

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
June 5, 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, and Ms. Linda Teener.

Absent: Mr. Mark Bachamp and 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. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer; and Mr. Chad Bunger, Assistant Director of Community Development.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Thomason, seconded by Ms. Teener, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 1, 2017. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MILLER PARKWAY DEVELOPMENT

The concept for a new commercial and residential subdivision near the intersection of Miller Parkway and Amherst Drive includes dedication of public parkland. The proposed dedication includes a 2 acre fishing pond. The developer and consultant will present an overview of proposed development project. Parks and Recreation staff has met several times with the development team, including one meeting on site.

Mr. Thompson provided an overview for the board regarding the area of proposed development near the USDA Rural Development Office. Mr. Thompson shared the Park Service Area map from the Comprehensive Plan that showed the area is not currently served by any existing park. Connecting more households to park land is part of the overall goal for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mr. Bret Tremblay from Alfred Benesch & Co. presented the map showing the development area. The site is currently 120 acres of rolling hills, forest area, and a 3 acre spring fed pond. Access into the development is on Miller Parkway and the proposal is to extend Amherst Avenue into the development to allow for a central corridor. The developer is in communication with a senior housing facility to occupy a portion of the medium density housing. The proposal is approximately 14.2 acres of park land with a 3 acre spring fed lake with a dam on the south side. There is also area with trees, ravines, trails, and also some waterways. On the north area, it is proposed to maintain a water detention area for storm water quality. The proposal also includes adding trails to the development.

Mr. Kelly Briggs, President of Bayer Construction, presented history regarding the property. The property was his grandfathers who purchased the property in the early 1900's. In the 1950's K-18 was developed and cut the farm in half. Mr. Briggs grandfather was a quarryman by trade. He built the dam as part of the stone quarry operations in the 1950's. The pond has about 13 acres of watershed for the property. The pond is spring fed and the water is pretty clear. The pond does have fish for fishing.

Ms. Teener asked the parks and recreation department to provide input on the ability of the department to care for the property and the ability to develop the property at a future time. Mr. Eastes responded that we

would need to get the property in the CIP process to develop any improvements at a later date. It does help connect neighborhoods to parkland in areas that are currently underserved in that aspect. Mr. Eastes indicated that the project is well planned at the beginning of the process. The developer has already identified and mapped out trail systems in the project and that makes the whole process easier to adapt as opposed to projects in the past that have come to us in later stages of planning with no real identified park or trail system.

Mr. Thomason asked about pond depth. Mr. Tremblay responded that the bottom side of the dam is 40 feet deep with a constant decreasing elevation to the north. Mr. Thomason asked what parks and recreation envisioned for the space. Mr. Eastes indicated that we would generally maintain the land to allow usage. The city also monitors the amount of space between the public and private property to ensure use of the park does not disrupt private property owners. This park would be access to green space, trails and a water feature. Mr. Thompson responded that we a site plan for this park property has not been developed yet. The conversation with the developer to plan the park and parking for the area go hand and hand.

Mr. Klimek asked about the encroachment of the housing development and the access the public would have to the perimeter of the lake. Mr. Tremblay indicated that property lines were 30 to 70 feet to the property line of the road and an additional 60 feet with the roadway. The housing area property lines would then be 100-120 feet away in addition to the set back of the house. The encroachment of that would be greater than 120 feet. Mr. Eastes indicated that individuals purchasing the property will already know that the property line is shared with public park land. Mr. Thompson indicated that the private land is separated from the park by utilities and roadways. The land on the other side of the pond is commercial.

Mr. Shafer asked about altering the water flow and if it will create problems for the dam. He did indicate that the watershed is small, but hopes consideration is being provided for potential future problems for the dam is in place as well. Mr. Briggs indicated that the property is expected to be improved and the planning process is to improve the quality of the pond by diverting storm water. They anticipate building maintenance access into the lower pond to ensure proper care.

Mr. Rich Seidler indicated that there was a desire to be totally transparent about the project. The entire development has been planned with communication with city staff on all areas. The separation of the ponds from the area above them were separated intentionally with roadways. The land is on the tax rolls for nothing. The changes to the property will create additional tax dollars for the county. Connectivity was a key part of the design of the project. Mr. Thompson shared that trails on this property could connect to the Kansas Department of Transportation property near K-18 that could potentially be purchased in the future for recreation space. The Park at Lee Mill Heights can be connected to the same property. Mr Thompson described how a person could potentially walk from Warner Park to Anneberg Park on trails and sidewalks that crossed these multiple properties. .

Mr. Klimek asked if the Park division is agreeable with the proposal. Mr. Eastes affirmed that this would create opportunities to connect the community in ways that we are not currently able to connect. Mr. Eastes indicated that the property is very important to the developer and the future use of the land is also clearly proposed.

Ms. Teener moved to recommend the City Commission accept the parkland donation. Mr. Thomason seconded. On 5-0 vote, motion carried.

PARKS & RECREATION MONTH – JULY

July is Parks and Recreation Month. America has celebrated July as the nation's official Park and Recreation Month since 1985. The City of Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department will host a

variety of activities throughout the month to highlight activities associated with Parks and Recreation. The Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, at the City Commission Meeting. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer, shared the calendar of events with the board. The National Recreation and Parks Association theme for 2017 is Get Your Play On. We have created a local spin with an acronym of the word P.L.A.Y. We will highlight parks, leisure, adventure, and youth. We will highlight the history and background of our parks. We plan to do a tree tour through social media and some potentially some geocaching. We will also highlight our Arts in the Park series as well. We will have a tent and promote the quality of life sales tax question with the public at those weekly events. The second week of July will include the proclamation by the Mayor. Little Apple Paddle is scheduled for the second week as well. Our sponsors will also have a recognition celebration in July to thank them for the support of our programs. The third week we will host a Family Fun Night incorporated with Arts in the Park. During July, we will also incorporate all events and activities at the Sunset Zoo and Flint Hills Discovery Center. During July, we will also launch our education campaign for the quality of life sales tax initiative. We will launch two campaigns for "Did You Know" to incorporate a healthy lifestyle and "Share Your Summer" to allow the public to interact with Parks and Recreation. Mr. Thomason asked about some type of identifying name tag for board members. Ms. Kirkwood indicated that we are working on a button that could say "Ask me about Parks & Recreation".

STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Shoemaker shared that the Wine in the Wild Friends of Sunset Zoo (FoSZ) event had over 500 participants. Every first Saturday of the month during the summer are FoSZ free kids days. Summer camps are in full swing. A baby white handed Gibbon was born on May 26, 2017. Baby and mom are doing great. The birth is significant as this is a highly endangered species.

Mr. Smithson informed the board that pool projects are essentially completed. The Northview project is nearing completion. The stage decking was replaced on Larry Norvell Band Shell over the spring. We partnered with Tuttle Creek Lake Association for a fishing clinic at Dishman Lake. Furniture Amnesty day will be July 28, 2017, on Baker Field in City Park.

Mr. Thompson informed the board that the South East Neighborhood Recreation Center selection committee will be submitting their consultant recommendation to the City Commission on July 11, 2017. The Commission will also see the Aggieville Infrastructure Analysis project on July 11, 2017. The Parks and Recreation department will be involved as park plans and streetscapes concepts developed for the area.

Mr. Johnson, City Engineer, provided a brief update on Public Works projects.

Mr. Clifford shared that the Recreation Division has entered the busiest time of the year. The Arts in the Park concert series started on June 2nd. The summer classes and programs are starting the first week of June. The pools opened over Memorial Day weekend and attendance is picking up with the heat. Swim lessons begin the week of June 12th. The Second Annual Little Apple Pedal even was held in May. Tournament season is going strong.

Ms. Adams shared that the Flint Hills Discovery Center has been busy as well. The summer day camps have started and kids are enjoying the camps. The Flint Hills Festival drew approximately 2,600 people even with not ideal weather. Summer hours began on Memorial Day. The Design Zone and Brain Teasers exhibit has opened and 200 members showed up for the members only event. A free astronomy viewing on the terrace was hosted in partnership with Kansas State. The event had over 278 attendees and we will host another event on July 14. This is leading up to the solar eclipse on August 21, 2017. The Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest will be held on Friday, June 9, from 6p-9p.

Ms. Kirkwood mentioned that community talks will be occurring in July at Good Morning Manhattan and the After Hours at the Flint Hills Discover Center.

FUTURE BUSINESS

100 Dix Drive property acquisition – City of Manhattan. Mr. Eastes shared that the City has acquired some properties around town from the Flood of 1993 and additional properties are in the process of being acquired. There is some discussion that the property at 100 Dix Drive could become a possible future pocket park. Mr. Chad Bunger shared that the property was significantly damaged by a fire last July. The City has received Federal Emergency Management Program (FEMA) funds to purchase properties that are located in floodways – 100 Dix Drive is such a property and the current owner is agreeable to sell the property. The fire was extensive and rebuilding the property to comply with FEMA standards would have been quite costly. The grant is a 75/25 split with the federal government picking up 75 percent of the cost and 25 percent paid by the City. Once acquired by the City utilizing FEMA funds, the property must remain as open space and could be utilized as a landscaped, passive park area. At a community meeting, one of the neighborhood kids requested the driveway remain for a neighborhood basketball hoop. The possibility of a community garden was also discussed. The City Commission will consider purchasing this property with FEMA funds at the June 20 meeting. There are two additional properties on Village Drive that will be considered at the same meeting.

Mr. Klimek asked about the access to the property at Dix Drive. Mr. Bunger shared that the property has access as a corner lot. The neighborhood was understanding about decision of the property owners due to the extensive nature of the fire.

Mr. Eastes shared that the advisory board should provide support of the property acquisition to the Commission. Ms. Teener shared that individuals walk the sidewalk to get to Linear Trail. She felt leaving the driveway as a basketball area was a great idea. She felt it was acceptable to take on as green space whether it becomes a park or not.

Ms. Rozell asked about the property. Mr. Bunger replied that the home would need to be elevated and the basement would need to be filled in with the new regulations on the land. Mr. Bunger shared that mitigation efforts are being created for those properties in the flood zone.

The board agreed to support the property acquisition as green space for the community in the Community Development purchase effort.

MISCELLANEOUS

Community Survey – Mr. Eastes shared that a new community survey was completed to build on the 2015 survey. A community survey was developed by Josephine Gatti Schafer, Ph.d, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science Kansas State University and City Administration. Dr. Schafer will deliver the results of the survey to the City Commission at the June 6 City Commission meeting. Several questions were specific to Parks and Recreation and the upcoming sales tax ballot question.

OTHER BUSINESS

Interlocal agreement and shared use agreement – Mr. Eastes shared that this agreement is an administrative item to allow the City to build on State property. The City has proposed that the City and the United School District #383 (District) enter into an interlocal agreement for the City to obtain a license, and authority, from the District to use the Anthony Middle School site and Eisenhower Middle School site for the public purpose of constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, repairing and operating Indoor Recreation Facilities; and, to enter into an agreement to set forth the relationship of the parties as to the operation and use of the Recreation Facilities. The agreement calls out the need to work together on scheduling of the facilities.

The City Commission will consider an interlocal agreement and shared use agreement with USD 383 at the June 20 meeting. USD 383 Board of Education will consider this interlocal agreement and shared use agreement at their June 21 meeting.

Mr. Klimek shared that the Facility Feasibility Steering Committee met to wrap up the project. Mr. Eastes shared that various members of the committee are interested in helping the City with an education campaign. The City and USD 383 are meeting to discuss the educational campaign. We are also working with steering committee members to put together a private campaign to help champion the community for the November ballot question. Mr. Klimek shared that the school district has been successful with that type of private campaign and we will implement a similar model. Mr. Klimek shared that CiCo Park could have used updates 10 years ago.

Mr. Klimek mentioned the Johnny Kaw group. The group is taking on the reinvention and renovation of Johnny. Johnny Kaw has been part of the park since 1966. Mr. Thompson shared a design concept for the plaza surrounding the statue. Mr. Klimek indicated that the Johnny Kaw project is a grass roots committee.

Meeting Adjourned.