

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
October 3, 2016 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Ms. Leah Fliter and Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Employees present: Ms. Angie Sutton, Community Relations Director; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Director of Sunset Zoo; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner; Mr. Chris Nelson, Recreation Supervisor; and Ms. Rial Carver, Park Planner Intern.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Teener, seconded by Mr. Schafer to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 13, 2016. On vote, motion carried 4-0-1, with Ms. Rozell abstaining.

WARNER MEMORIAL PARK RFQ

Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner, presented an overview of the proposed Request for Qualifications for the Warner Memorial Park Master Plan and reviewed the 2002 park master plan. Mr. Klimek asked what was accomplished as a result of that plan. Mr. Thompson replied that many of the projects were completed except the restrooms and some parking enhancements. Mr. Eastes provided more detail on shelter improvements, erosion control, security and access issues, and restrooms. Mr. Klimek asked about a neighborhood survey as part of this process. Mr. Eastes and Mr. Thompson provided more detail on the community engagement aspect of the project. Dr. Dzewaltowski supported a process that allowed the Selection Committee to choose a consultant based on their proposed strategies. Mr. Schafer suggested that Warner Park could be better utilized and asked about the possibility of a preliminary neighborhood survey. Mr. Eastes responded that the purpose of the planning process was to engage the neighborhood and the community to find out how they would like use the park. Mr. Schafer asked about the possibility of future funding availability for implementing the plan. Mr. Eastes explained the budget process. Mr. Klimek stated that projects that are high priority for the Department are higher priority for the Commission to consider. Dr. Dzewaltowski supported the planning effort as a means to prioritize park improvements. Mr. Thompson clarified that \$45,000 was available for planning and \$15,000 was available for implementation in the 2017 budget. Ms. Rozell asked what the planning study in 2015 said about Warner Park. Mr. Thompson stated that the Strategic Facility Improvement Plan recommended a master plan be prepared for the park. Ms. Rozell volunteered to be on the Selection Committee.

It was moved by Ms. Teener, seconded by Ms. Rozell, to recommend to the City Commission to solicit professional services for the Warner Park Master Plan. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

It was moved by Mr. Schafer, seconded by Dr. Dzewaltowski, to designate Marcia Rozell as the Board's representative to the Selection Committee. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

TRAIL USE EVALUATION STUDY

Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner, presented an overview of the Trail Use Evaluation Study process. In June 2016, the City of Manhattan was awarded a grant from the Sunflower Foundation to assist with construction of the Old Blue River Trail from Casement Road to McCall Road, west of Hayes Drive. Following this award, the Sunflower Foundation asked if the City would participate in a case study to

evaluate trail usage. Three communities in Kansas were selected to work with the Center for Research Strategies (CRS), of Denver, Colorado, to evaluate trail usage and build capacity for assessing the effectiveness of trail building programs locally and throughout the state. The primary goals of the study are to gain a broad understanding of how our trail system is used, the benefits to our community, and specific ways the trail system can be improved to encourage greater use. Online surveys, intercept surveys, key informant interviews and focus groups were among the evaluation tools utilized in this study.

FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. Eastes provided an update to the group that the City Commission work session date is being extended due to storm water issues in the CiCo planning process. Ms. Sutton provided a timeline of the entire facility feasibility study process leading up to today and moving forward. Ms. Sutton shared the phases of the civic planning process. Mr. Eastes indicated that the City Commission work session date to discuss the facility feasibility process will likely occur in January 2017.

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Thompson discussed the RFQ for repairs for the Douglass Community Center has been approved by the City Commission. The municipal court sidewalk repairs and project are almost complete. The trees have been planted. The Knox Lane bicycle pedestrian path is under final review by KDOT.

Ms. Adams discussed the new Going Home exhibit at the FHDC. On October 20th, “When the Well Runs Dry” the newest Go See It Lecture will be presented. On October 22nd, FHDC will have a youth dinner theatre presentation of “The Great American Medicine Show”.

Mr. Clifford shared that the Senior 50+ trips are going well. Fall programming is keeping staff busy. Flag football has moved to CiCo Park this year and it has been going well. The kids fitness challenge had approximately with 1,000 kids and a Flint Hills Soccer Club event were hosted at Anneberg Park last weekend. The demand on facilities is high because of fall sports and coordinating the indoor activities. Family Fun Day was hosted on September 25th in City Park with approximately 1,000 in attendance.

Mr. Shoemaker discussed the Safari Adventure Day program which is a partnership with other Kansas Zoos in October. The program shares information about animals, conservation and culture with sixth and seventh graders across the state. The Sunset Zoo will host Science on Tap, a partnership with KSU, on October 17th at the Tap House. October 28th, Zoofari Trails will be hosted at the Zoo as a partnership with Manhattan Public Library. October 29th & October 30th is Spooktacular Event which is the biggest event of the year.

Mr. Smithson shared that Tim Goss retired after 32 years with Parks Maintenance. Eco Scout candidate Thomas Krause is wrapping up the bridge expansion and trail work at Warner Park. The parks division is having a work day with the disc golf group to clean up the existing course. Splash Park is closed. Blue Earth water feature will be turned off at the end of October. Ice Rink setup will begin at end of October as well.

SUNSET ZOO MASTER PLAN

Mr. Eastes shared that the Sunset Zoo Master Plan RFQ will be presented to the board at the next meeting. The PRAB would need to recommend approval of the RFQ to the City Commission.

FUTURE BUSINESS

The pool yearend report will be delivered to the City Commission on November 8, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned.