

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
February 4, 2019 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Mr. Dave Schafer.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; and Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Ms. Maes, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on January 14, 2019. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEIGHBORHOOD RECREATION STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Eastes introduced this item and stated the Steering Committee has conducted six meetings to date and part of their charge was to make a recommendation to the City Commission that is scheduled for February 19, 2019.

Mr. Barry Schmidt with McCownGordon Construction introduced himself and Tracy Anderson with Anderson Knight Architects. Mr. Anderson mentioned again the priorities that were outlined in the SFIP years ago, there were four priorities. The first priority was to add additional indoor space geographically located and is the priority that this particular project is focused on. The goal of the Steering Committee is to provide the communities perspective and assist us in furthering the development of the program and then ultimately make a recommendation to the City Commission. He mentioned the design process started back in May of 2018 with their first Steering Committee meeting. They held two core team meetings with staff from the school district and Parks and Rec over the summer of 2018. Mr. Anderson stated they gathered a lot of input at the first Steering Committee meeting and brought back options to the second Steering Committee meeting for them to validate and then they opened it up to a survey for them to prioritize the list from the first two meetings. They then took that information and kept developing the schematic plans for the building through meetings three through six. The final Steering Committee meeting was held in January 2019 where all of the final schematics to the plan were brought up as well as some information from a neighborhood group that had been a part of the meeting process they went through.

Mr. Anderson presented the project objectives which was the output from Steering Committee meeting one and what led them to the ideas that were brought up in meeting two as what the priorities or additional programming or scope of the project would be that they could incorporate. He stated that Mr. Schmidt and his team put together rough budgets stating that the base project costs "x", here's what is left over to use on adding to the program and to the facilities, and that's what they started to try and prioritize and asked the Steering Committee to help them out with.

Mr. Anderson presented the add-on and key design features of each facility. There were seven add-on features listed in order of preference; additional spectator area, turf, multi-purpose rooms, high velocity sports, running track, concessions, and a mezzanine lounge and spectating. The key design features of each

facility; 48,900 square feet, four basketball courts, five volleyball courts, twelve pickleball courts, portable turf, elevated running track, lobby and mezzanine with lounge and spectating seating, community room and concessions. Mr. Anderson went through the floor plans of the facilities showing where everything would be located. Mr. Bachamp asked if the schools would not be able to utilize the track during because the track side is public. Mr. Anderson confirmed, the track is on the public side. Mr. Anderson showed the board a few picture slides of what the facilities would look like on the outside and inside and pointed out all of the little details of where everything would be located and what materials would be used.

Mr. Schmidt presented an estimate summary that is broken down by the sixteen divisions. He stated they have gone out to the public market, trade partner assistance, and have gotten real time estimates on what things are actually costing, it's not just a McCownGordon estimate. Mr. Schmidt stated the total number for both facilities was \$17 million and they were to be identical so that one building didn't cost more than the other and be penalized for it. The site cost for Anthony was a bit more expensive so they took the site costs out of the total budget and the remaining amount was divided in half to find the allowable amount for the two buildings.

Mr. Schmidt presented the design build process which we started back in 2018. They will be presenting the modified version to the City Commission on February 19, 2019, and recommending this project with the floor plans for the City Commission to approve to move forward with the rest of the design and take this project to the guaranteed maximum price which will be happening in the May to July 2019 time frame. From there they would be completing the design and starting the permitting process, onboarding trade partners, purchasing materials and would start construction in early 2020 and hopefully the facilities would be online by early 2021.

Mr. Klimek asked if there was a slide that shows how the Rec Center buildings hook on to the middle schools. Mr. Schmidt stated they do not have a picture that shows the connection, but they are working with some USD 383 school designers through the details on where those connections would occur and stated that McCownGordon will be the contractor for both of those facilities. Mr. Klimek asked if there were any challenges in making these facilities appear open for the public and not just look like an add-on from the school. Mr. Schmidt stated it was a priority from the Steering Committee in the very beginning that these facilities have their own identity, as in they don't blend in directly with the schools; they look like they have their own entrance and parking lot but still look like they belong on that site.

Ms. Maes stated when she thinks of a neighborhood gym it would include exercise equipment and asked if that had come up at all or if they see that as an addition someday to add on. Mr. Anderson answered those are items that could be purchased and placed somewhere out of the way in the future and would be something that is up to the Parks and Recreation Department or the board if they would want exercise equipment in the facilities. Mr. Eastes commented that back in 2006 the original indoor center had quite a discussion with the community in regards to the health club aspect of any type of center and really moved away from as to not compete with private businesses such as Genesis.

Mr. Edie asked as far as the Anthony school goes, would the width part of the gym be on Browning Avenue and the parking lot on Gary Avenue. Mr. Schmidt answered that the lobby would face Browning and be towards the south end of the site closer to Gary Avenue. Mr. Anderson stated the parking lot would be accessed off of Browning Avenue. Mr. Edie asked if they have sited exactly where the Eisenhower location would be. Mr. Anderson stated it would be off of the extension of Kirkwood assuming that is all moving forward the way it is planned. The building will be oriented facing the northwest of where the new Kirkwood Drive would go through along the west edge of the property and hit Marlatt.

DOUGLASS RECREATION CENTER PUBLIC MEETINGS

Mr. Thompson stated he met with the City Commission in November 2018 and that's when they were briefed in the change in our funding status from the HUD funding to different sources. Met with the Douglass Center Advisory Board in December 2018 and followed up with the comments they made to the City Commission. In January 2019, a survey was issued where they had over 331 responses that were online and in paper form. He stated there were two public meetings held in January that had about 40 people total in attendance.

Mr. Thompson presented the key points that came out of the neighborhood meetings. The facility is very important to the neighborhood and had some opportunity for education regarding the funding source and how this is not a sales tax funded initiative. The community wanted to remind us that the facility should support multiple and simultaneous and diverse uses. They also have a desire to maximize the square footage now instead of planning for future addition. They had some comments in the design previously to reserve space for an additional gymnasium in the future which came out of the second public meeting. The community also wanted us to pay close attention to the exterior design of the building to make it fit in to the neighborhood and look more than just a big metal box.

Mr. Thompson noted that more women than men took the online survey and had a good variety of ages but mostly in the 25 to 44 age range. There was quite a bit of input from Northview, Miller Ranch/Warner Park and the Douglass neighborhoods but we had representation from across all neighborhoods within the city and even some folks that live outside the city. About half of the responses had participated in an activity or event at the Douglass Center in the last year but most people whether they lived in the area or participated in a previous activity or not thought they would be likely to participate in activities if the new building had the features and amenities they thought were important.

Mr. Thompson stated one of the questions on the survey asked other than gym space and a walking track, what types of spaces/amenities should be included in the new facility. The answers that rose to the top of the list were to have a fitness studio, park restroom access for park users, multipurpose classroom, private changing rooms in the restrooms, future expansion possibilities, storage/cubbies, spectator seating area and there was a large number of write in votes for an indoor pool. From there they were asked to prioritize and vote for their top two choices which came out to be the multipurpose classroom and fitness studio. The fitness studio could include a space for zumba, yoga, dance or similar activities and also a space for more one-on-one classes with an instructor.

Mr. Thompson went through the next steps to be taken with the City Commission to consider design on February 5, 2019, with the Douglass Center Advisory Board reviewing the survey information on February 7, 2019. From there Bruce McMillan will start to prepare revised concepts between February and March 2019. We will begin to work with Westar to bury power lines to allow that construction to happen through April-May 2019. Then the final design and building construction timeline is somewhat to be determined depending on the design process.

Ms. Coleman asked what the new funding source was. Mr. Thompson answered that the HUD grant didn't work out and there had been a variety of ideas tossed around but no decision has been made yet and it will be part of the discussion at the February 5, 2019, City Commission meeting. Ms. Johannes asked if there was an estimate yet. Mr. Thompson stated the number we have been using so far is \$3.5 million for the building which would be some source of City funding or combination of City at large funds. Then the site work for the park are things that we could use the Community Development Block Grant funding to start traditional allocating and that would be an addition to the \$3.5 million.

RE-CAP JANUARY 24 PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Eastes compiled a master list together of everyone's items from the January 24, 2019, meeting and gave a brief description of each item on the list. Ms. Johannes wanted to include on the item regarding improving accessibility to the Parks and Recreation offices at City Hall that it was really instructional for those of us to understand how those changes needed to be made. With the new gymnasiums at the new Rec Centers coming on board, is the safety and security issues something that the architects and designers have already considered. Mr. Anderson responded that one of the reasons why a standing desk was considered is so you can have a more clear view from the offices and other areas as to what is going on coming and going. Also some of the auto doors and separation from the school side and the public side helps create some of the safety aspect. Mr. Eastes commented when they went over to Lawrence, they had a substantial number of cameras within that facility for viewing and wanted to make sure they could provide as much security as they could with minimal staff.

Mr. Klimek brought up the item about finding a solution for the lifeguard situation and find ways to improve the efficiencies of the operations of the pools. Pools are very expensive to operate and the way the lazy river has been designed it takes a lot of lifeguards to operate. Mr. Klimek asked how many lifeguards are required for the lazy river. Mr. Clifford answered that we typically have 40 people scheduled at one time because of the number different features and bodies of water that we have to man. He mentioned the design has a lot to do with those requirements at all three of our facilities and we are looking at those staffing patterns and anticipate making a few adjustments this upcoming season.

Mr. Klimek mentioned there is now a weekly group meeting that he attends about the movement for a River Front park that is now being focused on the Fairmont Park area. Mr. Eastes elaborated that it is a private group and this is a topic that would need to come to the City Commission at some point if the group intends to pursue anything on public land.

Mr. Klimek wanted to bring up the item on how to better utilize Northeast Park. Mr. Smithson commented that we are working towards irrigating at least two of the soccer fields on the north side of the parking lot but not quite ready to be out for a project yet. He stated he has a project this year for security lighting for the entrance of the park and hopefully get electricity to the shelter as well. Mr. Klimek wanted to put out there an item they did not get around to discussing at the meeting about how to increase the accessibility into Warner Park.

Mr. Bachamp asked how we were going to pay for all of these items on the list and that there needs to be some discussion started on that. Mr. Eastes stated that he is correct and there are a number of communities that have dedicated sales tax that did help fund activities and programs. The intent with this list is to prep this in an inter-office memo so that administration and the City Manager's Office is aware of these items and would like to see it forwarded on to the City Commission so they are aware as well. Ms. Johannes stated she wants to make sure that whoever reads this list that they know it is not in any particular order. Mr. Eastes agreed that it is not a prioritized list, it is just a list of items.

Mr. Klimek asked Mr. Eastes if it was his plan to present this list to the City Commission. Mr. Eastes answered that his administration will need to give some guidance on that but could certainly bring that up. He mentioned that we present a quarterly report to the City Commission where the intent is to report on the sales tax items.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson stated Mr. Leyva was working with Phil Howe from KS State Bank who funded a design competition through the College of Architecture Planning and Design. The students were tasked with a design project to come up with a reimagined proposal for the areas around the Arts in the Park stage. There were twelve different planning groups who then presented their proposals to a jury, the jury then selected

three winners and awarded some scholarship dollars to the winning teams to further their education. Mr. Thompson presented the three winning designs to the board to show them what the students had come up with within the 60 hours they were given.

Mr. Eastes stated the Advisory Board by-laws will be brought back to the board at a later time to discuss the public input process of all advisory boards.

Mr. Eastes wanted to mention the criteria for acceptance of land donations needs to stay on the agenda and some discussion needs to be had.

Mr. Eastes stated the Sunset Historical Survey is something that Community Development department is working with and will be coming in at a later meeting to provide a presentation to the board.

Mr. Klimek wanted to bring up the Community House and where we were at on it. Mr. Eastes answered that we are still waiting on proposals to be submitted.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Shoemaker stated they have had to close the Zoo several days in the last month due to weather. Sunset Zoo also hosted adventure camps over the holidays when USD 383 was not in session. The Zoo hosted Happy Zoo Year on January 13, it's an event that is centered on animal enrichment where people can make enrichment items or bring enrichment items in to the animals. The Zoo has hired a full time Zoo Sprouts teacher and a Keeper so they are now fully staffed. The Zoo also hosted a Science on Tap event at the Tallgrass Taphouse.

Mr. Clifford reported that we have been very busy with our indoor program season right now and will start winding down at the end of this month and start looking into our summer programs. We are offering a couple of new programs this year. We have a Counselor in Training which will be in conjunction with our Little Apple Day Camp program that targets the 14-17 year age range. We started a Parent's Night Out program that happens one night a month where kids can be at a program for a couple hours and let the parents have some free time. We are expanding our Special Populations program to also include youth ages. Looking at different opportunities with our summer Youth Theatre program, working together with K-State theatre department to do more of a partnership program. Ice Rink season is winding down and will close at the end of February. Gearing up and preparing for the aquatics hiring season and it is already underway. This past Saturday we hosted our Hot Shot Basketball competition and had a good response to that event. Our Twin Oaks Tournament schedule has been released and we have a couple more special events coming up. The Little Apple Core Challenge, which is our corporate challenge event that starts up on March 25, 2019, so we are looking forward to that event and hope to get some more teams registered.

Mr. Bachamp asked if there was a way to put something together next month to look at over the past 10 years to see how the programs have changed in the number of tournaments and participants in using the soccer and twin oaks facility. Mr. Clifford answered that we can certainly put something together and we have tracked for at least the past 5 years so we can see how the numbers have changed. Mr. Bachamp asked what is holding us back on increasing more than where we were last year. Mr. Clifford stated the thing that mainly hurt us last year was Spring not showing up, even though we had the turf facilities available we had unseasonably cool weather in the spring so we lost the spring soccer tournament and a couple of the first weekend tournaments. The weather definitely plays a factor and had it not been for that we probably would have exceeded our numbers last season.

Ms. Kirkwood stated that last month we had launched our new CivicRec system for easier registration and has been very well received from the community. We hosted a booth at the Community Fair held at the Mall this past weekend and saw about 300 families and visited with them and received lots of comments

about our new system. She mentioned one thing we have been very focused on this year is our social media posts and how we are communicating all of our programs out to the public to increase participation. Last week we had the opportunity to go up to the state capital for the Sunflower State Trails Appreciation Day that we were invited to participate in for the first time and there were over 40 other organizations there and we had the chance to visit with the public as well as our representatives about trail issues as well as sales tax issues. She mentioned we had Johnny Kaw's groundbreaking event today and it turned out successful. We are doing monthly segments with KMAN on the first Monday of every month from 9:30-10:00am, the goal is to communicate messaging about Manhattan Parks and Recreation as well as to involve other staff members to come and talk about their programs.

Mr. Thompson stated he heard back from KDOT recently regarding the transportation alternative grants and we were not awarded those funds that we had submitted for a trail along Casement as well as underpass over on Scenic Drive. They had only \$7 million available in funding and had over \$40 million in projects submitted. They are gearing to be more of a partner in projects and not a sole or primary funder because of the need and limited dollars through that program. We will try to put both of those projects into a future round of funding or assemble some additional funds for the Casement project certainly. The Scenic Drive underpass had additional flooding concerns so we will look at alternative places to cross Scenic Drive to connect those western neighborhoods to the east side of Scenic and on to Anneberg Park. He stated we have a bid opening tomorrow for Ledgestone Park, we have the rock pile on the south side and Roger Schultz Park will be moving to the Ledgestone Park area on the north side of Miller Parkway. The end goal is to have two usable open spaces there along Miller Parkway in those two parks. Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Leyva has been working on design of the Shultz Park improvements at Loma Ridge developing that trail head and trails that are starting from that. Mr. Leyva has also been working on several playground renovation projects that we have in the CIP this year, redoing surfacing at Goodnow, Northview, and Northeast parks which will be going out to bid here shortly.

Mr. Johnson stated for 2018 they had filed about 4,000 feet of trail and about 12,000 feet of sidewalk that was added. They are nearing completion of their sidewalk gap project where there are about 50 locations in town where they either had complaints or existing gaps of a block or two. He mentioned there have been 45 of those gaps completed and have 5 left.

Meeting Adjourned.