

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
March 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. Dave Schafer, Mr. Darell Edie, Ms. Elaine Johannes, and Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Absent: Ms. Jurdene Coleman.

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; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; and Mr. Bruce McMillan, McMillan Architects.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Maes, seconded by Ms. Johannes, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2019. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

JANUARY 24 PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

Mr. Eastes stated that from the January 24 meeting as well as the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting last month, a list of 16 items was developed. Once everyone is in agreement with the list, the intent is to prepare this list and forward it on to Administration in City Manager's Office and then be made available for the City Commission.

Ms. Maes wanted to comment to make known that the list is not in any particular order by priority and wants that to be known when passed along down the line.

Mr. Bachamp stated he crossed off about half of the items on the list because he felt they were items being done in day to day operations by Parks and Rec. He gave an example with the item on improving accessibility to the Parks and Recreation Office in City Hall and stated that we have no control over that and it's a function of security on how the City Offices work.

Ms. Maes asked if this has been done annually and does this kind of list go forward annually. She perceived the first meeting as more of a focus group versus a rank order of needs based upon the audiences we work with. Ms. Maes also asked how this process happens historically. Mr. Klimek stated he feels these are more vision type statements on the list and this is an opportunity for the board to give feedback to the staff of what they thought was important.

Mr. Schafer stated the list is wide ranging but felt about half of them would be nice to go forward a little bit on. If the list needs to be prioritized that's certainly something that could be discussed. He mentioned having an indoor pool is a big one and could be at the top of the list. Ms. Maes agreed and stated to concentrate on the big ones like indoor pool and resident fees that could make a difference in people's lives and ones they want the City Commission to be aware of.

Mr. Bachamp stated if this is just planning then the list is fine, but if the board wants to pick their top five items to tell the City Commission then this list isn't doing that since it's not prioritized. Mr. Eastes stated

that initially his and Mr. Klimek's discussion in the tour they had conducted as well as this meeting, the board members are all community members that have interest in Parks and Recreation. He stated we wanted to make sure there was a level of engagement between staff and community members always.

Mr. Eastes stated some challenges of an Advisory Board are developing set goals because there are things that come in to play like financial aspects. Mr. Eastes gave an example of one of the items that we accomplish on a regular basis but doesn't fall in line with the financial aspect; explore more ways to increase the usage of Northeast Community Park. He stated we have an irrigation project going in at Northeast Park that is upwards of \$50,000 and the intent is to make that turf more playable as well as providing more electricity to that park.

Mr. Klimek mentioned this is meant to be a broad look at Parks and Recreation from the aspect of the members of the Advisory Board. He stated he doesn't think this was designed to be a priority list that we would send back to the City. We are just giving them an idea of things that are important from a Parks and Rec Advisory Board aspect and making City Staff and City Commission aware of where we are coming from.

Ms. Johannes stated she likes the idea of putting the items into different tiers. She mentioned that clustering the items concerns her in that the City Commission might think they are all of the same importance. Mr. Edie agreed, the list needs to be prioritized or have some categorization that tells what is going on.

Mr. Schafer wanted to comment that about half of the items indicate that we have facilities already that are available to people but we are looking for ways to increase their usage. He stated there are limitations on what we would like to do with what we already have.

Mr. Klimek asked if there was anyone willing to chair or put a subgroup together to prioritize the list. Mr. Bachamp volunteered, Ms. Maes offered to assist him. Mr. Klimek asked if they could meet before the next Advisory Board meeting they could report back. Mr. Eastes mentioned they might need Staff input as well as there are items that staff does on a regular basis that is relevant to the listing.

Mr. Klimek stated before moving on to the next item he wanted to introduce a new staff member. Janelle Fritzson is the new Operations Officer for Parks and Recreation and she gave a brief description of what she will be doing for Parks and Rec and what she has done already since she started.

2018 FLOOD DAMAGE UPDATE, FEMA AND NRCS PROJECTS

Mr. Smithson pulled up an image of Anneberg Park and showed the board areas of the trails, playground, and parking lots that have not been restored. He showed Linear Trail near the Pecan Grove area and stated there is now a log jam in Wildcat Creek near the bend and is showing major erosion on the streambank. It puts Linear Trail in jeopardy as well as additional farm ground and private land that is beyond that point. Primarily the cleanup and restoration work is through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Kansas Department Emergency Management. Mr. Smithson stated they've been working with National Resource Conservation Service on the lower portion by Pecan Grove. He stated that FEMA is working on 45 different projects with an estimate of \$2.1 million worth of damages.

Mr. Smithson mentioned they have restored about 4/5 of all the trail that was damaged by the flood within a month or so after the flood. With the winter we have had, they've not been able to do any more restoration work on the trails and are waiting for them to dry before they start back up again. The areas in Anneberg Park that have not been restored yet; playground and a parking lot; were held out because of potential mitigation, meaning FEMA would pay up to restoring back to pre-flood capabilities. He mentioned possibly relocating the part of the trail that was impacted and making the parking lot a hard surface parking lot so it won't be so detrimental to restore when it floods. He stated this is the fourth flood since 2007. Mr. Smithson

stated it is available for mitigation but we don't know where that's going. Right now we are just restoring it to some base rock and still waiting to hear. We have events coming up starting in April at the park. He mentioned that some of the Linear trail surface is still damaged and his team still cannot get to it.

Mr. Klimek asked if we would want to get the log jam out of Wildcat Creek as soon as possible as it influences the water level and if we have assistance to do that. Mr. Smithson stated those funds have been awarded and we are finalizing our agreement with NRCS and the intent is to have that log jam removed before the Spring rains. There is no timeline but they will be moving as fast as they can do get those out of there. Mr. Klimek also asked where the Wildcat Creek dumps into the Kansas River, has that been studied and is it clear and free to move water out of the creek and into the river. Mr. Smithson stated he could not answer that for a fact as some of that sits on private property so they haven't been down there, South Manhattan Avenue was about as far as they went. Mr. Eastes mentioned that RCPD and Public Works flew drones up and down Wildcat Creek to make sure there weren't any other significant blockages.

Mr. Smithson stated they have 220 days in order to accomplish those projects at least from NRCS. The 44 projects from FEMA they could be a year and a half to two years to complete those projects, it's going to take some time to fully recover on some of those items especially if we mitigate. Mr. Smithson mentioned we are going to try to make weekly notifications on our Parks and Rec website through Melissa to notify the public on where we're at with projects and of closures and openings coming up in any of our parks.

Ms. Kirkwood wanted to update the board and let them know that we are doing weekly updates to see where projects are to inform the public. Sometimes because of weather, projects are at a standstill so it's good to let the public know where we stand and here's where they will be moving forward. She stated Casey and his team are working on some permanent signage for some of those areas that we won't be able to address right away to let them know there will be ongoing work.

DOUGLASS RECREATION CENTER

Mr. Eastes stated we anticipate going to the City Commission on April 2, 2019, with a recommendation from the Douglass Center Advisory Board. He wanted to make sure the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is updated on the process and the progress with the design.

Mr. McMillan presented a couple poster boards to the Advisory Board showing the original facility plan of a 17,500 square foot facility that has a full sized court, two cross courts, two volleyball courts, and four pickleball courts with lobby and office areas. This particular configuration fills the entire site we have at Douglass Park. If this facility were to go forward, the current budget is around the \$3.5-\$3.6 million range. He stated if we moved the walking track to the upper level, it adds another 5,000 square feet to the overall configuration and brings that up to another \$1 million. The community room and fitness areas could be looked at to be added to the facility and that adds another 2,000 square feet and brings it up over \$5 million for this particular configuration. Mr. McMillan stated the top priorities of the Douglass Advisory Board was an elevated track, a community room and a fitness room. In order to accommodate those and to stay within the \$3.5 million budget, we would reduce the size of the building to about 16,500 square feet.

Mr. McMillan stated he looked at another configuration that allows for an elevated track over the actual gymnasium which retains a smaller court and only two pickleball courts instead of four and contains an overlook into the lobby from a very small exercise area. The base configuration for this is about 19,500 square feet and about \$3.9 million. By adding the second level for the exercise area takes us to about \$4.2 million, and if we take out the first floor component we would save about \$200,000 taking us to \$3.7 million. This configuration is between \$3.7 and \$4.2 million and this was the preference of the Douglass Center Advisory Board.

Mr. Schafer asked if you had a walking track on the second floor, is there a need for an elevator. Mr. McMillan stated the building would need to be ADA accessible so it would need to have an elevator.

Mr. Klimek asked if it had ever been considered to close off 10th Street to allow for landscaping, parking and making this new facility more user friendly. Mr. McMillan stated there's an alternate within the original project for angle parking along 10th Street and along Yuma so that much has been addressed.

Ms. Maes asked how you would address who get to play in which gym if you have the old gym and this new gym running at the same time. Mr. Eastes stated the programs happening now in the Douglass Center would still continue when the new Rec Center is up. He also mentioned we are trying not to duplicate anything between the old center and the new center.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated that Ms. Coleman is part of the selection committee for the Community House Request for Proposals and those are due to the City by March 8, 2019. The committee will then evaluate any proposals that come in. Community Development Department is hosting these RFP's and that will come to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as a presentation next month as well as going to the City Commission.

Mr. Eastes stated that City Staff has met with Tracy Anderson who has been engaged by a private individual to look at some potential improvements for Arts in the Park area. If something materializes from that it will be brought to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for review and input.

Mr. Eastes stated the Advisory Board By-laws is something that is going to occur in regards to how Advisory Boards post public comment. It is still with the Legal Department.

Mr. Eastes mentioned discussion needs to happen on criteria for acceptance of land donations so we can get some clear criteria as we consider public lands. We've had it in past years but it's quite an old document so we want to continue to work with that document and bring that back potentially by this Summer.

Mr. Eastes stated the Sunset Historical Survey is something that Community Development has been working with and anticipate them making a presentation to this board at some time. This item needs to come to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as it impacts the Sunset Zoo as well as the Sunset Cemetery.

Mr. Eastes mentioned he was not able to get this new item on this agenda but will get it on next month's agenda for some discussion on some sort of foundation potentially for a private group or private citizens to sit on a board and be able to work with the community to maybe develop funds to help support Parks and Recreation activities.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Shoemaker stated the Zoo had been closed off and on in February and early March due to the weather. Sunset Zoo will host Community Appreciation Day on March 16, 2019, where admission is free to everyone. The Zoo will be moving to its Summer hours on March 9, 2019, which is also the start of Spring Break and will continue to open Summer hours when Spring Break hits in the future. Science on Tap was held at the Tallgrass Tap House on February 20, 2019. The Zoo hosted the first Legislative Coffee on February 23, 2019, which is an opportunity for people to come out and talk to our State Legislators and interact and ask questions. Mr. Shoemaker wanted to note that Mallory Morris, one of the Zoo Sprouts Staff members, is participating in the Special Olympics Track department.

Mr. Smithson stated his crew has been very busy this Winter with snow removal. He also wanted to mention that the Parks Division is hiring for Summer Seasonal positions.

Mr. Leyva stated last week they started the Ledgestone Park grating up by Roger Schultz moving some dirt around. The playground resurfacing project for Goodnow, Northeast, and Northview parks went out to bid today, March 4. Looking to upgrade the shade structures out at Twin Oaks and adding a restroom out at Anneberg Park by the playground.

Ms. Adams stated the Discovery Center recently hosted a Storytelling Saturday where they had about 380 in attendance. We are currently partnering with the Meadowlark Memory Program which is connected with Meadowlark Hills and the Beach Museum, it will be an exhibit in the front area in the Atrium. The week of Spring Break the Discovery Center will be hosting Meet the Makers where people can come and interact with artists throughout our community.

Ms. Kirkwood reminded the board that we started a monthly radio show with KMAN and had Casey and Wyatt on this morning talking about our trails and damage reports as well as upcoming projects. We also have a chance to highlight our programming and take questions from the audience too. We will be continuing that throughout the year as well as on the second Monday of the month T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter will also have a slot with KMAN where they will be able to highlight their animal of the month and promote their adoption events. We are also hiring for a bunch of different positions for our Summer season and are continuing to market those to the public and have had a chance to go to places like the Community Fair held at the Mall in January and this coming Friday we will be going to USD 383's Wellness Fair and at the end of the month we'll be participating in a Community Fair with Hy-Vee promoting activities and other opportunities. We have had various community engagement sessions about the Douglass Recreation Center to get input from the community and our next public meeting for that project will be March 21, 2019.

Mr. Clifford provided a handout for Twin Oaks Tournament participation at the Anneberg Park facility that was discussed a little at last month's meeting. He stated it was easy to tell when the artificial turf went in because that's when numbers increased dramatically. He mentioned last year would've been a great year if Winter didn't hold on so long. The tournament schedule for this year has been released and will start the weekend of April 13-14, 2019. The recreation indoor programming is winding down and our spring programs are getting ready to start here soon. The Ice Rink closed for the season on February 23 and had a good season. We will be turning the Pavilion back into its normal rental facility here in the next couple months and then it will host our Little Apple Day Camp in the Summer. The seasonal hiring is going on and a lot of that resides with the recreation aquatics division in the number of people we try to hire. One new program we are working on for the Summer is a Counselor in Training starting with our Day Camp program, we are also offering a Junior Lifeguard program for the first time at our Waterparks for ages 12-14 that is meant to be a developmental program for our lifeguards and to help encourage our young people to start learning what lifeguarding is all about and to prepare for when they can become a lifeguard at age 15.

Mr. Thompson stated he is putting together the final details for the upcoming round of trail talks which we did last Summer/Fall to get some initial input from the community on trail projects. We have analyzed a bunch of those and will be bringing forward a prioritized list for some more discussion with the community coming up in April. With that trail planning we will also be setting ourselves up on a parallel track with Community Development who is developing a bicycle/pedestrian systems plan for the community so they will be looking at trails and sidewalks as well as bicycle lanes, boulevards and routes and intersections that would be problematic for pedestrians and cyclists. Our trail work will get rolled into this Fall into that larger systems plan and that will become the document that guides pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure for the City and they will prioritize and cost estimate for their project. At the moment we are separate but will be

converging this Summer/Fall into a final document that will guide our trails sales tax prioritization as well as safe routes to school and other bike infrastructure projects for the community. Lately a lot of time has been spent with staff on developing our Capital Improvement Program for 2020 and years beyond. Staff also submitted personnel budgets this week and will be working on operational budgets coming up. April to August is that budget timeline so lots of City Commission meetings discussing those varies budgets and projects so we'll see how our requests shake out through all of those meetings. We have submitted a list of a variety of things that we'd like to see for the community.

Ms. Johannes asked if the KDOT proposal for the Casement Road construction was part of the CDBG discussion that Mr. Thompson brought up last month. Mr. Thompson answered it possibly could be. Portions of Northview area are eligible for CDBG funding but not all of Northview is. He believes Public Works has submitted a CIP for 2021 for design for the Casement Road expansion project to bring that up to City standard and then 2022 is construction timeline for that project. Then there is a potential to reapply for KDOT funding for a portion of that trail project. A potential CDBG opportunity that brings with it additional wage rates and other things that aren't typically part of a City project so there's a pro and a con for using those funds for a project like that. That's the strategy now that KDOT said no initially and part of their guidance was to come back when we have a full street project and they will be a partner but won't fund all of it.

Meeting Adjourned.