

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
September 10, 2018 - 3:30 P.M.

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

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.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Johannes, seconded by Mr. Schafer, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 6, 2018. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Elaine Johannes commented that the Family Fun Day on September 7, 2018, was a wonderful display of community spirit. Mr. Clifford mentioned that the event was held in partnership with the MWR team at Ft. Riley and estimated 1,000 in attendance.

WILDCAT CREEK FLOOD UPDATE

Mr. Eastes shared the updated flood information with the advisory board. Areas of Linear Trail will require repair work that could carry over into 2019. Anneberg Park is open to the community with the exception of the playground, which will remain closed until further notice.

PARK AND PROJECT TOUR – SEPTEMBER 13, 2018

Mr. Eastes shared the agenda and tour itinerary with the board. He encouraged board members to preview the project data for each site prior to the tour.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes informed the board that the Board of Education members are required by State statute to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The department will still be updating by-laws for the advisory board to include new public input requirements enacted by the City Commission.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

Mr. Shoemaker shared that Brew at the Zoo was successful for another year. The zoo hosted Water Safari Day on August 5, 2017. Expedition Asia is fundraising and hopes to begin working on project soon. Mr. Edie asked how parking was working with students during construction of the new parking lot. Mr. Shoemaker said things are going really well and no issues have been reported.

Mr. Leyva stated that Old Blue River Trail notice to proceed was issued on September 10, 2018. City Park Master Plan is being presented to the City Commission at the November 13, 2018 work session. Warner Park Master Plan is on the third concept which is being shown at a September 19, 2018, on-site public meeting. On September 20, 2018, both master plans will be presented at the downtown Third Thursday event on September 20th. Mr. Leyva indicated that the Warner Park Master Plan would be presented at the October 2, 2018 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

Mr. Thompson announced that the Public Works Department had submitted the application to KDOT for the Casement project. The trail along Wildcat Creek is being evaluated due to the flooding. The Bluemont Scenic Overlook Project is going to the City Commission on September 18, 2018 meeting for final approval. Mr. Thompson will be in attendance at the Third Thursday event as well to share trail prioritization. Mr. Klimek asked about department involvement in flooding discussions with the Wildcat Creek area. Mr. Thompson responded that the City is limited to public property claims with FEMA. Any disaster declaration would need to come directly from FEMA for private property owners.

Ms. Kirkwood announced that she has been providing daily 3pm updates to the community about the flood and open/closed parks and trails. Ms. Kirkwood will be at Third Thursday and Family Fun Day. Pet Poolooza was well attended with 500 dogs and owners. The Kansas State University Veterinary Service Mobile Unit was on-site in partnership with the T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter for the event. Mr. Shafer asked if we require licenses for animals in attendance. Ms. Kirkwood replied that we do for Manhattan residents.

Ms. Adams shared that the FHDC has had a busy summer. The Retro Gaming Night was well attended. FHDC has partnered with Kansas State to provide Science en ViVo at football games. The Be the Dinosaur exhibit drew over 26,000 attendees. A new bison exhibit will be opening soon. The community day is being sponsored by Westar Energy. The FHDC is partnering Douglass Community Center to provide an equinox yoga event on the third floor terrace.

Mr. Clifford shared that a few adult programs were affected by the flood. The youth sport registration numbers are strong for this year. CiCo Waterpark has closed for the extended season. The weather affected attendance in the extended season and kept numbers low. Just-Tri-It had over 200 youth and 100 adult participants. Fall programs will be kicking off this week. The Little Apple Glow Paddle event will be held in October. Mr. Klimek asked about the number of teams. Mr. Clifford shared that we have a higher than normal number of teams in multiple sports.

Mr. Smithson announced that an Eagle Scout project was completed at CiCo park. The project was to repurpose the signs for the ballpark complex at CiCo. A dedication ceremony will be held at 6pm on September 17, 2018 at the ball fields. Johnny Kaw painting should start next week. Mr. Klimek mentioned that the figure would receive a K-State hat as well after the painting.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that Board of Education legal staff and City legal staff have come to a determination that BOE members must serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board by-laws. The by-laws must have two readings before being presented to the City Commission. Those by-laws will be amended to input the public input requirements set forth from the City Commission. Mr. Edie commented that two BOE members are required by state statute to serve on the PRAB.

Mr. Thompsom shared the property map of the proposed land donation in the scenic meadows subdivision. The developer is hoping to close down the company and wishes to donate the land to close out the development. This property would be utilized as a pocket park location. The community will be invited to a public meeting to hear about the plan for the property.

Mr. Eastes indicated that the steering committee is meeting today at 5pm at Eisenhower Middle School. The department along with McCown Gordan will be providing a sales tax update to the City Commission on September 25, 2018. Mr. Eastes indicated that some of the funds are designated for trail development and improvements. Ms. Johannes asked if sales tax money would be used to repair trails damaged in the flood. Mr. Eastes indicated that the funds collected to date are not substantial and that FEMA will reimburse up to 75 percent of the cost of repairs.

The Douglass Recreation Center conversation is still in process with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The funding with HUD is under discussion because of the State of Kansas cash basis accounting laws.

Mr. Eastes has Bluemont Hill and Johnny Kaw as future discussion items just to track the status of the projects. The City Commission has agreed that the normal construction process will not apply to these two projects since they will be paid with private funds. Mr. Klimek shared that the legal department is working through agreements about the labor and materials that are being donated in kind for the project.

Mr. Eastes shared that department fees will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis to keep up with the increase in program expenses. We will compare our fees with other communities and deliver that information to the board at that time.

Mr. Eastes announced that the next sales tax project update will be given to the City Commission on September 25, 2018.

Meeting Adjourned.