

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
December 5, 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, and Mr. Dave Schafer.

Absent: Ms. Leah Fliter and Ms. Linda Teener.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; 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; and Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Rozell, seconded by Mr. Schafer, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 7, 2016. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

Facility Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Eastes introduced Bruce McMillan of Bruce McMillan Architects, PA, to share updates on the Facility Feasibility Study progress. Mr. McMillan introduced Garrick Baker of Bruce McMillan Architects, PA. Mr. McMillan presented the Eisenhower Middle School and Anthony Middle School concepts with the board. Mr. McMillan also shared the South End Neighborhood Recreation Complex concept and described the facility for the board. He also shared that they anticipate having an elevated walking track in the South End Neighborhood Recreation Complex. CiCo Park improvements are currently being detailed in two separate concepts (Option A and Option B) with the configuration of the ball fields and parking differences. Mr. McMillan shared the difference in parking configuration and water detention. He also highlighted the tennis court improvements with access to the restrooms. Mr. McMillan did share that all concepts are still conceptual in nature. Mr. Eastes added that Greg Lund from Riley County has requested that this information be shared with the County Park Board at the December 13, 2016 meeting. Mr. Eastes and possibly Mr. McMillan will be attending that meeting to discuss the CiCo concepts.

Mr. Schafer shared concerns about having traffic signals in several intersections. Ms. Rozell shared that KSHSAA takes the tennis tournament to Wamego because they need nine courts to host a tournament. Mr. Klimek also spoke with KSHSAA about tennis tournament requirements and the individual he spoke with indicated that there was a need for six quality courts in one area to be considered for KSHSAA tournaments. Mr. Bachamp indicated that detention will be an issue for the housing downstream of the CiCo storm water. Mr. Bachamp also indicated that his opinion was this project should not be planning to control event traffic because those are limited occasions. Mr. Eastes indicated that we would prefer to have the fields as multi-purpose as possible to accommodate as many recreation programs as possible. Mr. Klimek questioned having two larger fields at CiCo. Mr. McMillan indicated that the fields were conceptually designed to fit public input. Ms. Rozell indicated that having fields available for high school baseball and softball practice would be beneficial for the school district for transportation reasons. Mr. Klimek shared that he feels the trail system linkage to CiCo Park as an enhancement to the public for this project.

SWIMMING POOL FEE INCREASE

Mr. Randi Clifford, Director of Recreation, referenced the Aquatics year-end report presented to the City Commission at the November 8th work session which included the recommendations made by the Parks

& Recreation Advisory Board. City staff received direction from the Commission to adjust the twilight swim fee for adults from \$1 to \$2 per person and keep the youth twilight fee at \$1 per person. The City Commission also supported an increase in the season pass fee, due in part to keeping the extended season in place and providing more value for season pass holders with the longer season. A recommendation was made to increase the season pass fee from \$50 to \$55 per person for the 2017 season.

It was moved by Ms. Rozell, seconded by Mr. Bachamp, to recommend the City Commission support proposed swimming pool admission fees for the 2017 season to include an adult twilight swim fee of \$2 per person and an increase in season pass fee to \$55 per person. On vote motion carried 4-0.

#### WARNER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Wyatt Thompson, Senior Park Planner, will present an update on the process to master plan Warner Park. Landscape Architecture faculty members at K-State are currently considering the project for inclusion in Spring 2017 design studios. City Staff has prepared draft survey questions and compiled results from a similar neighborhood survey conducted in 1987. The top three activities and facilities of interest for the park by those surveyed were fitness trail, nature trail, and restrooms. Mr. Thompson reviewed a draft of current survey questions with the board. The board provided some feedback on the questions for Mr. Thompson's consideration. Mr. Bachamp had some questions about use allowed by the donation of the land to the City. Mr. Thompson indicated that the deed does not reflect any listed usage. Mr. Klimek would like to see a question regarding vehicle accessibility to Warner Park. No date has been determined about the date for the survey. The intent is to have the survey ready to issue after it is determined how the master plan will be accomplished. The survey will be targeted to neighborhood members, individuals interested in Parks and Recreation, trail users, Nextdoor lists, and social media promotion.

#### STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Shoemaker shared the zoo winter hours through April 1, 2017 of noon until 5pm daily. Military Appreciation Day was hosted on November 11, 2016. The zoo hosted Science on Tap at Tallgrass Tap House. Mr. Schafer asked about the monthly education attendance.

Ms. Adams reported that Festival of Lights have gotten their display set up. The Discovery Center hosted Military Appreciation Day as well. Tall Grass Bus Tours were successful. First Breakfast with Santa was a sold out event on December 3, 2016 with 150 in attendance and an additional event on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. FHDC will host a New Year's event to draw attendance for entire family as well. Mr. Klimek asked about educating the general public about the FHDC. Mr. Eastes indicated that we will be adding signage in Blue Earth Plaza about the Discovery Center.

Mr. Smithson reported that the Mayor's Christmas Parade was a success with 53 entries and 500+ participants. Red Cedar Harvest was well attended with approximately 180 trees harvested. The ice sculpting contest with the Who-Ville group was a unique experience in Blue Earth Park with another family experience scheduled this weekend. Parks crews are on-alert for ice and snow when weather requires removal. Mr. Klimek thanked the parks crew for their work on the Mayor's Christmas Parade.

Mr. Clifford shared the appreciation for the turnout at the Cedar Harvest event. A majority of classes and activities are wrapping up for the fall with new sessions starting in January. Adult Basketball and Volleyball leagues are underway and Youth Basketball is getting geared up for winter play. The ice rink opened on November 14 and has exceeded revenue and attendance numbers from November 2015. The ice rink hosted a Totally 80's Teen Night and it was well attended for a first time event. The Arts in the Park schedule is getting a start for 2017 with a Beatles tribute band already signed up for next summer's lineup.

Mr. Thompson shared that the red cedar harvest was great for the park at Lee Mill Heights. Red cedar is a highly invasive tree species and it will help the park re-grow its native prairie grass. The trail use study is nearing completion. The City anticipates having a new trail in North East Community by Summer 2017. Mr. Thompson anticipates sharing out the information gleaned from the survey. Knox Lane trail connection contract will be at the City Commission Meeting for awarding a contract to complete that trail. The Douglass Center improvement project is being funded with Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG).

Ms. Rozell asked if we would have a holiday tree drop off at Long's Park. Staff affirmed that we would have the drop off again this year.

Mr. Eastes shared that the City Budget Calendar would be distributed in January 2017. The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be on January 9, 2016. The City Commission will be making a decision about the Facility Feasibility Study continuing at the January 10, 2016.

Meeting Adjourned.