

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
June 4, 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, and Mr. Darrell Edie.

Absent: Mr. Curt Herrman and Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo 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. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; and Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent.

Presenters: Mr. Tracy Anderson, Anderson Knight Architects, Mr. Jim Hollinger, and Ms. Cheryl Collins, Riley County Historical Museum Director.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. Ms. Linda Teener and Mr. David Schafer recommended corrected to the May 7, 2018, meeting minutes. It was moved by Mr. Schafer, seconded by Ms. Teener, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 7, 2018. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Tracy Anderson from Anderson Knight Architects provided an update on the Middle School Recreation Steering Committee meeting. The first steering committee meeting provided the group with good feedback from the questions developed by the design team. The top opportunities that the group identified were community rooms, youth engagement in indoor sports, and classes. The biggest challenge that the group identified was security of the school with maintenance and staffing coming in as the other challenges. The highest value was balance of school vs. community usage and the design team understands this will be one of their greatest challenges. The steering committee wants the design to be similar to the school, but maintain own identity. The prioritization of the six objectives of sustainability, flexibility, revenue potential, budget value, location orientation and low user fees were ranked in that order by the committee. Program usage was diverse with indoor soccer and baseball training ranked highest along with walking. The design team is working to create a way to separate the space and maintain security for the school.

HISTORIC REGISTER NOMINATION FOR PIONEER LOG CABIN IN CITY PARK

Cheryl Collins, Riley County Historical Museum Director, spoke about the Pioneer Log Cabin nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, which is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance. The registration of the log cabin on the national register would allow the historical society to receive grants to help maintain the property.

The Riley County Historical Society was organized in 1914, and the log cabin was its first major project. Many of the Society's original members helped to settle Riley County in the 1850s and 1860s. The cabin was built to help preserve that experience. It was constructed by volunteers on its present site in City Park from donated materials, including locally grown walnut logs.

On October 2, 1915, the cornerstone for the pioneer log cabin was laid. The stone came from the first building constructed at Kansas State Agriculture College. A box of historical papers was placed in the foundation at that time. The cabin was originally built to show the type of home that housed the early settlers of Riley County. It features historic farming tools and household goods of the pioneer period. The cabin was the first and only museum of the Riley County Historical Society until 1956, when a larger space was provided in the basement of the City Hall building. In 1976 the museum was moved to a new building at 2309 Claflin Road. The cabin and its exhibits are still a reminder of life during the first years of Riley County.

Ms. Teener moved and Mr. Schafer seconded, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board support the nomination of the Pioneer Log Cabin in City Park for the National Register of Historic Places. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

#### SCENIC MEADOWS LAND DONATION

Mr. Eastes shared that Mr. Jim Hollinger, representing Scenic Meadows Development, has approached the City about a donation of approximately 40 acres of land immediately south of Roger Schultz Community Park and to the west of the VMI Tract. The land is currently listed as a conservation area and has the potential for trail development to accent trail development on Roger Schultz Community Park as well as providing connectivity to the VMI Tract, if the City Commission accepts the VMI tract. Mr. Eastes is not requesting action at this time, but would like to allow the board to preview the idea and would this property donation would return to them at a later time to consider donation if the commission accepts the VMI tract.

Mr. Thompson shared a map of the proposed property and showed the connection between Roger Schultz Community Park and the VMI tract with the Scenic Meadows land. Mr. Thompson shared that the land was already part of the Lee Mill Heights Park Master Plan due to the utility easements on the property that were identified for trail access.

Mr. Schafer asked about the landscape of the property. Mr. Thompson shared that the property is primarily on the hillside and contains prairie grass and woody vegetation. Mr. Schafer inquired why the property was not being used for construction purposes. Mr. Hollinger shared with the board that the land is unbuildable because of conservation and utility easements. Mr. Hollinger felt the land donation would support trail development since the easements are already being utilized for some trail access.

Mr. Klimek asked if the property would solve the public access for the VMI tract and the Scenic Meadows property. Mr. Thompson indicated that this would not provide vehicle access to the property, but it did provide pedestrian access from the Lee Mills Heights and Scenic Meadows neighborhoods. Mr. Schafer asked about potential costs to develop and maintain trails. Mr. Thompson explained that the trail improvements and maintenance were part of the Lee Mills Heights estimate of \$2.5 million to \$3 million.

Mr. Eastes explained that no action was necessary for the proposed donation at this time. The department will wait to see how the City Commission votes on the acceptance of the VMI tract. If the VMI property is accepted, the land donation will be on an upcoming agenda. Mr. Klimek commented that future land donations should include a play area for neighborhood children.

#### NAMING POLICY REVIEW

Mr. Eastes shared the history of the naming policy. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board worked through several drafts of a naming/renaming of parks and recreation parks and/or recreation facilities in 2008. The new facility at the Douglass Park will require naming. The naming of the facility is unique in that the Douglass Center Advisory Board reports directly to the City Commission not the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board yet the grounds and facilities at Douglass Park are under the stewardship of the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Douglass Center Advisory Board has recommended the Douglass Recreation Center. David Baker, Douglas Center Director will present the Douglass Center Advisory Board recommendation to the South Manhattan Neighborhood Association and the Historic Resource Board at their June meeting. Once a naming recommendation has been received by the Parks and Recreation Department, the board will be asked for advice and/or convene a public meeting to gain additional information prior to making a decision or taking the matter to the City Commission for a final decision.

Mr. Schafer asked if the building was named after Frederick Douglass. Mr. Eastes confirmed and also noted that the new facility will include a history of Douglass Park. Mr. Klimek asked Ms. Teener if the policy was still relevant. Ms. Teener indicated that she felt the naming policy was still applicable and that the policy should not be revised for one facility that is governed by a separate board. Mr. Shoemaker shared the zoo naming policy guidelines. Mr. Klimek asked about the naming of the middle school facilities. Mr. Eastes shared that the community facilities will likely be guided through community input. Mr. Eastes explained to the board that awareness of the naming at Douglass Park was the primary objective for the review of the policy. Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Edie about the school naming process and Mr. Edie provided the guidelines the school district follows.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Leyva presented an update on the Old Blue River Trail project for the board. This trail project is expected to provide pedestrian access from Linear Trail across Tuttle Creek Boulevard at McCall Avenue. The project is currently under construction review and then will enter the permitting phase. The project will be out to bid in July 2018 and hopeful that construction will begin in December 2018. This project is in conjunction with the Public Works project of adding a storm water box in the ditch to the West of IHOP. Mr. Klimek clarified that the ditch was being filled. Mr. Thompson added that the project is funded by Community Development Block Grant funds, Sunflower Grant, and a small grant from People for Bikes. The project is funded by 35 percent with private grants and about 50 percent by CDBG funds.

The Flint Hills Regional Transit Administration Grant is funding improvements to Fremont avenue which create bulb-outs at the intersections of 14<sup>th</sup>, N. Manhattan, and 12<sup>th</sup> with Fremont. The bulb-outs will be used to create rain gardens. The vegetation will include hardy plants that can withstand large rain events. The Fremont portion of the project is being bid as an alternate due to budgetary constraints with the project.

Mr. Klimek asked for clarification on the rain garden. Rain gardens gather run-off and filter pollutants out of the water through the vegetation. This storm water strategy provides more planted area to the park. Mr. Klimek asked about draught conditions. Mr. Leyva responded that hydrants would be installed to water the vegetation if necessary. Mr. Schafer noted that bulb-outs restrict people from parking close to corners and increasing visibility of pedestrians for vehicular traffic.

Mr. Eastes stated that the Johnny Kaw grassroots group are continuing to fundraise to construct. The other community projects of Peace Memorial Auditorium and Bluemont Hill overlook are groups that are bringing improvement projects to the City and providing funding to help cover costs.

Mr. Eastes shared that Mr. Paul Foltz has approached the City about purchasing property on Bluemont Hill. Mr. Foltz has approximately 3.4 acres of land that he would like to sell for \$11 per square foot or approximately \$1.8 million dollars. Mr. Eastes asked the board if they have interest in purchasing the property for future trail projects. Mr. Klimek asked if the land was around the Boy Scout Cabin. Mr. Thompson indicated that the property is not around the cabin. The property is located just south of the parking lot on the hillside. Mr. Klimek asked about the lay of the land. Mr. Thompson indicated that it was hilly terrain, but does not currently have any developed trails. Ms. Teener commented that the price seems high for a property that does not have a high potential for use.

## MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

Mr. Shoemaker shared that the zoo hosted Mothers Day on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The concession stand is open daily now that school is out for summer. GLMV is finalizing the zoo master plan and that will come back to the board shortly. The zoo summer camps are sold out and in full swing. The zoo hosted Wine in the Wild which was a sold out event.

Mr. Smithson shared that parks hosted a fishing derby with 84 youth registered and participating. Thanks to Tuttle Creek Lake Association who help put on that event. Dishman Lake received a new fountain. The playground at Twin Oaks is under construction and plans for completion by end of June. Waterparks are operating and the staff worked hard to get everything ready for opening. Mr. Eastes shared that parks staff helped the Rotary Club member's plant trees in City Park, Sunrise Cemetery, Jorgenson Park, Northeast Park, and other areas.

Mr. Leyva indicated that Warner Park and City Park Master Plans are moving along. Irrigation design will be conducted in house with a new program.

Ms. Kirkwood explained the Summer Adventure Passport program which is a partnership with Ft. Riley MWR and encourages outdoor activities. Parks and Recreation has distributed nearly 800 passports. Arts in the Park program kicked off last Friday. June 8<sup>th</sup>s concert is sponsored by UFM to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The waterpark opening weekend created opportunities to communicate with the public.

Mr. Thompson shared that the park planning interns are helping with projects on the park planning worksheet. The Jorgenson Trail has a few punch list items to complete the project. The Sunset Zoo parking lot switched traffic and has a new entrance. The old pavement is being removed and the area will be rebuilt. In June, we will roll out intercept surveys on trails to get information on how to improve the trail system and where to focus sales tax dollars. We will also have neighborhood meetings to gather similar information. The intercept counters from the MPO are back and we will be gathering more data about trail usage this summer.

Ms. Adams shared the dinosaur exhibit is bringing in attendees. The Flint Hills Festival drew over 2,700 people with great weather, music, community members, and partners. The school field trips were well received. Wolf Spider walks coming up this weekend. Pop-up exhibit on Saturday for FHDC visitors about spiders. Day camps are also running with a few openings.

Mr. Clifford shared that Little Apple Day Camp started and is accepting 160 campers this year. Arts in the Park had close to 1,000 attendees. Waterpark openings were staggered again this evening with City opening on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, Northview opened on Monday, and CiCo opened June 4<sup>th</sup>. CiCo location was used to host lifeguard training classes to fill the needed guard positions to open. Little Apple Pedal had about 250 people in May. Little Apple Paddle will occur in July. Tournament figures were provided to the board. The turf fields are allowing playability even with rain. Recreation leagues have around 60 or more teams that are gearing up for their season in June. Mr. Clifford introduced Zach Bayless the new Recreation Supervisor for Arts and Humanities.

Mr. Eastes thanked Ms. Teener for her 12 years of service to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Teener indicated that the Knox Lane project has been a memorable project throughout her tenure on the board.

Meeting Adjourned.