

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
March 2, 2020 - 4:30 P.M.

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

Absent: None.

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. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; and Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Mr. Schafer, seconded by Ms. Rozell, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on February 3, 2020. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

KATRINA LEWISON – NEW MEMBER

Mr. Klimek introduced and welcomed Katrina Lewison to the Board. She is one of the USD 383 representatives. Ms. Lewison commented she is delighted to be a representative on the Board as she is a mother with three kids who are very involved in Parks and Recreation activities. Staff went around and introduced themselves and what they do for Parks and Recreation.

2021-2025 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CIP RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Eastes stated Staff will be working with City Administration on these requests. The listing that will be discussed will go through many changes as Staff interacts with City Administration as well as City Commission. The documents being presented are important planning documents for Staff to be able to house all the equipment and projects that Staff sees as a need for the department. Looking for support from the Board of what will be presented.

Mr. Smithson stated the documents that were presented at the last meeting have been updated and provided to the Board. He mentioned the 2021 Projects and Equipment document would have the primary items for 2021 with each item having a priority number.

Mr. Smithson went through and discussed all the documents provided with the Board so they are in understanding of what Staff is requesting.

Mr. Eastes commented there are 9 departments within the City and that Parks and Recreation is competing with all of the other departments and their needs. Staff wants to make sure the need is shown for each item requested and why.

Mr. Thompson commented it would be great to have a justification system where projects could be ranked against one another but it would be difficult to do on a City-wide level.

Mr. Bachamp joined the meeting during the discussion.

Mr. Klimek stated the Board supports moving forward with CIP requests to City Commission.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated next month will bring the Stonehaven Master Plan and Naming. This is property coming to the City of Manhattan and there are some naming rights associated with it. Mr. Thompson stated the property owner retained naming rights so they have proposed naming the parkland as well as the existing pond.

Mr. Eastes stated there is an original document for Parkland Donation Criteria that will be a starting point for discussion to update the document. This will hopefully come to the Board next month.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eastes thanked the Board members who were able to attend the Anthony Middle School groundbreaking on February 28, 2020. He stated the Douglass Center groundbreaking will be on March 4, 2020 at 4pm, and the Eisenhower Middle School groundbreaking will be on April 3, 2020.

Mr. Thompson went through the floor plans and cites of both Middle School Recreation Centers as well as the Douglass Recreation Center to refresh the Board on those facilities.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Leyva stated the shade structures at Anneberg Park will be completed this week. Expanding the east side of Clarenberg Trail in City Park from 5' to 8' wide and looking to bid out in May. Looking to start construction on Phase 1 of the Loma Ridge Roger Schultz Park and hope to wrap up this Fall before the next Red Cedar Holiday Harvest event.

Mr. Smithson stated the lighting at the sand volleyball courts in City Park will hopefully be completed soon. Parks staff removed the Ice Rink from the Pavilion. Working on playground and trail repairs. Staff is preparing for waterpark season and doing some work on dirt ball fields.

Mr. Shoemaker commented the nice weather recently has helped attendance numbers significantly. Sunset Zoo hosted adventure camps on February 14th and 17th and were full. Hosted Science on Tap on the 19th that partners with K-State with 60 in attendance. Hosted Zoofari Tales with Manhattan Public Library with about 100 in attendance. Zoo opened registration for the Junior Zookeeper program which is a Summer program for kids ages 10-14 that may be interested in becoming Zookeepers. There were 80 students that applied for the 40 spots open so the Zoo will be doing a raffle to fill those spots. Hosted Science Saturday on February 8th at the K-State Women's Basketball game and over 200 people participated. The Zoo partnered with the Chamber of Commerce to host Legislative Coffee on February 15th where the public can talk and ask questions of local legislatures. Will host another Legislative Coffee on March 20th.

Mr. Clifford shared Staff is getting ready to start the Spring season of Adult and Youth sports. Finalizing contracts for Arts in the Park. Summer registration is planned to open in late March. Arts and Humanities staff had a very successful Night to Shine Prom event hosted by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Had about 115 participants and over 100 volunteers. Ice Rink closed for the season on February 29th. Staff is already in the process of hiring waterpark employees for the upcoming season. Waterpark staff is also trying to develop more in-house training for waterpark employees. Facilities are transitioning from indoor winter to outdoor spring/summer. The 2020 Tournaments schedule has been released. Little Apple Core Challenge is to start March 16th with local businesses participating. Several special events coming up in April.

Mr. Thompson stated the Summer Activity Guide will be available online on March 5th and have printed copies shortly after. Staff members went on KMAN radio to talk about upcoming programs and events, this is a monthly show that staff attends the first Monday of every month. Heard back from KDOT on the

Transportation Alternative Grant program that was submitted last year. The City was funded for the safe routes to school program again so there will be a number of projects around the schools that will be funded but the City was not awarded funding for the Casement trail. Staff will be meeting with Public Works to figure out what the next step is for that project. That project would have been a roadway and stormwater project as well as a multiuse path from Knox/Allen north to Marlatt filling in gaps. This was the #1 trail project from the recent Bicycle and Pedestrian Systems Plan recommendations. Mr. Thompson wanted to call note to Sydni Baker, Zachary Bayless, Logan Singhisen and Mr. Thompson himself who have all recently passed the National Recreation and Park Association certified Park and Recreation Professional test (CPRP). Mr. Eastes and Mr. Smithson have both had this certification as well for a number of years. Mr. Thompson stated that Sydni Baker also received her Lifeguard Instructor Trainer certification (LGIT).

Meeting Adjourned.