

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
October 2, 2017 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Ed Klimek, Mr. Dave Schafer, Ms. Linda Teener, and Mr. Curt Herrman.

Absent: Mr. Mark Bachamp, Mr. Darrell Edie, and Mr. Brian Thomason.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; and Lindsay Stucki and Chandler Nyp, Park Planner Interns.

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. Approval of minutes delayed due to lack of quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JOHNNY KAW PLAZA UPDATE

Mr. Klimek spoke about the Johnny Kaw efforts. He shared that the Johnny Kaw Committee wishes to nominate the Johnny Kaw statue in city Park for inclusion on the National and State Register of Historic Properties. Mr. Eastes indicated that Parks and Recreation has several buildings that are part of the register. The Bluemont Cabin, Community House, and Floral Hall (Roundhouse) are all on the register. Mr. Eastes spoke to the requirements of the facility and potential future improvements.

Mr. Klimek indicated that the group feels strongly about the nomination for the register, especially after discovering that the registry would not affect future improvements. Ms. Teener asked about future reconstruction or changes to the statue itself. Mr. Thompson shared that this had come up with Floral Hall and the nomination can be written in a way to include and not include certain aspects. He feels that with the Johnny Kaw statue, it can be written in such a way to just include the statue and not the grass or property around it.

Mr. Herrman moved to support the proposal to nominate the Johnny Kaw statue for the National and State Register of Historic Places, seconded by Ms. Teener. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Teener, seconded by Mr. Schafer, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 11, 2017. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

SALES TAX EDUCATION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Mr. Eastes spoke about the calendar of events that Parks and Recreation is scheduled to attend for the next 30 days. Ms. Kirkwood provided an update on the PowerPoint that has been developed to help with the education of the special tax question for Recreation and Trails. Ms. Kirkwood shared that the PowerPoint continues to be tweaked for each group that we present to for content that is relevant to that civic organization. The water bill insert will contain the sales tax information for the month of October. We are at sporting events, community events, and civic organization meetings for the next month to educate the public on the initiative. Mr. Kirkwood asked the board to share educational information from the Parks and Recreation social media platforms. Ms. Kirkwood presented the PowerPoint.

Mr. Klimek indicated that he was being asked how the operating costs for the facility would be paid. Mr. Eastes indicated that the consultant was conservative on tournament revenue when completing the Facility Feasibility Study. We anticipate that we will be able to have additional tournaments and offset costs of operating the facility. Mr. Eastes indicated that we prefer to keep the facilities free to the community for use. Mr. Klimek asked if other communities that have indoor facilities charge for usage. Mr. Clifford responded that fees vary by community and the amenities that are available. Mr. Eastes indicated that he could anticipate a free drop-in use, but reserved use of the facility would require payment of a fee similar to a shelter. Mr. Klimek stated that the City of Lawrence does not charge for community centers throughout various neighborhoods in the community. Mr. Klimek indicated that the board wished to send on to the City Commission the support of the sales tax initiative.

Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Apel to provide an update on the private group's efforts. Mr. Apel shared that the group has been attending a number of meetings, distributing yard signs, distributing other signage, and social media efforts regarding the campaign. The group has been targeting social media efforts to encourage the community to support the sales tax initiative. Mr. Apel asked the board to consider supporting the website and signing up for a yard sign. Mr. Klimek asked what the public response has been. Mr. Apel indicated that there has been considerable support for the initiative around the community.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

None.

#### STAFF UPDATES

Mr. Shoemaker shared that the zoo hosted Grandparents Day, Animal Appreciation Day, Cub Scout Day, and the fall session of Science on Tap. Spooktacular is coming up on October 28 & 29.

Mr. Smithson shared that parks crews are getting ready for winter and getting the water features shutdown. Crews have started preparing for the ice rink setup. Christmas lighting efforts have begun as well. Parks crews have been installing new benches and trash receptacles around town.

Mr. Thompson shared that interns are helping work on various projects around the community. Met with the contractor on LedgeStone Trail and working to complete the final connection of the trail by the end of the year. Under final contract for design on the zoo parking lot, anticipate completion of design by fall with construction to begin during winter/spring during zoo slow time. Completed first round of trail counts with infrared counters around the community that were sponsored by the MPO. Mr. Klimek asked about usage at Warner Park. At Warner Park, over 1,900 entrances were observed for people entering and exiting the park.

Mr. Clifford mentioned that the recreation staff is in the heart of the fall season. Staff is preparing to operate the ice rink for opening in mid-November. The Fall Family Fun Day was very successful with a new Manhattan's Got Talent event. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we host the annual Punt Pass and Kick event. We also have another paddle event at the end of October.

Ms. Adams indicated that regular hours have changed to fall/winter hours. The Star Spangled Saturday event was well attended. The FHDC crew took the Imagination Playground blocks to the Mini-Maker event. The current exhibit of Duty First is going well.

Ms. Kirkwood provided a list of talking opportunities and the other communication methods for the sales tax initiative. The Winter/Spring Guide will highlight our new recreation software that launches on January 1, 2018. The software is anticipated to make the participation much simpler for the community. We will be walking people through registering either with the guide, a short video clip, or by phone.

### FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that upcoming agenda items will include an update on the Jorgenson Park Trail. Mr. Thompson will provide an update on this project in the future. The facility fees are being evaluated and will be presented to the board at a later date. The facility reservation process was evaluated by a Masters in Public Administration student and we have 29 forms. The department plans to find a way to combine the forms to make the process less cumbersome for the public. The pool annual report will be presented as well as a recommendation for fees for the 2018 season. The Flint Hills Discovery Center will also present an annual report at a later date.

Mr. Schafer asked if access to the Northeast sidewalk and access to the park was open. Mr. Thompson indicated that the trail was open, connecting Casement to Northeast Park.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Klimek noted on the project report that rock façade repair on the parking garage was underway. Mr. Eastes shared that Parks and Recreation is hosting the capital improvement project to repair the rock façade. The Horticulture crew uses the facility for storage and Parks manages bird patrol. Mr. Smithson is working with the City Engineer on this project. Ms. Teener indicated that she remembered a field trip for the board that showed the amount of sidewalk, parking lot, and other parts of the City that the Parks crew help maintain for the community.

Mr. Klimek mentioned that Bishop Stadium is locked down for public use and the board should recommend the School Board should keep that open for public use. Mr. Schafer indicated that a few security cameras could help resolve the issues and identify the vandals.

Meeting Adjourned.