

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
October 4, 2021 - 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, Mr. Dave Schafer, and Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Absent: Ms. Katrina Lewison.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; and Mr. Scott Shoemaker, Sunset Zoo Director.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received prior to the meeting.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on September 13, 2021. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Leyva presented an overview and update of all the projects under construction and what phase each one is in. He shared the Frank Anneberg Park parking lot and trail mitigation project is underway. The bid was awarded to Kolde Construction. The asphalt millings parking lot is being replaced with concrete. Looking to mitigate a few of the trails along the river as well. Construction started in September and per the contract, the project should be completed by January 20, 2022.

Mr. Leyva gave an update on the City Park Clarenburg Trail project. This bid was awarded to T&M Concrete Construction and the project is expected to be completed by December 7, 2021. The existing sidewalk will remain open as long as possible. The new trail will be 8' wide and will tie into the Johnny Kaw Plaza. All ramps will also be updated to ADA regulations as part of this project. Mr. Leyva shared part of the reason the trail is being moved is to get it away from the street as well as preserving all of the trees that are really close to the existing trail that would've had to be taken out. The majority of the existing sidewalk will be taken out except the portion that leads to the ATA bus stop.

Mr. Shoemaker shared that Expedition Asia was the first phase of the Sunset Zoo Master Plan which was approved by City Commission in 2018. It is a \$4.3 million project and \$2.4 million was raised from private donations. Expedition Asia replaces several older, 1960's style exhibits that don't reflect modern zoological standards. Expedition Asia will include tigers, sloth bears, and leopards. Mr. Shoemaker shared photos on the construction of the exhibits and buildings so far. The construction is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the end of October or November. Once construction is completed the Animal Keepers will make the exhibits more animal friendly and the animals will be brought in and will be quarantined for 30 days. Staff will need to do introductions with the animals and the animals and keepers will need to be acclimated to the new exhibits. It's a long process before animals are ready to go in a new exhibit so Zoo Staff is planning on opening Expedition Asia to the public on April 2, 2022, if everything goes according to plan.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared that the Naming/Renaming Brochure and the Parks and Recreation Foundation items will continue to stay on the agenda as reminders.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Eastes shared all 3 of the new facilities are still not fully staffed. Eisenhower Recreation Center had a grand opening on September 26. For the time being, Eisenhower will have reduced hours as there is not enough staff at the moment to keep it open as long.

Mr. Eastes commented there were over 50 people who attended the first Indoor Aquatic Committee meeting. There will be a user group meeting on October 11 and the public will be notified on when and where these meetings will be held. There will be another meeting in November and December. Anderson Knight Architects was appointed by City Commission and have a contract with the City to conduct these meetings.

Mr. Klimek asked if there was an update on a three-year comparison on the effect of tournaments and the prioritization of activities. Mr. Clifford shared he didn't have an update today but could put something together to show the breakdown of local versus out-of-town teams in comparison to past years.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Clifford shared all the Fall classes and activities are underway. Preparations are starting to begin for the Ice Rink and plan to open in mid-November. Eisenhower is open 7 days a week but have fewer open hours than Anthony for the time being. Outdoor facilities are seeing quite a bit use this season. A few special events are scheduled for October to include Movie Under the Stars on October 9th, Flint Hills Flannel Bash on October 22nd, Little Apple Glow Paddle on October 23rd, and Howl n' Prowl on October 24th. Staff has started working on the 2022 tournament schedule and activities at the new Recreation Centers to bring events to the community.

Mr. Shoemaker commented the Brew at the Zoo event is coming up and is sold out. The Zoo's Spooktacular event is coming up on October 22-24. The Zoo hired a new Animal Keeper, a Maintenance Technician and an Event Rental position within the last month.

Mr. Leyva stated the City Park playground synthetic turf as well as the 2-5 year old play structure went out to bid and was awarded to a contractor a little over a month ago. Within the next few weeks, the City Park playground will be closed off to install that new play structure and upgrade the turf.

Mr. Smithson shared he has been able to get a few more staff hired but is still down 2 positions. Once City and Northview Waterparks were drained, Staff evaluated all 3 waterparks as well as the Blue Earth Plaza water feature and have a list of things that need fixed before next Spring. Northview and CiCo Waterparks will be painted this Fall. Several water lines broke at the City Park Splash Park last week causing Staff to close that feature a few days earlier than anticipated. Trails crews have been out surfacing and maintaining trails. Staff is working on several other projects at both parking garages and preparing for all the holiday events coming up.

Mr. Klimek shared the Lighting of the Mayor's Christmas Tree will be on December 3rd in Triangle Park at 7pm following the Mayor's Lighted Parade.

Meeting Adjourned.