

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
July 1, 2019 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: None

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Ms. Melissa Kirkwood, Community Relations Officer; Mr. Wyatt Thompson, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Ms. Susan Adams, Flint Hills Discovery Center Director; Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; Mr. Jared Wasinger, Assistant City Manager; Mr. Spencer Sanders, Park Planner Intern; Mr. Brian Johnson, City Engineer.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Edie, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 3, 2019. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

NEW MEMBER

Mr. Klimek introduced the newest board member, Marcia Rozell. Ms. Rozell stated it was good to be back on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and serve in her community.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mr. Bachamp joined the meeting.

ELECTRIC SCOOTERS IN PARKS AND ON TRAILS

Mr. Eastes introduced the Assistant to the City Manager, Jared Wasinger. Mr. Wasinger stated these scooters are a two wheel, electrically powered vehicle that can range between 15-30 mph or higher. Not many cities in the State of Kansas have e-scooters because they were not defined in the Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO). In 2019, the State defined e-scooters and gave regulations on how and where they can be ridden, which is similar bicycles. The STO also gives cities the ability to be more or less restrictive than state law.

Mr. Wasinger stated every year in the Fall the City adopts the Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO), and generally adopts the State law. However, we have an opportunity with e-scooters to change that. This item was brought to the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and they were in favor of having an additional mobility transportation option. The STO doesn't deal with parks and trails, so we wanted to get feedback from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on use of e-scooters in parks and trails.

Ms. Rozell stated e-scooters are not much different than allowing bicycles on trails if we set a maximum speed for the scooters. They're not something that is designed to tear up a trail and it would be hard to regulate if we set multiple regulations.

Mr. Schafer asked if e-scooters had to be licensed if allowed to drive on streets. Mr. Wasinger answered they are allowed to drive on streets and sidewalks but State Legislation decided these vehicles do not need to be registered.

Mr. Wasinger stated you could set a miles per hour regulation meaning that e-scooters can't be driven on a roadway with a speed limit higher than what has been set but you can still cross that roadway at an intersection.

Mr. Eastes commented that our trails are posted as no motorized vehicles allowed. Mr. Klimek asked if a battery powered vehicle is considered motorized. Mr. Wasinger commented he doesn't believe it's considered a motorized vehicle, it has its own definition. Mr. Eastes commented the park ordinances do not define what a motorized vehicle is, but most people would determine an electric powered vehicle has a motor.

Ms. Coleman stated the Board seems to agree that there needs to be some regulations and to have something in place before an e-scooter company comes in and drops off a group of e-scooters. Mr. Wasinger stated the City has been contacted by a few e-scooter companies already so that's part of the reason for this discussion and that we need to adopt the STO in the Fall.

Mr. Wasinger commented there was consensus from the Board to allow e-scooters in parks and on paved trails.

#### CITY PARK CENTRAL PARK ROAD CLOSURE DEMONSTRATION

Mr. Eastes introduced Park Planner Intern, Spencer Sanders, who has been working on this project. Mr. Sanders stated the 2018 City Park Master Plan recommends eliminating vehicular traffic through the park to allow for more bicycle/pedestrian traffic. Phase 1 of the City Park Master Plan recommends closing Central Park Road to create a safer environment for pedestrians.

Mr. Sanders stated we will only be closing a portion of what the Master Plan calls for in order to leave all of the parking lots open. There will be two demonstrations that last one week each; July 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>, and September 12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. We will create a temporary bicycle and pedestrian path and will gather feedback at events happening within the park during those dates. This feedback will help us implement the phases of the Master Plan so people can still have access to the amenities within the park.

Ms. Rozell commented that one week for a demonstration might be too short of a time period to collect accurate data. Ms. Maes and Mr. Klimek asked about parking and drop-off, particularly for elderly patrons at Arts in the Park. Mr. Bachamp thought the road closure was a great idea to test and that staff needed to get the word out to inform the public of the demonstration.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL RECREATION CENTERS UPDATE

Mr. Eastes mentioned the school district was successful with their bond issue and are now looking to add a storm shelter to both middle schools. This change requires shifting the location of both Rec Centers on the site. The School District has requested the City modify the location of each center. The estimated cost of the change is \$500,000 for both sites. The question to the City Commission was to increase the \$18 million budget by \$500,000. City Commission discussed with the School District and an agreement was made to have the School District pay up to \$250,000.

Mr. Thompson stated the existing trail south of Anthony Middle School will have to be realigned per this new concept.

### COMMUNITY HOUSE UPDATE

Mr. Eastes stated the City Commission was supportive of the proposal from Switchgrass Development and Ben Burton's team and anticipate City Administration to work with that developer on a more formalized development agreement so the Community House will move itself into private ownership.

### FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated City Commission asked Parks and Recreation to consider other potential disc golf site locations. That evaluation has been occurring and a presentation will be given at the August meeting.

Mr. Eastes commented that criteria for parkland donations was developed in 1999. Staff will present information regarding possibly updating the criteria for donations of park land at a future meeting.

Mr. Eastes stated the last few items (Arts in the Park Improvements Juried Design Project, Advisory Board By-laws, and Park Foundation) have been on the agenda and will continue to be on future business. Mr. Eastes will provide the Board with updates once they are made available.

### STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Shoemaker shared that the Zoo is busy with summer camps in full swing. The Zoo had their accreditation inspection by Association of Zoos and Aquariums and had no major issues come of the inspection. The Zoo will find out in September if they receive their accreditation for another 5 years. The Zoo hosted Citizen's Academy. Zoo Staff and volunteers have been working on a box turtle survey for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to be used as part of their data gathering on the status of box turtles in Kansas.

Mr. Smithson commented that flooding is an ongoing issue primarily for some of our trails. We're working on a US Fish and Wildlife Service Grant for habitat restoration at Roger Schultz Park. Upgrading the electricity to the Poyntz Shelter and will add lighting at the sand volleyball courts. Also working on security lighting at Northeast Park. Furniture Amnesty day is July 26 at Baker Field in City Park.

Mr. Leyva stated we're wrapping up the playground resurfacing project at Goodnow, Northview, Northeast, and Anneberg Parks. Twin Oaks shade structure project went to bid and hope to award on July 24. The Loma Ridge entrance at Roger Shultz Park is still in design and hope to get that to bid before the end of the year. Mr. Leyva will be talking about a potential partnership with K-State ROTC at the next meeting on new installments in City Park.

Mr. Clifford mentioned there are four more concerts left in our Arts in the Park series. Little Apple Day Camp has their mini session the week of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Our Summer Theatre program has been going well in its second session and will have performances on July 18-20. Aquatics has been extremely busy and we've had a good response this year with our swim lessons program with almost 1,300 participants. We also have private swim lessons for the first time this year and it has been very well received. We've had 28 kids sign up for our new Junior Lifeguarding program for kids ages 12-14 to prep them to become lifeguards and potentially work for our Waterparks in the future. We've sold around 3,000 season waterpark passes so far this year. With the bad weather we had at the beginning of the youth/adult sports seasons, we've had to reschedule 156 games therefore extending the seasons into late July. Movie under the Stars was held on June 8 where we partnered with Navy Federal and had about 1,300 in attendance. Our Little Apple Paddle scheduled for July 13 has turned into a festival at the River Pond due to the conditions on the river. Registration is still open for our Just Tri It Triathlon in August.

Ms. Kirkwood mentioned that July is National Parks and Recreation Month and we will be doing several things throughout the month to celebrate. Since Summer registration in March we've had over 11,600 registrants through the system. We've been very successful with our monthly radio show on KMAN. We

were also invited by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation to talk about programs and services that they've helped us support. Our 101 Days of Summer Passport Program has over 200 families participating so far. We now have over 9,000 "likes" on Facebook.

Ms. Adams commented the Discovery Center has been quite busy with a new exhibit open, Dream with Da Vinci. During the Summer on Fridays they tie in the Blue Earth Plaza and do Splash with Science. On Saturdays they do a Connect and Discover hands on program and interact with one of the Educators. Recently celebrated Cowboy Poetry where the Discovery Center partnered with the Foundation. We have an upcoming Astronomy Night at Northeast Park. National Day of the Cowboy is on July 27.

Mr. Thompson stated he's been busy with plan reviews. We recently bid Expedition Asia at Sunset Zoo and those results will be considered by the City Commission on July 16. Also on July 16, City Commission will consider a contract amendment for design related to trail railroad crossings at South Manhattan Avenue and Pecan Circle. Been in interaction with the Manhattan Kiwanis Club who has a community project at Bluemont Hill to build an accessible overlook which will hopefully open this Fall.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eastes stated City Commission is in the middle of 2020 budget discussions and will be looking at all fees for the City. If we're going to be adjusting fees, it will be brought back to this board at the August meeting.

Mr. Eastes commented that Casey is trying to find a new Mayor's tree and hope to have one in place for this years' tree lighting.

Ms. Kirkwood stated the Johnny Kaw construction has been delayed with the weather we've had recently. Steps have been added and the lighting and story boards are coming in soon.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Klimek moved for Mark Bachamp to serve as vice-chair; seconded by Mr. Schafer. On vote, motion carried 6-0-1. Mr. Bachamp moved for Ed Klimek to serve as board chair for the upcoming term, seconded by Ms. Coleman. On vote, motion carried 6-0-1.

Meeting Adjourned.