

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
March 5, 2018 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Ed Klimek, Ms. Linda Teener, Mr. Dave Schafer, Mr. Mark Bachamp, and Mr. Darrell Edie.

Absent: Mr. Curt Herrman.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; and Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Linda Teener, seconded by Mr. Dave Schafer, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2018. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mr. Mark Bachamp arrived after approval of the minutes.

PARK AT LEE MILL HEIGHTS MASTER PLAN

Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director, updated the Board on the master plan for the Park at Lee Mill Heights. A Draft Master Plan report was published on the MHKPRD website on February 2. The park master plan is a long-range vision for the Park at Lee Mill Heights. The purpose of this document is to cast a vision for this park.

The report includes 9 chapters and appendices. Chapters 1-5 includes the introduction, site history, and a summary of the planning process including community engagement opportunities, site assessments, and concept development. Chapter 6 shows the recommended improvements. Chapter 7 outlines phasing strategies. Chapter 8 details land management recommendations.

The key coming out of the planning was that the residents desire a natural area to allow the experience of nature within the city. They would like to have amenities that complement the natural landscape; gravel, not paved parking areas; place to explore and exercise in nature; and restrooms and water fountains.

Mr. Thompson shared a park concept that will be shared with the commission with proposed trails, scenic overlook opportunities, and shade structures. The Loma Ridge entry concept includes a gravel parking lot, turn around area, and rain garden; trail loop; playground area; prairie demonstration garden; tall grass prairie maize; restroom; and picnic shelter. The Miller Parkway entrance concept includes a gravel parking lot for 60 vehicles; entry plaza, labyrinth maze; restrooms, picnic shelter; outdoor classroom; playground; butterfly garden; pathways; large circular play lawn; and trail connectivity. The LedgeStone Ridge Open Space concept will be to function as an open lawn space for those that do not have lawn space to play catch and enjoy for neighborhood families.

Throughout the month of March, the draft plan will be presented to other City advisory boards and the City Commission at a work session on March 27. Through email and social media, residents are being

encouraged to read the plan (particularly Chapters 6, 7, and 8) and send feedback to Wyatt; and/or attend one of the public presentations.

Mr. Bachamp asked if restrooms would be natural or plumbed. Mr. Thompson indicated that the Miller Ranch restroom would be plumbed and Loma Ridge we would recommend portable restrooms for the short-term due to the grading of the property. Mr. Bachamp remarked that the LedgeStone green space was a great plan for that area due to the lack of flat lawns in those neighborhoods. Mr. Klimek asked about tree placement in the park areas. Mr. Thompson indicated our Forestry crews would do the plantings. Mr. Klimek noted that the park areas had circular play areas and asked if there would be designated open spaces for sports pick-up games. Mr. Thompson shared that the LedgeStone area would be approximately the size of a U8 soccer field. Mr. Klimek asked about connectivity to other areas. Mr. Thompson indicated that all major areas within the park and surrounding areas will be connected through pedestrian trails. Our goal is to provide neighborhood connections where we can. Mr. Bachamp asked about access to LedgeStone area. Mr. Thompson indicated that would be phased in as the construction in the neighborhood is completed. A trail would be completed before the parking lot would be developed at the Miller Parkway entrance.

Mr. Robert Buel owns the property to the South and West of the Miller Parkway entrance. Mr. Buel shared concerns about the public access for his property. Mr. Buel feels that the City and landowners have cooperated really well and he hopes that will continue. Mr. Buel also shared that he is not in favor of controlled burning. Mr. Buel is in favor of the park and the idea of keeping the area as natural as possible.

Mr. Bachamp asked if there was an agreement for general location when Miller Parkway was built. Mr. Buel indicated that they did have an agreement and it changed because Schultz was going to build an apartment complex at LedgeStone and his entrance was to be across the street from that entrance. Mr. Bachamp indicated that the entrance to the neighborhood area is in the same place as the entrance for the apartment complex and that had not changed. Mr. Buel shared that when the apartment complex fell through, Public Works asked Mr. Buel to designate his entrance. Mr. Bachamp asked Mr. Buel if he has plans for land development of his property and Mr. Buel shared that he does not have plans to develop his land. Mr. Buel would like the board to encourage communication between himself and the Public Works department regarding the park access on Miller Parkway.

Mr. Schafer asked what action the board needed to provide. Mr. Thompson replied that we need input from the board on the plan as presented regarding the input received from the public for the parkland and we are not asking for a recommendation for approval. Mr. Thompson has been in communication with Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer, about the park access on Miller Parkway. The question for the board is whether there is a level of comfort with the intersection of a public access being in parkland. Mr. Thompson indicated the drawing could be amended to show how that could be accommodated. Mr. Schafer would like all parties to have some level of satisfaction with the decision. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would like Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Mr. Buel to come up with an agreement about access.

2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM REQUEST

City Administration updated the board on the City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process and major Parks and Recreation project request. Mr. Eastes reviewed the projects that are part of the proposed 2019 CIP. Mr. Eastes shared a request to have a 1 percent requirement on City Projects to fund public art. Mr. Eastes shared that typical capital improvements that are approved total approximately \$150,000-\$300,000. Mr. Eastes feels the upcoming park tour will highlight the needs of the department and future projects that are part of the CIP process.

Advisory board and citizens are invited to submit a Capital Improvement Project request to city departments each year. The deadline for 2019-2023 Citizen CIP requests was March 2, 2018. We have a CIP project that is a recommendation to designate 1 percent of each project be allocated to public art.

Mr. Bachamp asked about the Warner Park CIP. Mr. Thompson explained that the CIP was designated to cover costs of improvements recommended to Warner Park through the master plan process. Mr. Edie shared that he uses Anneberg Park and pleased to see restrooms on the CIP list for that location. Mr. Eastes shared that Long's Park has seen traffic from not just park goers, but also service workers.

Mr. Klimek spoke about a potential to have a goal setting session to establish upcoming priorities for the advisory board. This would allow the board to have input on department goals similar to the City Commission.

Mr. Smithson shared that the April meeting would be a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the Riley County Parks Board. The meeting will occur at Pottorf Hall in CiCo Park. The park and project tour is proposed in late April or early May. Mr. Klimek requested receiving further information about Fairmont Park.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

Mr. Leyva shared that the Warner Park Master Plan is ongoing. The public meeting connected the student group, residents, and neighborhood groups. The design reviews will occur next weekend with a final concept being presented on April 14th from 10am to noon at the Flint Hills Discovery Center Atrium. The Old Blue River Trail will have a fall construction date. The City Park Master Plan will be presented to the City Commission at a late April work session. The design of the Fremont project is 99 percent complete. The Northeast Community Park Irrigation Design request for qualifications was sent out last week and receiving interest from consultants for that project.

Mr. Smithson indicated that work will begin on the Dishman Lake aerator. The tennis courts in City Park are having warranty work completed this spring. The fountain at the mall on Poyntz has been tented and is being renovated with a completion goal set for prom. Northeast Community Park will have a project getting lighting installed with Westar this Spring and Fall. One of our top requests is lighting in the parking area. Our spring turf program has started to stimulation growth early in the season. We will be aerating and watering the turf beginning soon.

Mr. Shoemaker shared that March 3rd was World Wildlife Day and Sunset Zoo partnered with other AZA institutions to focus on sharing information on large cats in the wild. The zoo shared information on the large cats we have in our collection and the status of those animals in the wild. The construction began on the parking lot project and should be complete by the end of the spring. Three Maned Wolf pups were born in December and they are doing very well. March 24 is Community Appreciation Day.

Ms. Kirkwood has been working on promotion of activities and the summer activity guide. There are many spring and summer activities and enrollment upcoming in March. There will be an update on the sales tax initiative in the summer guide as well. We are also asking the public to provide input on how they prefer to receive information from the department. Ms. Kirkwood has been sharing information about weather situations to educate the public.

Mr. Thompson mentioned there will be a meeting with Public Works regarding the Ledgestone Ridge Park tract. We are starting the prioritization schedule for the trail projects that are funded with the sales tax funds. We have started a project with Public Works to design and permit trail-railroad crossings at S. Manhattan and Pecan Drive to improve access to Linear Trail.

Mr. Clifford indicated that the recreation division is very busy with completing winter programs and gearing up for summer and spring programming. Our Junior Theatre production for grades K-6 will feature ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR while the Youth Musical for students in grades 7-12 will be SEUSSICAL. Tournaments will start the first weekend of April. Upcoming special events include self-defense clinic on March 10, Easter Family Fun Day on March 31, Little Apple Core Challenge begins April 3, and Youth Outdoor Adventure Challenge on April 22. Summer employment recruitment is up and going and we are looking for employees to assist with a variety of programs.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that the City Commission will be providing input on the Warner Park Master Plan and City Park Master Plan in the April 24th work session. The April meeting will be a joint meeting with Riley County Park Board in CiCo Park. The facility tour will be organized and scheduled for late April or early May.

Mr. Klimek indicated that a projected construction start date in August 2018 for the Johnny Kaw project. The grassroots committee has built a number of partnerships together to make the project possible.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes provided an update on the Southeast Neighborhood Recreation Center to the advisory board. The City Commission provided direction that the City needed to stay within the budget for the project and a raised walking track is not supported within that number. A walking track will be added at grade on the court surface.

The Mhk Middle School Improvement selection committee is recommending the team of McCown-Gordon and Anderson Knight Architecture for the project. The project will move forward after the City Commission awards the design-build project. We will be developing a steering committee for the middle school improvements to allow community input in the design process.

The City Commission has agreed to reevaluate the Kansas Department of Transportation donation of the VMI property tract. The City is looking to receive pedestrian access on the property from KDOT. We will need to negotiate with the future landowner to purchase the pedestrian easements if KDOT does not grant that access.

Meeting Adjourned.