where they would plant (donate) daylilies.

Mr. Renner, President of the Flint Hills Daylily Society, provided some background information regarding his group. Part of their commitment is to educate the public and provide daylily gardens around town. Planting/donating daylilies in the designated areas in City Park would allow them to meet this goal. They are willing to provide about 100 plants, plot the garden out, provide name plates, and replace any plants that die over time. They will also provide signage with a plant diagram and brief history of daylilies. It is requested that the City provides the flower bed, an irrigation system, provide insect and disease control if needed, provide mulch, and at the end of the growing season remove the dead plants.

Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Renner if the location was “good,” and Mr. Renner responded that he had been working with the City for a few months on this topic. In general the City had already had the prospective areas ready for such a project and it would be a pretty easy thing to put into place.

It was moved by Ms. Rozell, seconded by Mr. Bachamp, to approve the donation of the daylily proposal. On vote, motion carried 5-0. Daylily planting will begin this fall.

COLORADO PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Kellams provided information about the Master Plan for Colorado Park, describing the original concept development and how he and Mr. Thompson obtained public input on the site. Using said input, they were able to better refine the original draft of the Plan to create a more suitable Master Plan, which

was presented. After speaking to Phase I, he described the core aspects of Phase II, which focuses on the upkeep and beautification of the main green spaces in Colorado Park. Phase III developed ideas about what to do with the remaining space that had not been previously identified.

Dr. Dziewaltowski asked how it would affect Manhattan Catholic School's usage of the area, and Mr. Thompson said that they had met and decided to retain the large area on the west side of the park to continue to allow usage for track and field and football. Mr. Thompson continued by stating that the irrigation and improvement of the turf would be of mutual benefit to both the casual user of the field and to the Manhattan Catholic School.

Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Hulshoff (Principal at the Manhattan Catholic School) about how the track and field activities might be affected by the projected Master Plan at Colorado Park. Mr. Hulshoff stated that it works fine, and that the long-jump pit would hopefully be moved elsewhere during the development of Phase II. Many other track and field activities can occur on the grass with little struggle.

Mr. Bachamp asked if there was an alternative place to put the high jump pit where it wouldn't sit on the grass during track season, which potentially could kill the grass. Mr. Thompson agreed with Mr. Bachamp, though he is confident that there is an alternative solution to leaving the high jump pit "mat" sitting out on the grass for three months.

Ms. Rozell asked Mr. Thompson if the City was just going to put into place Phase I or the entire Master Plan, and he responded that currently we have funding for Phase I, but as the funding is developed for Phase II, the details can certainly be worked out. At this point, funds for Phase II and III, respectively, haven't been identified. Ms. Rozell requested that it be stated in the motion that the Master Plan for Colorado Park still be a fairly flexible plan.

Dr. Dziewaltowski mentioned that it would be beneficial to advertise the Master Plan on the Parks and Recreation website to answer potential questions from the public and donors.

It was moved to accept the Colorado Park Master Plan by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Ms. Rozell, to approve the motion. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

Mr. Clifford provided background information about the adjustment of recreational fees. He touched on the history of past fee increases to support the idea that the fees had been periodically reviewed and that increases had been passed roughly every five years.

Mr. Clifford brought up some important background speaking to where the program recovery rates currently sit. A \$5.00 increase per program is recommended by Mr. Clifford and Mr. Zayas.

Ms. Rozell asked about the scholarship availability for the recreational programs. Mr. Zayas provided some information about scholarships and how they're distributed. There's a \$15,000 soft-cap of scholarships annually distributed.

Dr. Dziewaltowski commented that while he doesn't necessarily have a problem with an increase in rates, it would be a good idea to develop a way for children to participate in the programs even if they can't afford the 50% of program cost needed to gain access to the scholarship which pays the remaining 50%. Mr. Clifford said in response that it could be a good thing to take a closer look at this to further understand our scholarship system.

It was moved by Ms. Rozell, seconded by Mr. Klimek, to approve the motion of raising the price of recreational activities listed in Resolution No. 032216-A by \$5.00. On vote, the motion carried 5-0.

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Smithson indicated that many projects are currently finishing up. The playground at Anneberg Park is nearly complete, and once the grass seed takes, it will be fully complete. Furniture Amnesty Day was a success due to many volunteers that assisted with the project. The Solar Car Challenge was a big success at Blue Earth Plaza.

Mr. Thompson provided an update on a couple of projects currently occurring. Initial concepts for the Park at Lee Mill Heights are complete and an open house was held on July 19. A public meeting will be hosted on August 4th at the park to gather ideas and comments from the public to potentially be addressed in the final concepts and designs. Mr. Thompson also indicated that the West Anderson extension project is expected to start soon, which affects the trails and potential accessibility of the entrance to Anneberg Park. The Old Blue River Trail has recently received a Sunflower Foundation Grant, which will cover a quarter to a third of the project cost.

Mr. Clifford indicated that he had received feedback from many recreational program organizers. Little Apple Day Camp has finished up and was again very successful. The Summer Theatre Programs were also very well attended. The Water Parks continue to be busy and over 1,500 kids were served in the summer swim lesson programs. Nearly 1,000 participants were involved in youth softball, youth baseball and T-Ball this summer. Twin Oaks has already hosted more teams in 2016 than it did in 2015 and two more tournaments are scheduled for the fall.

Ms. Casey reported that July was actually a good month attendance-wise despite the heat. They started a Pokémon-Go promotion during July which brought in over 100 people in the last few weeks due to the promotion. Water Safari is occurring at the zoo on August 6th which is a partnership with Konza Rotary and the Manhattan Fire Department. Brew at the Zoo is taking place on August 20th and is nearly sold-out.

Ms. Sutton stated that the Warner Park Master Plan is still in the 2017 budget and will go to the commission in September. Ms. Sutton spoke about the Facility Feasibility Study and the goal is to have a final presentation by April 2017. She reported on the Arts in the Park season was very successful, it will come to a conclusion on August 5th. The Home Run Derby was successful; it was led by intern Mr. Jason Barth. Due to rain, Movie Night has been re-scheduled to Friday, August 12th.

Meeting Adjourned.