

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
August 5, 2019 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Ms. Marcia Rozell, and Mr. Dave Schafer.

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; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Edie, seconded by Ms. Coleman, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on July 1, 2019. On vote, motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mr. Bachamp joined the meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION FEES

Mr. Clifford presented a few fee changes as Mr. Eastes stated fees were increased this past year and the strategy is to address fees again in 2020 for the 2021 budget. The Ice Rink admission and skate rental will increase from \$3 to \$3.50 each. Sunset Zoo admissions will increase from \$5/adult and \$3/child to \$5.50/adult and \$3.50/child. Sunset Zoo education programs will increase by 5% for all camps and activities.

Mr. Eastes commented that fees for admission to Sunset Zoo as well as other programs go into a special Sunset Zoo fund, rather than the City General Fund.

It was moved by Ms. Maes, seconded by Mr. Bachamp, to approve the fees as presented. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

DISC GOLF SITE EVALUATION/WARNER PARK MASTER PLAN

Mr. Eastes stated this item has been discussed with the City Commission and the Commission asked City staff to conduct further evaluations and provide additional information. This presentation will be delivered to the Commission at an August 2019 Work Session.

Mr. Leyva commented the master plan concept development started in August 2018 and received mixed reviews. The local disc golf community wanted a 3rd 18-hole disc golf course which would open Manhattan to Regional tournaments, and the residents surrounding the park want to see Warner Park kept in its existing state with minimal development. Mr. Leyva stated a third vision was presented at the October 1, 2018, meeting. A descendant of Kern Warner spoke of the parks intent when it was dedicated in 1959 and that he wanted to see the road in the Park open for public access, something the surrounding residents have opposed for 20 years.

The City Commission provided feedback at their November 2018 meeting and instructed City staff to further explore disc golf options in Warner Park and other locations in the community. Also to explore

options to opening the road within the park and to research claims of Native American burials, of which none were found.

Mr. Leyva stated City staff analyzed existing parklands and City-owned lands for suitability for a championship 18-hole disc golf course, with Roger Shultz Park being one of those parks and found it was not properly suited. They also analyzed local courses on safety and possible expansion at Tuttle Creek State Park and Fairmont Park, in which neither have space to expand. City staff explored two alternative layouts of expanded disc golf at Warner Park with new parameters including adding a restroom near the shelter.

Master Plan Concept A opens the road and enters into the park more, has disc golf holes 4, 5, 6, and 7 moved to not interfere with Cross Country and implements a 50' buffer between the residents and the course. Concept B changes the layout of the disc golf course in the center of the park while also moving the Boy Scout trail to the north, and shortens the road entering the park but is still in close proximity to the existing shelter.

Mr. Leyva commented that the disc golf courses in both concepts are just examples of what could occur, it does not mean one or the other has to be chosen. If the City Commission decides to expand disc golf as part of the Master Plan, staff would interact with disc golf designer John Houck for a partial redesign with a new set of parameters approved by the City Commission.

Mr. Leyva stated the new land management of Warner Park would explore reducing mowing of the prairie meadow and restore prairie areas to increase pollinator biodiversity, as well as explore the management of invasive cedars.

Mr. Edie asked if the parking issue has been addressed. Mr. Leyva answered they have looked at expanding parking and also visited with Target to possibly partner with them on big tournaments/events.

Mr. Klimek asked if funding has been placed. Mr. Leyva stated there is currently \$40,000 in the 2019 CIP.

Mr. Leyva reminded the Board of their recommendation in the October 2018 meeting when they accepted the Coralberry design concept, except the expansion of the disc golf course, playground, and dog park.

Mr. Charles Reagan stated if we open the park back up to traffic, the vandalism and other issues that occurred in the past would return. The park was closed in the past to keep those problems out. He mentioned a previous Parks and Recreation Director wanted to add four softball fields in the middle of the prairie which the neighborhood was not in favor of and those plans fell through. Mr. Reagan stated the PRAB conducted a survey and about 80 percent of people wanted it left as a natural park. If the proposed disc golf course is put in, it will take up one third of the restored prairie.

Mr. Rufus Bandy put together a document on Roger Shultz Park and stated it has perfect terrain, it would have parking, bathrooms, water, and a playground. The parking could even be expanded on Miller Parkway. Mr. Bandy expressed his concern that Roger Shultz Park isn't even being considered and that City staff has their sight set on using Warner Park.

Mr. Richard Theisen expressed his concern about the maintenance and upkeep of the park and that it hasn't been well maintained. He commented the 9-hole disc golf course doesn't bother many people but expanding it to an 18-hole course would bother a large amount of people. Mr. Theisen would like the PRAB to reinforce their previous decision in leaving out the expanded disc golf in the Master Plan.

Mr. Tim Donohue with the Arbor Heights Neighborhood commented his experience working with Mr. Leyva has been nothing but a pleasure and Mr. Leyva was very upfront and realistic about everything.

Mr. Klimek asked if the Roger Shultz proposal has been given to the City Commission for their November meeting and if it has been made available to the public. Mr. Eastes stated the City Commission would have it prior to their meeting. Mr. Leyva stated it is an internal document so it has not been given to the public.

Mr. Leyva stated if anything at Roger Shultz Park over 10 percent slope was not counted as developable acres. We are looking at an area with at least 30 acres for a disc golf course and this park only has about 15 developable acres.

Mr. Eastes stated there will be a review of what actions have occurred and where we have been from the previous PRAB recommendation and it will be part of the presentation to the City Commission.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC ART PROJECT

Mr. Clifford stated the efforts of the Arts and Humanities Advisory Board (AHAB) has been to develop a project to help provide focus and interest in public art. We would work with Downtown Manhattan Inc. (DMI), to look at suitable locations in high traffic areas that have interest. DMI and City staff steered towards the 3rd Street corridor from Blue Earth Plaza to the Osage Street pocket park. This is one of the entry ways into the community so this would essentially be developed as a walking tour with multiple art pieces potentially displayed.

Mr. Clifford commented the AHAB members have been working to develop information and putting requirements in place to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP). We were fortunate to receive funding from the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) to support this effort with potential opportunity in the future for more public art in our community. The AHAB members have identified 10 sites along the 3rd Street corridor, in parks and in right-of-ways along sidewalks. They are looking at selecting up to 6 pieces in this initial project that will go out later this Fall with the pieces being displayed potentially starting May 2020.

The AHAB members are interested in displaying permanent pieces of art throughout the community and would like to develop a public art policy that would encompass permanent and temporary displays of art.

Ms. Maes asked if the AHAB members have thought about having a theme or founders stories that tell the heritage of Manhattan that would keep people interested to see the next piece. Mr. Clifford answered they haven't talked about any specific themes but they would be using a multi-step selection process to insure the pieces selected have significance for the setting they will be placed in.

Mr. Klimek asked who would be in charge of the maintenance for these art pieces. Mr. Clifford responded the Parks and Rec department would have some involvement with installation and maintenance in consultation with the artist. We will have an agreement with the artist that the piece will be on loan to the City while on display.

It was moved by Mr. Edie, seconded by Mr. Bachamp, to support public art locations as presented. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

JOHNNY KAW PROJECT – BLUEMONT HILL PROJECT

Mr. Eastes stated the Johnny Kaw project is progressing and will hopefully have the construction fence moved once Manhattan Area Technical College (MATC) is finished installing the hand rails. He reminded the board that a lot of the work is being donated so the contractors are working hard to catch up. Coming soon should be the large dimensional blocks being placed out front along with finished lighting and the completed story boards. Anticipate this project to be complete in the next month.

Mr. Eastes stated we anticipate construction on Bluemont Hill starting this month. Mr. Thompson stated D&R Construction have indicated they will begin work on the deck overlook platform this month. This project is also substantially donated so they are trying to catch up on other projects as well. The Kiwanis Club is planning on having a dedication potentially in October.

Mr. Maes brought to attention the KS hill and how it's overgrown and deteriorating. She noted that it is not an area maintained by the City but wondered if the City would consider joining with the University to get it restored. Mr. Klimek asked if it could be looked into to get some answers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RECREATION CENTERS – GMP PROCESS

Mr. Eastes commented this will be a City Commission item on August 20, 2019. It will be a GMP recommendation from City staff to enter into Phase 2 of the project, final design and construction. There have been no alterations or changes to the concept from what the Steering Committee recommended.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated the \$.3 sales tax vote would occur this Fall and he's asked the City Manager's Office (CMO) to come to the PRAB in September to give an update and some education on that vote.

Mr. Eastes also asked CMO to speak to the PRAB about the City's no smoking ordinance. This previous ordinance was constructed by community members 10 years ago. The City is now able to make alterations and changes to the ordinance. Looking for input from the PRAB as we have challenges with enforcing no smoking in some of our public areas. Mr. Edie mentioned we should look into including no vaping. Mr. Eastes stated he believes that will be part of the discussion.

Mr. Eastes commented the Parkland Donation Criteria will be an agenda item potentially in October.

Mr. Eastes mentioned the Arts in the Park Improvements could be a private funded project. If it becomes a future project, it will be brought back to this board for their input.

Mr. Eastes stated all Advisory Boards anticipate altering language in their by-laws regarding public comment so they are consistent within the City. Legal is working on this so it will come back at a later time.

Mr. Eastes commented there will be a discussion at some point regarding a Park Foundation.

Mr. Klimek asked if the PRAB could be given a report at the next meeting regarding what was and wasn't included in the 2020 CIP budget for Parks and Recreation.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Thompson stated he's been working on the Bicycle/Pedestrian Systems Plan with Community Development. This project has public engagement opportunities through an online mapping tool to provide additional feedback for where walking/biking improvements need to be made. There will be a few demonstration projects that are intended to be low cost temporary installations to show what improvements could be made to enhance pedestrian/bicycle safety. The draft plan will be available this Fall and the City Commission should take action before the end of the year. Once we know more about how trails incorporate into that plan, it will be brought to this board for a presentation or review. The Kimball Avenue trail from Hudson to Vanesta is under construction as part of that roadway project and should be open by early September. Starting contract negotiations with a contractor for the Expedition Asia project which did come in over budget but the City Commission authorized negotiations with the low bid contractor to find saving opportunities.

Ms. Kirkwood stated we participated with the community in a variety of different ways during July for Parks and Recreation month and have been receiving feedback about how the public values how much we care for their parks and recreation programs. Our Autumn/Winter Guide is now out and available online. T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter has their Pet Poolooza event on August 11th, at City Park Waterpark. The Shelter is participating for the first time in a nationwide event called "Clear the Shelters" where they will be offering discounted adoptions on August 17th. We will continue to participate in Third Thursday through September. We have been doing several community surveys for people to provide feedback on some a few of our events.

Mr. Clifford reported our youth and adult leagues for the Summer have come to an end and we are getting ready to start with Fall sports. Arts in the Park (AITP) wrapped up at the end of July with a successful last act. We are looking into generating more sponsorship support to build up the AITP budget in the future. Our Little Apple Damp Camp program finished at the end of July maxing our capacity with over 170 campers enrolled. Aquatics will be closing City and Northview Waterparks August 10th and 11th. City Park will hold the Youth and Adult Just Tri It Triathlon August 10th with about 250 people registered already. CiCo Waterpark will hold the extended season starting on August 12th. Swimming lessons and waterpark season pass sales had the highest number in 5 years. We had 33 kids that participated in our new Junior Lifeguarding program including 5 that were old enough to become certified and be hired as a lifeguard. The Little Apple Paddle event occurred on July 13th at the River Pond and fell 12 boats short of breaking the Guinness World Record for longest parade of boats. We will have our annual Glow Paddle event in October. Tournament season has been successful with more than 100 teams over where we were last year.

Mr. Klimek stated there's a committee at the Chamber of Commerce trying to put together events/ideas for the community to draw since we lost Country Stampede and asked if Arts in the Park has been discussed by this committee. Ms. Kirkwood responded she attended the last meeting and stated Arts in the Park was a primary discussion point as well as locations and what types of events could happen.

Mr. Leyva stated he's been busy with the Parks for People project in City Park where we are exploring the first phase of the City Park Master Plan. The playground resurfacing project at Goodnow, Northview, Northeast and Anneberg parks have all been completed with only City Park left to be resurfaced. Plan on having field check documents for Roger Shultz Loma Ridge entrance with bid opening late Fall. The shade structures at Twin Oaks went to bid and are looking to award on August 20, 2019, with a construction date of October 1, 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Maes stated the board created stretch goals for Parks and Recreation months ago and wondered where those ideas are going. Mr. Eastes answered the intent was to put them into the 2020 CIP review and mentioned he will bring it up again next month.

Meeting Adjourned.