

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
NOVEMBER 5, 2001
4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Ms. Jean Darbyshire, Ms. Beverly Page, and Mr. Roger Brannan. Mr. Larry Weaver reported later to the meeting. Mrs. Marie Steichen was absent at this meeting. Mr. Gerald Reeck removed himself from the Board during discussions of Warner Park. Also present at this meeting was Mr. Terry DeWeese, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Jerry Dishman, Park Superintendent; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Zoo Director; Mr. Frank Gibbs, Park Planner; Mr. Ivan Wilkinson, Recreation Superintendent; Mr. Larry Hackney, Human Resource Specialist; Chief James Woydziak; and Mrs. Debbie Dugan, Administrative Supervisor.

Ms. Darbyshire called the meeting to order.

Due to a lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, the approval of the minutes was moved to the end of the meeting.

INFORMATION FROM THE CITY COMMISSION

Skate Park – The City Commission approved the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Agreement on October 16, 2001.

WARNER MEMORIAL PARK

Ms. Darbyshire read a statement from Mr. Reeck.

Mr. DeWeese introduced Mr. Larry Hackney, Human Resource Specialist, to the Board. Mr. Hackney discussed his memo, which was submitted in the Board's packet. He explained that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is broad-stroke legislation. He stated that an ADA statute would not be found that says the City can or cannot restrict vehicular traffic in Warner Park. He further stated that ADA issues and decisions remain, to a considerable degree, subject to case-by-case assessment. Mr. Hackney stated that offering keys to those individuals who want vehicular access represents a good faith modification (accommodation) to policy.

The Board held discussion and questions were answered at that time.

Ms. Darbyshire asked Chief Woydziak if the Fire Department considered the fire hazard in Warner Park higher and in more danger, because the park is closed to vehicular traffic. Chief Woydziak stated that the Fire Department is not set up for wildfire, so the Riley County Fire Department would be called upon to assist. The only difference with the gate is that it makes the response to the fire several seconds slower. He explained that keys are available to the gates on the east and west side of Warner Park.

The Board held discussion and questions were answered at that time.

Ms. Darbyshire stated that a mission statement be developed for Warner Memorial Park. The Board held discussion. The following is an idea for a mission statement: To provide a park with minimal development that is safe for people to enjoy and use.

The Board continued discussion on Warner Memorial Park and made the following suggestions on items that should be addressed in a plan for the future of Warner Memorial Park. City Administration was asked to bring back a "draft" plan for the future of Warner Memorial Park at the December Board Meeting.

Ecology

- Erosion
- Review resources for grassland expertise
- Fire safety
- Encroachment
- Cedars
- Wildlife
- Assessment of land

Amenities

- Restroom
- Nature paths
- Traffic restricted now or open totally
- Vehicular traffic restricted to roads and parking lots

Signage

- Directional
- Historic recognition
- Maps

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. DeWeese explained that discussion of the Capital Improvements Program would begin earlier next year.

MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Page, seconded by Mr. Weaver to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 1, 2001. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

Approved by Chairperson Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board

Date