

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
PEACE MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM
October 1, 2018 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Mr. Curt Herrman and Ms. Sue Maes.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; Mr. Zachary Bayless, Recreation Supervisor; 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 September 10, 2018. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WARNER PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Eastes thanked the individuals in attendance for participating in the public process for the Warner Park Master Plan. Mr. Leyva stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and City Commission have directed City Staff to develop a Master Plan for Warner Park. The Parks and Recreation Strategic Facility Improvement Plan also supports this directive. City Commission goals identify the development and implementation of a Warner Park Master Plan as a priority in 2018.

Mr. Leyva shared a brief park history and information on the master planning process to date including previous public meeting information and the Aromatic Sumac and Blue Sage concepts. There were concerns about opening the main road and building permanent structures on the western half of the park. The neighbor concerns consisted of visual aesthetics from their property and attracting unwanted use of park amenities. Some residents recall when the park was more accessible in the 1980s. They mentioned parties, vandalism, and other illegal activity that would occur in the park. Local residents were concerned that developing the park would bring back that sort of activity. Concerned citizens also mentioned that the maintenance of trails at Warner Park were lacking and could use some improvement. Comments went as far as stating that the park should be left alone without any new amenities. There were some amenities that received positive feedback. These amenities included a trail loop, rockery gardens to control erosion, and the dog park and nature play space tucked within the trees, away from obstructing any private property views in to the park. At this time, there were not many comments in opposition to the expansion of the disc golf course. City Staff mentioned on multiple occasions, that the expansion layouts within the two concepts were student designed and would change once a professional disc golf course designer was contracted to consult with City Staff.

During August and September, 2018, City Staff combined the two initial concepts and created a single concept, "Coralberry," based on community input and advisory board suggestions. On September 19, 2018, City Staff held a meeting at Warner Park to discuss the Coralberry concept. About 70 citizens attended and the biggest topic was the expansion of the disc golf course. Many disc golf supporters showed up but the majority were neighbors of Warner Park. A handful of neighbors were in favor of the expansion. However, the majority were in opposition to expanding the disc golf course to 18-holes as it is currently laid out in

the Coralberry concept. John Houck was present at the meeting, and interacted with multiple citizens concerned with the expansion. One of the concerns was how close the fairways appear to show up on the plan near the northern property line. John mentioned that a 30-40 foot buffer would exist between the course and the property line of Warner Park. These areas would be buffered by vegetation left untouched in the process of sculpting fairways.

The “Coralberry” concept strives to maintain the natural aesthetic of Warner Park through passive recreation activities. Key components consist of improving trail connections, expanding disc golf, and revising the land management. Citizens expressed interest in an area where their dogs could safely run off leash. The dog park would contain play equipment, dog waste receptacles, and separate areas for large and small dogs. Natural erosion continues in the ravines of the park due to natural occurrences from the park itself and runoff from the surrounding neighborhoods. Rockery gardens provide a functional and aesthetically pleasing erosion control solution. Trail connections are another aspect of the master plan. The master plan process has identified two locations where the park can connect to Seth Childs Commons. Residents on the West side of the park have expressed interest in creating a pedestrian connection to the shopping center. The path of least resistance would occur on the North side of the park near the parking lot on Shuss Road. There is an existing sidewalk about 200 feet from the park property. The nature play space was another amenity to receive positive feedback. The play space would remain close to the entrance, but be tucked into a wooded area. This play space would allow children to experience nature in a natural environment. The equipment would be for both preschool and elementary aged children. A key aspect of the master plan explores the possibility of connecting the two portions of the park through a pedestrian bridge. The bridge would help complete the trail loop around Warner Park. An amenity that has been sought after at Warner Park since 2012 is expansion of the disc golf course from 9 to 18 holes. The disc golf club has engaged previous Parks and Recreation Advisory Boards and previous Commissions. The redesigned 18 hole disc golf course would propose rerouting the existing course. The disc golf community is interested in a third 18 hole disc golf course that would allow Manhattan to host disc golf tournaments.

In an effort to create momentum for the Master Plan, City Staff advertised a Request for Proposals for professional disc golf design on June 1, 2018. The City received three (3) submittals on or before June 22. On July 9, 2018, a selection committee met to review the submissions. Following review of the submissions, the selection committee determined that HouckDesign of Austin, Texas, was the most qualified to perform the work requested.

In negotiations with City Staff, HouckDesign agreed to redefine their initial scope and fee in phases. In addition, they discounted their typical fees by 75%. Phase 1 was defined as Preliminary Design/Routing of fairways. Of note, the designer was on site for 12 days for course layout, meeting(s) with stakeholders/community members, and interacting with City Staff throughout the design process. This first phase cost \$5,000. With Preliminary Design/Routing complete, City Staff intends to initiate the second phase with HouckDesign if the public process dictates moving forward with the project and once sufficient funding is in place to complete the installation. Initial estimates show that this could cost between \$25,000 and \$35,000 to complete the course. This could possibly occur in 2019 with funding from Special Parks and Recreation Fund, donations from the Little Apple Disc Golf Club, and in-kind donations from local entities.

Phase 2 consists of internal development of disc golf fairways. The designer would be on site for approximately 15-22 days to mark fairways for clearing in phases on multiple trips. City Forestry crews would be tasked with trimming or removing vegetation marked by the designer for final fairway development. The removal of vegetation would consist mostly of invasive species such as Honeysuckle and Eastern Red Cedar, with efforts to protect the deciduous trees. The consultant’s fee for the second phase would cost \$5,000 as well. Once the disc golf course is complete, HouckDesign has proposed to host and market a grand opening tournament to promote the new course.

Between August 9 and 15, 2018, City Staff notified the community about a neighborhood meeting for expansion of the disc golf course at Warner Park. On August 20, 12 people attended the meeting with an even mix of local residents and disc golf supporters. HouckDesign gave a presentation on what disc golf is, how it can benefit the greater community, and how John Houck designs courses in an effort to work with the natural elements found on site. Neighbors of Warner Park voiced concerns about expanding the disc golf course to 18-holes. Concerned residents felt that the expansion would ruin the natural aesthetic of Warner Park.

On August 27, 2018, Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner, and Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent, met with the Manhattan High School (MHS) Athletic Director and Cross-country Coach to discuss the potential expansion of the disc golf course and how it would affect the 60 year-old cross-country route. Initially, HouckDesign inquired about making minor changes to the course in order to create enough of a safety buffer between both activities. After City Staff talked with MHS, it was clear that the cross-country route be maintained in its current position and the potential disc golf course expansion should respect the route and not cross it with fairways. At that time, MHS was fine with the expansion of the disc golf course as long as it would not interfere with the cross-country route. City Staff conveyed that information to HouckDesign and they agreed to design around the existing cross-country route. City Staff set another key parameter for the designer and that was to create a disc golf course layout without using a bridge to cross the ravine. The parameter was set so that the disc golf course would not depend on the bridge, a big ticket item, to be constructed. The elevation of the property is low and that is why the course had to be close to the northern property line. The ravine was deemed unsuitable for tees and baskets by the designer and he avoided those areas in the proposed layout.

As part of the effort to engage the community in the master plan process, City Staff organized an on-site walk with HouckDesign. On August 27, 2018, 16 people attended the event, with most of those present being disc golf supporters, however; a handful of neighbors were present as well. The neighbors voiced similar concerns from the previous meeting about the aesthetic footprint the expanded disc golf course would have on Warner Park. HouckDesign mentioned that a majority of the tee pads and baskets would be in wooded areas, out of visual range. John Houck mentioned that an effort would be made to keep deciduous trees while the clearing of fairways, which would consist of removing invasive species such as Honeysuckle and Eastern Red Cedar.

The MHS cross country team provided a map of the cross country course and event map at Warner Park. The measured footprint of those events is approximately 33.9 acres. The existing 9 hole disc golf course is located on the eastern portion of the park. Tees and baskets vary between wooded locations and open prairie. The current course has a footprint of 9.9 acres. The proposed disc golf course would more than double that footprint. With both activities shown on the map, you can see how both activities compare to one another. Warner Park is 88 acres total. Cross country makes up about 38 percent of the park and while the proposed disc golf course would occupy 30 percent. With some compromise City Staff can facilitate the needs of both neighbors of Warner Park and stakeholders around the community.

Mr. Klimek asked to view the proposed bridge. Mr. Leyva explained there were a couple locations, but there was nothing definitive in the placement. Mr. Edie asked about the 1,000 foot and 800 foot disc golf pad and crossing the cross country course. Mr. Leyva shared that he and Mr. Smithson has visited with Mike Marsh, MHS Athletic Director, and Susan Melgares, asking if they could make any alterations to the disc golf course, but after the discussion, we did not see crossing the course as a necessity and asked the designer to work around the cross-country area. A 3 foot border should be enough of a clearing to keep the two courses from intersecting. The designer is looking to give a 30 to 50 foot buffer between the disc golf course and the cross country route. Mr. Edie inquired how parking was going to be addressed for disc golf. Mr. Leyva indicated that parking was limited, but proposed to be increased. The disc golf club users currently park in Seth Childs Common parking and cross Shuss Road to access the course. Ms. Johannes

asked about the environmental impact of disc golf on the park to include soil erosion, lack of plant density, water runoff and engaging disc golf players in managing their behavior, citing studies conducted in Tennessee in 2011, North Carolina in 2013, and West Virginia in 2015. Mr. Leyva responded that the consultant was asked to consider the environmental impact of the disc golf course. Mr. Leyva also asked the City Forestry Supervisor, J. David Mattox, to review the impact of Oak wilt Mr. Mattox spoke with a plant pathologist, Judy O'Mara, at Kansas State University about concerns. Ms. O'Mara found that the article indirectly apply, she does not think Oak wilt will occur for us because it is not in our area. Trunk injury can lead to entry points and diseases. Thin barked trees would be at higher risk. Injury and stress are already a common occurrence because of the weather in Kansas. Ms. Johannes mentioned that in the West Virginia study, they asked what the disc golf players would be willing to pay to maintain the course. Ms. Johannes asked if fees had been discussed for usage and maintenance of the disc golf course. Mr. Leyva shared that the initial 9 hole course had been fundraised privately by the disc golf club and the club is willing to engage and implement with this course design and funding. Mr. Leyva shared that the Bicycle Advisory Committee was unsure how an expanded course would create erosion and environmental issues beyond the current course and Manhattan High School Cross Country usage.

Mr. Schafer attended the meeting in the Warner Park Neighborhood. He asked about management of the current course and expanded use. Are these concerns addressed in the other two disc golf courses? Mr. Leyva indicated that the disc golf club would better answer the question. The course at Tuttle Creek is inside a State Park and the course at Fairmont Park is a Riley County Park.

Mr. Bachamp asked how many tournaments would occur in a community that had three courses and how many players and supporters would attend each tournament? Mr. Leyva shared that tournaments in Emporia bring in 900 to 1,000 players would visit the area for an extended weekend.

Mr. Maes asked about the Roger Schultz Community Park being considered for disc golf. The master plan for Roger Schultz Community Park did not consider disc golf as it was already in Warner Park and the neighbors did not request disc golf. The land management plan for Roger Schultz Community Park is also focusing on maintaining invasive species of Red Cedar trees.

Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Leyva to cover the additional amenities for Warner Park Master Plan to allow public comment on those items before opening up comments regarding disc golf. Mr. Leyva shared that there is a dog park, rockery gardens, trail connections, bridge, and natural playground.

Mr. Klimek asked about maintenance of current trails at Warner Park and whether we would be maintaining new trail connections if constructed at Warner Park. Mr. Leyva indicated that was part of the current proposed master plan to create landscape and management plans for the defined natural trail area using bark mulch or limestone screenings. The trail is not be envisioned to be concrete, but rather something more like the natural screenings on Linear Trail.

Mr. Klimek asked for public comment not related to disc golf. Ms. Debbie DeVenuto, lives in Knoxberry Addition. Her great-grandfather was Kern Warner. Her family donated the land donated as a community park. She mentioned that the park is named Warner Memorial Park in memory of her great-grandmother. Ms. DeVenuto stated that the original agreement made between the city and the Warner's to be a natural park. The land was designated as a family park to go on picnics, go walking, fly kites, to enjoy the natural surroundings that are the Flint Hills. Ms. DeVenuto mentioned the Military Trail and the Indian Burial Grounds on Warner Park property. At one point, Riley County Historical Society was going to put a monument in the park for the Indian Burial Grounds and memorializing the Native Americans. The park was not made for organized sports and that is where the nature aspect comes in. 38 percent is dedicated to the cross country course and an additional 30 percent is being used for the expansion of disc golf. 68 percent of the park would then be used for organized sports. The original intent of the park was not for

organized sports. Before moving forward, look at why the park is here and why the land was donated. The Warner family donated 50 acres and the community raised \$6,000 for the final 30 acres. The park is becoming a recreation facility. It was donated to create a natural area. Her great-grandfather was in favor of trails and hiking. The dog park are not what you want in a natural area. What is the impact going to be for the parkland? Although she feels pet owners are responsible, dogs will need to use the facilities sooner than reaching the designated dog park area. How will the dog park affect the surrounding properties from the water runoff? What are the hours of the dog park? People use dog parks at all hours. Part of a natural park is the wildlife; bunnies, butterflies, ladybugs, grasshoppers. The dogs will scare the wildlife away. Ms. DeVenuto would like the City to consider her 1966 Master Plan regarding different parks in the City. Kern Warner was still alive and approved of the plan. The plan called for installing water mains to install and construct three restroom facilities and additional picnic facilities; surface parking lots with two inch concrete overlay to create access to the best views of the City for everyone and create access to the picnic area. Cross-country only happens three or four times per year and does not have the impact on the park that disc golf and the dog park will have. She thinks the rock garden is a great idea and will help with erosion control. The nature playground is a stretch that encourages kids to come in and tear up the area and we will lose the natural grass. She believes that encouraging planting of natural flowers and grasses could be educational to groups. Fraternities and sororities come out to complete volunteer projects to help clean up and maintain the park. She would like to see the park returned to a true community park and less of a recreational park in keeping with the original intent of the park. She spoke about the potential to create signage to identify the natural surroundings in the park. Ms. DeVenuto is personally against the disc golf and feels the course that is currently in place should be removed. She feels it is destroying the nature of the park.

Mr. Rufus Bandy likes the idea of the bridge connecting the old military trail with the mezzanine shelters. The bridge would be a good addition to provide access through the park.

Ms. Rosemary Ramundo is connected to Warner Memorial Park from her son's participation in cross-country. She feels we need to protect the park as open and green space is precious. The lack of structures and concrete should be maintained. The park is left in its natural state for nine months out of the year and maintained for two months. She is concerned about foot traffic in an area with steep slopes and erosion of the area. She does not want concrete in the park as it is hard on bodies. She feels the City needs to honor the agreements with the donors of the property. She asked where the proposed dog park and natural playground are in relation to park entrances.

Mr. Klimek asked where the dog park is proposed at Warner Park. Mr. Leyva shared that the dog park was placed in a way to exercise the dog prior to reaching the park. Mr. Klimek felt dogs would be tired after the hike.

Ms. Dede Brokesh indicated that she had questions about location for the dog park and the playground, but those had been answered. She did ask about the slope of the dog park and fencing. She also asked if the playground would be ADA accessible. The dog park area was not sloped. The playground area would have a slight slope, but it would be manageable. The roadway would need to be adjusted for ADA accessibility.

Mr. Tracy Anderson commented that he walks the park nightly with dogs and it is not too far to walk dogs. The natural playground draws young children and they need to use the bathroom when they need to go. If there is not a restroom for immediate use, the park would not get used very much because of a lack of restrooms. If the trails are improved with bark or limestone screenings, he would want special consideration for the cross-country track because of the spiked shoes those athletes used. He also mentioned that it is cross-country, not cross-city. Concrete and packed limestone trails do not mix well with their shoes either. Appreciates Ms. DeVenuto comments on the usage of the park.

Mr. Nathan Nelson spoke about the Eagle Scout projects he has been able to complete in Warner Memorial Park to include building boardwalks and the current concrete pads for the disc golf course. He would like to see additional trails in the park. He agrees with Mr. Anderson's comments about the cross-country course and would not want the disc golf course to interfere with the cross-country usage. This park is unique in that it is a natural space that allows exploration of nature.

Mr. Charles Reagan thanked Mr. Leyva for his presentations. The history shown starts in 2002. Mr. Reagan wanted to share his history of the park since 1989. The park was open 24 hours a day. The park had shelters, tables, grills, and a restroom at the entrance. The park became a party park and had vandalism issues. The park board closed the park to vehicular traffic to keep the problems out of the park. In the mid-90's, a park board director had plans to put four softball fields in the middle of the prairie with lighting, parking, restrooms, etc. The argument used to construct the fields was that they could host softball tournaments that could fill the hotels. In 2018, we are talking about turning over 60 percent of the park to disc golf. It leaves the community with 40 percent of the park. Walking is limited when the disc golf course is in use. He feels giving away 60 percent of the park would be damaging to property values.

Mr. Richard Theisen has been a resident of Cherry Hill for 25 years, formerly lived on Carlisle which backs up to the park. His concern is the money to maintain the park. He wants the park to be maintained as a natural park. He wants to ensure there is funding available for the maintenance of the park.

Mr. Tom Holcomb would like the park left alone. He suggested the police department be contacted if we consider installing public restrooms. He would rather see money designated to restore damages from the three floods in the last 15 years rather than updating Warner Park. The roadways along the park should be fixed before spending money on a disc golf course. He appreciates Ms. DeVenuto's comments and wholeheartedly agrees we need to leave it a natural park.

Mr. Lou Cocke asked about the survey given to users of Warner Park and asked the City to pay attention to the responses as disc golf ranked fourth to last. The theme of the discussion is whether the park should remain natural or should it not. The disc golf users believe they are not changing the face of the park with their course needs. The south end of the park used to be natural prairie as well and mowed once a year. It is no longer a prairie and is mowed all the time. If there is a demand for disc golf for a third disc golf course, we need to install that in a different park in our community.

Ms. Catherine Poole thanked Ms. DeVenuto for her comments. She spoke of the damage to the park by the existing disc golf course. The golfers jump fences and pools to retrieve discs and cause damage to the surrounding properties. She is an advocate for removal of the existing course because of littering. She also spoke to the natural aspect of the park and is an advocate of the removal of invasive species. She thinks the dog park is a terrible idea. The park is muddy and the dogs are confined. There are 37 species of native birds in the park. If the public were aware of the wildlife that is contained in the park, they would use it more frequently for walking their dogs and enjoying the wildlife.

Mr. Bill Varney mentioned to the board at the previous meeting. He and his wife have both served on the park board. He has seen a lot of development since building his home 51 years ago. The mission of the board is to determine priorities for the park. After prioritization has occurred, you need to focus on safety. The flying discs are not safe for the pedestrians in the park. He has copies of the deeds from 1957 to share the intention of the park. The flat part was sold to the City and the remainder was a gift to the City from the Warner family.

Ms. Shiloh Vick lives right next to the park. One thing that is different since she moved in to her house in 2004 is the amount of wildlife that is in her backyard. The wildlife is being forced out of their natural

habitat by the development in Manhattan. Where will the animals go if a dog park is installed? The dog park will require fencing and removal of trees and homes of the animals. It will disturb natural prairie. Disc golf is not supposed to be invasive on the parkland. If you have 1,000 tournament attendees, how is that not invasive to Warner Park? The park is enjoyed by the people and animals. Changing the park will disturb the natural prairie.

Ms. DeVenuto mentioned concerns with installing a dog park and the playground area in the middle of the park. The roads are not maintained and this creates a safety issue for the users of both these areas. The fire lane needs to be addressed in the master plan for safety as well. Warner Park was originally intended to have roads in the park. The park is now entirely surrounded by houses and the police department is right across from the park. She feels there are ways to maintain safety and open the park as originally intended. We need to focus on what we can do to open the park and forget about past discretions that occurred in the park. The disc golf course destroys the natural topography and natural habitats. Players will be trekking through property 10-20 feet to find discs that have gone off course similar to the hill by the country club that is covered with golf balls. The current course needs to be removed and the natural area needs to be restored.

Dr. James Alexander spoke in favor of the Coralberry Concept, especially in expansion of the disc golf course expansion. Disc golf fuels tourism in Kansas and money is spent in the local economy from disc golf tournaments. The sport of disc golf is booming in Kansas with a 50 percent growth in recent years. He shared a story about the Emporia courses and seeing tourists from Sweden in Emporia. The economic impact of the 2017 Emporia Glass Blown Open tournament was over two million dollars. Disc golf is a revenue generation source for communities. Creating a professional disc golf course brings in more players and draws more tournaments for communities by creating a disc golf destination. Disc golf creates less unsavory activity than unused parkland. Disc golf courses brings users to areas that are primarily unused by providing traffic in areas that may otherwise be subject to graffiti, under-age drinking, drug-use. Unlawful activities are less likely to occur when people are around that may witness or report suspicious activity. Mr. Alexander spoke of the Tennessee study found that with collaborative efforts to protect the park sustainability is a realistic endeavor (pg53). Behavioral interventions should be a component of finding a relatively inexpensive solution to finding solutions for erosion, tree damage, and other environmental impacts (pg 1). A clear understanding of best practices among park agencies relative to disc golf courses will provide invaluable information to park managers to provide resource management practices (pg 56 & 57). There is value-added to bringing in a professional course designer because they take tree and soil erosion into consideration. Disc golf is a natural activity that encourages people to get out into nature and care about the park. The Little Apple Disc Golf Club are stakeholders in reducing the environmental impact on the park and will continue to fight to get a professional designed course in Manhattan.

Ms. Dede Brokesh asked Mr. Leyva to explain where the existing trails and fairways are located and where the proposed fairways are located on the plan. What is a typical percentage of slope on the fairways as this will affect erosion? Mr. Leyva showed the map and outlined the existing and proposed disc golf areas. The slope on fairways will vary and it has not been evaluated. The surface between holes will be native grassland, we do not intend to install turf or artificial surfaces. Ms. Brokesh asked about ADA accessibility to the entrance and exit of the course. Mr. Leyva indicated that the course had not been evaluated for those areas yes. Ms. Brokesh asked how fees would be assessed with the course. Mr. Leyva indicated that course did not have proposed fees assigned to it at this point.

Mr. Charles Reagan stated that disc golf is a commercial enterprise that helps hotel owners and restaurant owners. The City should purchase a piece of land and design a disc golf course from the start. Many cities have public golf courses, but Manhattan does not. It has three private golf courses. Mr. Reagan mentioned the City hiring of a professional disc golf course designed, but having not hired a professional park

designed. The Warner Park Master Plan was turned over to students. Students do not have the experience to design natural park lands. Filling hotel rooms a few times a year should not give 60 percent of a natural park to a disc golf course.

Mr. Adam Johnson, representing Little Apple Disc Golf Club, shared that the club is excited about the Coralberry concept. The park is supposed to remain an undeveloped land space. Since 1978, the City has recommended there be open parks for more recreation activities. Disc golf fits into the natural aspects of this park without drastically changing the personality of this park. The topic of disc golf driving wildlife away. Having small fairways driving through the canopy will actually benefit wildlife more than hinder it. There are some invasive species such as Honeysuckle and Eastern Cedar. If they are unchecked, they will render portions of the park unusable by humans and wildlife. Invasive species have red berries that attract the birds and spread the Honeysuckle. The root system of the Honeysuckle choke out surrounding growth. The Eastern Cedar prohibit new growth while suffocating the mature trees. Fairways would create easier paths for wildlife and better access for eventual control of these evasive species. Disc golf coexists with wildlife in many courses around the State. Disc golfers are not out and about during all hours of the day. Shawnee Mission Park has a disc golf course that they have to hire hunters to control the deer population. Deer, turkey, squirrels, coyotes, and disc golfers can share the same space and coexist in parks. The disc golfers are no more invasive that the houses surrounding the park, runners, walkers, or dogs that are allowed to freely run currently. The trees in Warner Park are Oak, Hackberry, and Eastern Red Cedar. These trees are mature and have thick bark. They have been there for decades and have survived the Kansas weather. The Red Cedar and Honeysuckle overpopulation are limiting the amount of new tree growth in those areas. Oak Wilt is a disease of trees that can kill them within a couple of weeks. White Oak trees are much hardier than most trees and are not susceptible to death in these areas. Disc golf fairways will open opportunities for the City to see trees and maintain the growth in the park. The dead trees also contain disease and are killing the Oak trees. The disc golf course would allow removal of areas of invasive species and strategic planting of native vegetation. Disc golf is in wildlife preserves and national forests all over the country. The club believes disc golf is the best fit for recreational activity in Warner Park. The Strategic Facility Improvement Plan reported that 18 percent of households have disc golf needs. Disc golf in the community has grown that large with only nine fairways inside the city limits. Disc golfers have to travel outside of the city into the county or state parks to find an 18 hole course. Disc golf brings people into the Warner Park natural park area and walking the trails with his kids. Without recreational activities, he would not have discovered the park. The Coralberry concept is a great design and the club supports the design.

Ms. Crystal Koenke would urge the city to listen to the Warner Park families. The park was intentionally designed for runners and disc golf would not allow runners to use the park. She encourages the board to find another location for the 18 hole course. The nine existing holes will be taken out with the current design, why not just remove them from Warner Park and move them somewhere else. If the City is focused on revenue, we need to focus on soccer, baseball, and softball games in Manhattan. Her family has been traveling nearly every weekend since July with her children's sporting activities. Wyandotte County has amazing turf fields and we need that in Manhattan.

Ms. Marcia Rozell, tourism sales manager for the Manhattan Chamber, previous board member, stated the Chamber is not backing this initiative. They do support any tournaments that come to town including, softball, soccer, disc golf, and cross-country. The tournaments do generate sales tax dollars and transient guest tax. Tournaments are not an every weekend event. Realistically, Manhattan would generate three tournaments per year, with about 90 players per course. A two day tournament would generate additional revenue. Most tournament players do pay a fee with the disc golf players. She walked the course with the designer. He indicated the course was designed in a way to control erosion with multiple walk ways for the course.

Mr. Rufus Bandy shared his experience walking the old Military Trail which borders the disc golf course and picking up trash. When the course expands, trash will be all over the park. He is not against disc golf, he plays disc golf. He just wants the course developed and installed somewhere else.

Ms. Rosemary Ramundo addressed tournaments having 900-1,000 participants on three different courses. This puts 300 vehicles in or around Warner Park and does not allow room for parking. The Seth Child Commons area does not have space for overflow parking for tournaments. If all 900-1,000 participants are in one location, this compounds the problem. Northeast Community Park has disc golf baskets in the park. There is quite a bit of open area that is not developed in that area. It is in the flood plain and flood lands are good park land.

Mr. Rick Petrie ran cross-country growing up and one year in college. The cross-country courses they raced on were on golf courses, across bridges, and through parks. Golf courses get closed for cross-country meets, closing a disc golf course would not be any different. A couple weeks ago, there was a wedding reception on one of the fairways at Tuttle Creek State Park. The golfers skipped the hole and went around the reception. Disc golf is a shared use sport. In Fairmont Park, he was involved with getting the course remodeled in 2013. There were pockets of the park where bad things were happening and he was thrilled to get people in the park with positive uses.

Mr. Ethan Chance just moved to Manhattan and has been playing disc golf in Hays. He mentioned that there is a PDGA code. Code #1 play smart: never throw into a blind area. In Hays, there is a cross-country course alongside the disc golf course and it keeps trash and invasive species off the course. Code #2 respect the course: no littering, graffiti, or abuse of the equipment. Respect of the course and nature are a large part of the sport. Code #3 represent the sport: Little Apple Disc Golf Club is not the only group of disc golfers in Manhattan.

Mr. Dennis Vahsholtz is the owner of Disc Unlimited. He thanked Ms. DeVenuto for the generous donation of the parkland. He feels there is no better way to enjoy the natural beauty of the course. The family level interaction that is allowed with disc golf is better for the health of participants. An 18 hole course cannot hold more than 5 participants per hole and a maximum of 90 players on a course at one time for tournament play.

Mr. Theisen asked if board members and staff members have addressed the economic value in expanding disc golf. The Colbert Hills Golf Course spent three years researching feasibility prior to developing and investing in the course. The city needs to maintain what it currently has instead of investing in expansion of the course. He has not heard any comments from staff about maintenance. The park needs maintenance before we expand the disc golf course.

Ms. Catherine Poole had a photo of trash near the tee pads. She did not blame the disc golf club, but mentioned that it came from golfers. The initial construction of the nine hole disc golf course should have been denied based on the original intention of the land donation in Warner Park. The blame is on poor park planning by the City. She is not against disc golf being in Manhattan, she is against it being in Warner Park.

Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Eastes to provide direction to the board after public comment. Mr. Eastes stated that moving forward the intent is to share the information at a work session with the City Commission to represent the comments from this evening. There will be additional opportunity for the community to provide comments to the City Commission that night as well. The intent tonight is to present the master plan and to hear public comment. The board needs to hear public comment to make a recommendation to the City Commission that the staff would carry forward to the City Commission. The staff needs to proceed with the master plan process as directed by the City Commission. We are here to host public comment in

regards to Warner Park. The process began initially in response to citizens requests for the City to consider increasing the disc golf course in the current park. The staff is simply carrying out the task assigned. The board, who acts as an arm of the City Commission, is here to listen to public comment and be adequately informed to make a recommendation to the City Commission in regards to Warner Park. The Warner Park Master Plan will be at the November 27 Work Session.

Mr. Klimek asked for clarification on providing a recommendation and then opened up board comments. Mr. Edie asked if there were any legal restrictions on the deed for the land transfer. Mr. Thompson indicated that the City Attorney in 1996, Bill Frost, gave an opinion that there were no restrictions on the deed and current City Attorney, Katie Jackson has given the same opinion that there are no restrictions on the deed that would limit use as it was dedicated as a public park.

Mr. Bachamp is an advocate for athletics and favors expansion that attracts people to the community. He experienced expansion in his backyard when moving to the area. He feels the park is public and neighbors do not have a choice in development of parkland. He cleared 12 acres of cedar trees and has six foot native grass growing on his property. He is torn with the destruction of native grass as well. He prefers the park to be native and natural, but disc golf could play in the park.

Ms. Johannes appreciates what disc golf can do for the health of families. The data from public forums and surveys needs to be a focus. Trail expansion was number three. Priority of disc golf was not the priority of the respondents to the survey. Warner Park is not the appropriate place to have disc golf. Manhattan does demand and needs to have an adequate functional tournament area. Manhattan needs to come up with other ways to draw people to the community. Kansas can benefit from disc golf, but not Warner Park. It is not big enough. Supports improved trails in Warner Park, but does not support a disc golf tournament area. Supports Warner Memorial Park to be maintained as it was intended to be.

Mr. Schafer shared that disc golf advocates have visited the advisory board several times. The preference in different sports and activities change over time. He spoke of golf courses doing and co-existing with other uses. The gift from the family only benefits the community if it used. He does not want to see it overused. He would like to enhance what we already have. He is not in favor of spending a lot of money to do it. He would like to see the park used better than we already do.

Mr. Edie mentioned there is not enough parking or space for disc golf improvements at Warner Park. We need to move to a better location and better design just for disc golf. He suggests consideration of putting the dog park in the current disc golf course. He also felt disc golf could be moved to Roger Schultz Community Park or some of other site. The space at Warner Park is limited.

Mr. Klimek asked if disc golf is really a fit for Warner Park. He does not want to discourage disc golfers. Mr. Klimek shared that he lived next to Kern Warner when he was a young man. He shared memories of conversations with Mr. Warner about the potential of Warner Park. Mr. Klimek mentioned closing the park and knows that is against what Mr. Warner envisioned. Mr. Warner wanted lots of people to experience Warner Park. We have limited accessibility and blocked the park from use. Now people have to walk quite a ways to enjoy the picnic shelters. Too many people live around the park now for people to have keg parties and other incidents. Mr. Klimek feels we should take advantage of the park and allow people into the park. We have done a disservice to Kern Warner and his vision for the park. There is a better way for the park to be used by the entire community and we are not reaching the full benefit of the park. The disc golf course process has gone too far without hearing the comments of the community and it is a disservice to the disc golfers and neighbors.

Mr. Edie motions to not recommend the Warner Park Master Plan to the City Commission. Mr. Klimek asked for clarification. There was no second.

Ms. Johannes motioned not recommending the master plan in its entirety. Recommend improvements to trails as revealed by survey results and meet accessibility requirements in trails and entrances. No second. Mr. Schafer asked what accessibility means? Is it parking, is it opening roads? Mr. Thompson commented that accessibility could be open roads into the park and legal accessibility is ADA requirements. She would like to see expanded parking and an accessible entrance and exit. She is in favor of land management and trail improvements. The master plan as presented does not show opening existing roadways to vehicles, but allows maintenance access on the roadways. The key is still available in the Parks and Recreation Office to open the gate and drive into the park. Mr. Bachamp mentioned the proposed master plan shows restrooms, parking, enhanced shelter, military trail markers, rockery gardens, bridge, dog park, nature playground, and enhanced trails. He hears no disc golf, no dog park, and no nature playground. He thinks there is agreement on enhancing trails, clearing invasive species and cleaning up the park. Ms. Johannes overheard the technology for bathrooms with automatic locking features. Ms. Johannes motion dies for lack of a second.

Mr. Klimek asked if the existing nine hole disc golf course will stay. The board agreed that the existing course would remain. Mr. Schafer mentioned that additional parking and restrooms would help for cross-country meets. The restrooms would be beneficial for almost anyone. If larger events are not going to occur regularly, he does not feel there is a need for regular parking. Mr. Eastes mentioned that parking improvements displayed would benefit the current disc golf course. Mr. Bachamp liked the bridge and rockery gardens.

It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Ms. Johannes, to recommend the Warner Park Master Plan with removal of the disc golf, dog park, and nature playground. Mr. Thompson asked for clarification on the removal of disc golf. Mr. Bachamp clarified that removal of the proposed 18 hole redesign golf course and leave the existing 9 hole course. On 5-0 vote, motion carried.

SCENIC MEADOWS LAND DONATION

Mr. Eastes shared that Jim Hollinger, representing Cedar Hills Development Corp. has approached the City about a donation of approximately 40 acres of land immediately south of the Roger Schultz Community Park and to the west of the VMI Tract of land the Kansas Department of Transportation recently donated to the City of Manhattan for parkland. The space provides an opportunity for trail connections from the Roger Schultz Community Park to the VMI tract. The Scenic Meadows 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. Mr. Thompson shared the map that showed the land and connections. Mr. Thompson shared descriptions of the property and public access options.

City Staff hosted a Scenic Meadows neighborhood meeting, regarding the potential land donation, on Monday, August 27, and was well attended by the neighborhood. The neighborhood voiced support for public ownership of the land and for creation of a neighborhood green space but did express some concern about public access, especially the potential loss of privacy, from those who live closest to the open space tracts as well as maintenance and the cost to develop park amenities if the City accepted the land donation. The City would incur costs in survey and property acquisition costs. We would have an additional half acre of mowing. In terms of land management, we would need to maintain trail corridors and any maintenance of the open land. We would have a similar land management strategy to the Roger Schultz Community Park. We would also have a responsibility to manage or correct the drainage issues. Trail development costs is \$15,000-\$25,000 per mile as per the estimates in the Roger Schultz Community Park. If acquired, we would engage the neighborhood with potential uses.

Mr. Klimek stated that Tract C appears to have very little potential. Mr. Thompson indicated that the gas easement makes it nearly impossible to develop. There is not a lot of opportunity primarily because of the easement. Mr. Klimek indicated that Tract C is less desirable to accept. Mr. Thompson agreed Tract C and Tract D are both less desirable because of the easement and drainage concerns. Mr. Klimek asked if the loop build out was still planning to be completed. Mr. Schafer asked about the benefits to the City for acceptance. Mr. Thompson stated Tract H is an extension of current City parkland. It will require additional maintenance responsibility and allows us to maintain that strategy throughout the parkland from Roger Schultz Community Park through Tract H into the VMI tract. Mr. Schafer asked if the cul-de-sac would be maintained by the neighbors or if the City would be responsible. The developer could give the property to someone else. Mr. Bachamp asked if the tract have special assessments. Mr. Bachamp also asked what the budget was for removal of invasive species. Mr. Smithson indicated that the removal would be a time commitment from the park staff and shared information about a grant opportunity for reimbursement of labor to remove the cedar trees. Mr. Bachamp would like to see a line item dedicated to removal of invasive species. Ms. Johannes asked if there is potential to generate revenue on these tracts. The Roger Schultz Community Park master plan did not include disc golf. Disc golf needs terrain and trees to be more challenging. There is less deciduous wooded area in Roger Schultz and Tract H than there are in Warner Park. Mr. Schafer asked about landscape limitations. Mr. Thompson said the other tree species grow closer to the water source. Mr. Klimek mentioned that we are having accessibility issues to the parkland and a need to focus on accessibility for future land acceptance. We want people to be able to use and enjoy the parklands.

It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Ms. Johannes, to recommend the City Commission accept the land donation. Ms. Johannes also would like to see some way to generate revenue from the land. Mr. Klimek would like to encourage the City Commission to work with the neighborhood for accessibility options to avoid future complications to park development. Mr. Bachamp accepts the friendly amendment. Mr. Schafer requested amendment to the motion to have the current land owner remove cedars prior to acceptance. Mr. Bachamp seconded the amendment. On 2-3 vote, motion fails.

It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Mr. Schafer, to recommend the City Commission accept the land donation with two considerations: work with property owners on parkland access and removal of cedars as part of donation of land. On 5-0 vote, motion carries.

MONTHLY STAFF REPORT

Mr. Shoemaker shared that Spooktacular is coming up October 27 & 28 and invited board members to attend. Safari Adventure Day is October 5 to educate on conservation, education, and culture.

Mr. Clifford shared we are in the heart of fall programming and things are going well. The end of summer event in partnership with MWR and the Summer Passport Program. Little Apple Glow Paddle coming up later this month.

Mr. Smithson indicated that flood repairs are ongoing. Linear Trail has been screened from Anderson to Ft. Riley Blvd. About three-quarters of Anneberg Trail have been destroyed and waiting to hear back on flood restoration efforts. Manhattan High School is hosting cross-country at Warner Park on October 23. Johnny Kaw has a new paint job. East tennis courts in City Park have been resurfaced. We are examining feasibility of restriping CiCo courts for outdoor Pickleball. Mr. Schafer asked about conditions of Dishman Lake. Mr. Smithson shared there are likely millings from the parking lots in Dishman Lake.

Mr. Thompson spoke about the partnership with the MPO on trail prioritization. City Commissioner feedback on prioritization ratings were positive. We are compiling a list of projects that we believe can be completed. We have a 6 mile gap in the 18 mile loop around the community. The zoo parking lot project

is closing out. We are beginning the process for construction of the Bluemont Hill Overlook Project. Mr. Klimek indicated that there is a movement to revive Wam Sag Man Trail.

Mr. Leyva stated the City Park Master Plan draft will be presented to the City Commission at a Work Session in November. Construction at Old Blue River Trail has begun. Mr. Bachamp asked Mr. Leyva to keep in mind that parking in City Park will be changing with the Aggieville parking garage construction.

Ms. Johannes complimented staff on the project tour and learned a great deal about the community. The staff handles difficult and wonderful things.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes mentioned that advisory board by-laws are still being considered by the legal department. Parks and Recreation fees will be plugged in when time permits, but we would like to get it accomplished in 2018. City Park Master Plan will be at a work session later this year. The vision/goal setting session will be scheduled for a Monday or Thursday and set aside several hours to meet and discuss. We are waiting for a new board member to be appointed before we schedule time.

MISCELLANEOUS

City staff continues to work with the Johnny Kaw group to get the project underway. The Bluemont Hills Scenic Overlook will begin construction shortly. The Neighborhood Recreation Center Steering Committee update will be provided to the board in November. The Douglass Recreation Center is still working with funding through HUD.

Meeting Adjourned.