

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
March 6, 2017 - 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, Mr. Brian Thomason, Ms. Linda Teener, and Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Absent: Ms. Leah Fliter.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Director of Sunset Zoo; Ms. Susan Adams, Director of Flint Hills Discovery Center; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer; Mr. Jay Guarneri, Infrastructure Analyst; and Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. The minutes of the regular meeting held on February 6, 2017 were approved by a 5-0 vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two boy scouts were attending the meeting to earn hours for merit badges for citizenship and community.

Mr. Eastes introduced Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer for the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Kirkwood provided a brief introduction of work history for the advisory board.

WARNER PARK NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY UPDATE

Mr. Eastes provided an update on the Warner Park Neighborhood Survey for the board. The Warner Park Neighborhood Survey is complete. 838 people participated in the survey. Staff is analyzing the results and will present the findings at a future meeting. The Kansas State University classes are already planning for 12 months or longer in the future. We would not be able to utilize the students for those classes until 2018 for planning at Warner Park.

BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jay Guarneri, Infrastructure Analyst and Staff liaison to the Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), will present an update on the status of bike-ped projects and a preview of Bike Month activities being planned for May 2017. Mr. Guarneri indicated that there is infrastructure through streets and parks across the community. Mr. Guarneri previewed the 5-year Strategic Plan for BPAC and identified that not everything in the plan will be constructed. The plan includes needs and wants for new bicycle-pedestrian paths. Mr. Guarneri highlighted 2016 accomplishments of completing a two mile path; funding the safe-routes to school paths (SRTS); and Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community status for 2016-2020. The 2017 BPAC goals are: implementing SRTS; new bicycle boulevards and routes; fixit stands in public places for bicycle repairs; old Blue River trail and McCall Crossing project completion; increase bicycle safety at USD383; and education campaign for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers. For 2018 and beyond, BPAC would like to close the gaps in the safe routes to cross town; coordinate projects with Public Works street projects; avoid installing infrastructure that will be destroyed by a future project; and continue to identify new opportunities to earn a Silver Bicycle Friendly Community in 2020.

Ms. Rozell mentioned Little Apple Pedal, Bike Across Kansas, and Kandango events for cyclists. Mr. Thomason asked what it takes to earn a bronze award. Mr. Guarneri shared it was similar to the SRTS categories the five E's: engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and evaluation and planning. To obtain the award, you need the physical infrastructure; people who bike responsibly and

drivers who know how to act around cyclists; people setting an example for others and making it seem like an attractive alternative; people following the laws; and evaluating what we have done to see how well it is working. The City has a primary focus on engineering (infrastructure) and education (cyclists and drivers). Mr. Klimek asked about connecting to the Great Heritage trail. Mr. Guarneri shared the challenge of the trail not physically being a part of the city and routes to connect are through private property. Ms. Teener indicated that educating the 5th and 6th graders is great, but further education for drivers is necessary for the safety of cyclists.

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Smithson shared that construction at the Anneberg Park entrance has created a temporary entrance to the park. The Douglass Center electrical upgrades are going to out to bid. Park staff has been working with ball fields and adding new material to the fields to improve playability even with rainy weather. The stingray will have a large tent placed over it to protect the surface repairs. The Northview water park construction will add a pool heater and expand the filter building and provide a year round public restroom for the park. The street tree program has started accepted applications with planting beginning in April and May. Mr. Thomason asked about tree removal at Anneberg. Mr. Smithson responded that the trees were removed within the construction limits. Mr. Thomason asked about sidewalk repairs in City Park. Mr. Smithson shared that it is currently a capital improvement project that has not been funded at this time.

Mr. Shoemaker shared that the warm weather has been great for attendance at the Sunset Zoo. Summer hours will begin April 1st and will be open from 9:30a-5:00p. The Sunset Zoo Master Plan Strategic Plan is moving along and a recommendation is being made for GMLV to complete the project. Animals that are housed for winter are being moved out due to the early warm weather. The zoo is making arrangements to bring in a female Asian river otter and a female crested screamer this spring. Mr. Klimek asked about the pavilion at the zoo. Mr. Shoemaker indicated that it is first come, first serve, unless a reservation has been made.

Mr. Clifford reviewed the recreation division activities for the board. The ice rink closed on February 24. Various programs are getting geared up for summer. Outdoor field interest is increasing with the early warm weather. Seasonal hiring is ramping to get enough employees to run the summer programs. Mr. Clifford shared an update with the building services functions that were newly acquired by the division of recreation. The tournament season is anticipated to be a larger season than last year as tournaments are being allowed to start earlier in the season. Little Apple Core Challenge will be a two week business challenge to promote friendly competition for teams with an anticipated six to eight teams. Arts in the Park program planning is nearly half complete and has some exciting acts for 2017. The summer theatre program will be a joint youth and junior musical production of Beauty and the Beast. Mr. Thomason asked about waterpark and ice rink performance. Mr. Clifford stated that both facilities are showing upwards trends. Mr. Thomason asked about the turf soccer field at Anneberg park and wanted clarification of the location of field 2. Mr. Clifford indicated that field 2 was inactive for turf building, anticipate using that field again this summer. Field 4 will be taken out of rotation for turf maintenance this summer.

Ms. Adams reported that Discovery Center attendance was doing well. The STEM family night had over 390 in attendance. The STEM event was a partnership with Kansas State University. In March, the FHDC has a lot of activities. Blue Earth Plaza water feature gets turned back on in March. Tall Grass Tour Bus went to Alcove Springs this past weekend. A partnership with Via Christi will bring a Go See It Lecture to Put Your Best Fork Forward. Scott Bean will also have a fire photography lesson. The 5 year celebration will be April 14 from 10a-5p with a special ceremony at 1pm in the atrium. Flint Hills Festival will be May 20.

Ms. Kirkwood shared an updated educational document to engage the public on the Facility Feasibility Study. Ms. Kirkwood explained that we will be sharing the document with community members and community groups to help educate the public on the findings of the study.

Mr. Eastes shared that a private committee has formed to restore the Johnny Kaw statue in City Park. Mr. Klimek shared information about the vision of the group and fundraising efforts. Mr. Eastes spoke to the Peace Memorial Auditorium Lobby Improvements and the capital improvement program auditorium project. The CIP for the city is to pay for curtains, tables, and chairs for the auditorium. Mr. Klimek asked if the improvements would interrupt usage of the auditorium. Mr. Eastes indicated that there are multiple entrances to the auditorium and it should not be limited by the improvements.

FUTURE BUSINESS

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eastes shared with the board that the Advisory Board CIP Submission Deadline was March 3, 2017.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that the next Facility Feasibility Steering Committee meeting will be held on March 29, 2017 at 4pm in the Parks and Recreation Office. This meeting is in advance of the City Commission work session on April 11, 2017. The steering committee will need to review the final report and make a recommendation to accept the final report for the City Commission. The advisory board will get an update on April 3, 2017 on the final report and the steering committee recommendation.

Mr. Eastes also shared that the Community Development Block Grant project for the recreation facility on the Douglass Center property has been approved by HUD. We will be waiting to hear from HUD on the next steps in the process to begin planning and design for the facility.

Mr. Bachamp asked about turf on Field 2 at Anneberg Park. Mr. Eastes indicated that would be a separate project as turf is recommended by the Facility Feasibility Study on Blue Field at CiCo complex. A question was asked regarding continuing trail connectivity. Mr. Eastes stated that improvements will always be sought; additional trail connectivity is always being evaluated. Mr. Eastes explained that the next steering committee meeting is a public meeting and open to the public. Mr. Eastes shared that the Facility Feasibility educational piece will be part of the next activities guide to help share information with the community members.

Mr. Schafer asked about the Jorgenson Trail project. Mr. Eastes indicated that we are currently surveying the property boundaries and staking the trail to help neighbors to the park understand the proposed trail layout.

Meeting Adjourned.