

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
July 2, 2018 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Mark Bachamp, Ms. Elaine Johannes, Mr. Ed Klimek, Mr. Dave Schafer, Mr. Darell Edie, and Ms. Sue Maes.

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. 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.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Schafer, seconded by Mr. Edie, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 4, 2018. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Klimek asked Ms. Sue Maes and Ms. Elaine Johannes to introduce themselves as new members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Johannes is an Associate Professor at Kansas State University in the School of Family Studies Humans Services with an emphasis in Youth Development. Her children were active in Parks and Recreation. Ms. Johannes lives on the Northeast side of Manhattan. Ms. Maes was a Dean of the Kansas State University Global Campus and has recently retired. Ms. Maes was the first administrator for UFM. Her children utilized the services of Parks and Recreation and her son is still umpiring in the Denver area.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Bachamp moved for Ed Klimek to serve as board chair for the upcoming term and Mr. Klimek moved for Mark Bachamp to serve as vice-chair. On vote, motion carried 6-0

CITY PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Leyva presented a history of the City Park Master Plan process and prior concepts. At the April PRAB meeting, City Staff presented City Park Master Plan Concept C. Feedback from the PRAB included consideration of parade access and better parking around Wefald Pavilion. At an April 16th community meeting, members of the community were receptive of improved parking around the pavilion, including a drop-off area as well. From those two presentations, City Staff developed Concept D for presentation and feedback from the City Commission at the April 24th City Commission Work Session. Commission feedback was supportive of the design overall, but agreed that parking could still use some more attention. Mr. Leyva presented the Final Concept, which incorporated feedback from the community, various advisory boards, and the Commission since Concept D.

Mr. Bachamp asked about reducing the parking in City Park and keeping parking for park use only. Mr. Leyva indicated that enforcement of parking was being discussed. Mr. Eastes replied that parking for the Aggieville area is a community discussion. Mr. Eastes shared that parking area is being reduced from 6.4 acres to 4.2 acres. The organization of vehicles in the park is helping to maintain a higher capacity for park use. The consideration for parking fees will continue to be discussed. Mr. Schafer mentioned that closing

the park entrance off Fremont would create more congestion on the other streets. Ms. Maes asked about changing the zoning for the Park Road and creating a yellow zone. Mr. Eastes commented that a potential future parking garage in Aggieville will also help alleviate some of the parking concerns for City Park. Mr. Bachamp indicated that the Aggieville Study is focusing on creating turnover for parking in Aggieville and City Park.

Ms. Johannes asked about the tennis court reduction at City Park and focusing tennis at CiCo Park. Mr. Leyva shared that the Facility Feasibility Study created a new complex at CiCo and those planned courts will meet the needs of the community. Mr. Thompson pointed out that the courts in City Park will be multipurpose and be striped for pickle ball as well. Mr. Bachamp asked if closing Central Park Road would create problems for the car show. Mr. Klimek expressed frustration about the park being a holding zone for cars. Mr. Klimek proposed the board send a recommendation to the City Commission that cars being parked in the park for months at a time should not be allowed and further control of parking be enforced. Mr. Klimek asked about seating for the Arts in the Parks Concert Series. Mr. Leyva shared that covered seating near the Wefald Pavilion was proposed to be added. Mr. Leyva indicated that there was some space for expansion of seating. Mr. Eastes shared that the tech shack was a permanent building in the park, but that additional seating could be added. Mr. Klimek asked about access to Johnny Kaw and Mr. Leyva pointed out the three access points. Ms. Maes asked about trail access into the park linking the neighborhoods. Mr. Leyva indicated that bicycle and pedestrian traffic counts were evaluated in relation to the connectivity. Mr. Klimek asked about the potential for adding 196 on-street parking spaces. Mr. Leyva indicated that the conversation was being held with City Engineers about the angled parking on Poyntz Avenue. Mr. Edie asked about staging area for Juneteenth.

Mr. Klimek provided a recommendation for the City Commission to accept the Final City Park Master Plan based on the board discussion. Mr. Schafer added that control of non-park use parking should be considered. The board concurred. Mr. Eastes indicated that the message would be carried forward to the City Commission.

PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

Mr. Eastes shared that all fees are being evaluated. In 2017, fees and cost recovery were evaluated and an increase of \$5 per program was implemented. The increase was to align program expenses and cost recovery. Mr. Eastes shared that at a future meeting, we would share program fees from similar communities and programs to evaluate an increase in fees for future program years. The cost of employees to facilitate programs, maintenance of fields, and lifeguards are the number one expense for recreation. The department is proposing a 10 percent increase in fees to cover the costs to run programs and activities. Ms. Maes asked about scholarships for low income families. Mr. Eastes shared that funding for scholarships have come from different sources and we are currently working on a request for Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. Mr. Eastes spoke about the scholarship program offered through the department. The board asked if the previous increase had an impact on registration. Mr. Clifford indicated that registration for youth activities remained constant or increased in some areas. Mr. Edie spoke to the 320 homeless children in the school system and providing services to those children. He also indicated that paying a decent wage will aide with employee retention. Mr. Klimek mentioned that using resident and non-resident fees be considered for future fee structures as well.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eastes updated the board on the progress of fundraising of private citizens for the Johnny Kaw project. Several businesses in the community are providing in-kind donations for the project. Mr. Eastes mentioned that the project will be presented to the City Commission for approval of the project. Mr. Eastes added that the Kiwanis project for the Bluemont Hill Overlook to provide ADA accessibility would be going before the City Commission for approval. Mr. Thompson indicated that the final phase of fundraising efforts with

a banner over Moro and the group will be painting the Manhattan letters purple as a barometer of their fundraising efforts.

Mr. Eastes wants to keep the middle school centers on the agenda. The steering committee will meet again at the beginning of September. An update will be provided to the City Commission in September as well. Updates will be provided to the board throughout the entire process.

Mr. Eastes shared that Mr. David Baker, Douglass Center Director, and Ms. Debbie Nuss, Douglass Center Advisory Board, went to the Historic Resource Board with the recommendation of Douglass Recreation Center. The HRB is in agreement with the name. The recommendation will be submitted formally to the City Commission later. Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Eastes to point out that the center is funded with Community Development Block Grant funds and is not a part of the quarter cent sales tax that will fund the middle school centers. Ms. Johannes shared that educating the public about the name of the center and sharing the center history needs to be better communicated. Mr. Schafer asked about the source of funding being a loan. Mr. Eastes indicated that CDBG funds would be used to repay the loan.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that the property on Bluemont Hill was not affordable with funding sources available to Parks and Recreation. Mr. Foltz would like to know if the board is interested in purchasing the property.

Mr. Leyva shared that an update on the Warner Park would be presented at a future meeting. The concepts have been narrowed down from nine to two.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

Mr. Leyva mentioned that Old Blue River Trail will be out to bid mid-July. This project provides connectivity from Linear Trail across Tuttle Creek Blvd. The RFP for disc golf course expansion design has been received and will be reviewed in office.

Mr. Smithson mentioned that crews have been busy. Irrigation breakdowns have been very high this year and crews have been focusing on ensuring those systems are working. The Twin Oaks playground infield is being installed. The Furniture Amnesty Day is coming up on July 27th. This event helps with beautification of the community by keeping the furniture out of alleys. Ms. Johannes asked about downtown horticulture. Mr. Smithson shared that this is a cooperative effort from Downtown Manhattan, Inc. and Horticulture crews.

Mr. Thompson shared construction updates on the Douglass Center restrooms and the Sunset Zoo parking projects. Those projects should be completed within the next 30 days. Trail project prioritization has been a priority for the funds designated through the sales tax initiative. The Trail Talks series focuses on specific neighborhood areas to discuss trail development within each zone. An online interactive map will be available on the Parks and Recreation page to allow community feedback for current and desired trail development or maintenance. Intercept surveys are also being utilized to collect data about trail use. Trail counters are also being utilized to identify usage and future focus for improvements.

Ms. Kirkwood shared that July is National Parks and Recreation Month and provided a list of different activities and programs throughout the month. We are doing a photo nature walk the second week of July. Board games at Blue Earth Plaza will occur at month end, as well as an open house at the T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter. The last Arts in the Park concert will have a watermelon feed for the community.

Mr. Clifford mentioned that recreation is in the heart of the summer season. Adult leagues will wrap up the third week of July. Waterparks are busy and the second session of swim lessons begins today. The new climbing walls at CiCo are very popular. Arts in the Park concerts are going well. Summer youth

theater program are preparing for productions in July. In partnership with Navy Federal Credit Union, a outdoor movie night was well attended at Anneberg Park. The fall activities guide programming is underway.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that a proclamation recognizing July as Parks and Recreation Month will be read at the City Commission meeting tomorrow night.

Mr. Klimek mentioned that the facility tour and vision meeting have been on hold with vacancies on the board. Mr. Eastes indicated that a Doodle poll would be sent to organize the tour. The tour and strategic planning session are important for the board and the department.

Meeting Adjourned.