

MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
May 2, 2022 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Ed Klimek, Mr. Mark Bachamp, Ms. Sue Maes, Mr. Dave Schafer, and Ms. Karla Hagemeister.

Absent: Ms. Marcia Rozell, and Ms. Christine Weixelman.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Bruce Snead, President of the Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, shared the Foundation is funding the new 1.3-million-dollar playscape area in the Flint Hills Discovery Center. He wanted to invite the Board to the ribbon cutting scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

Mr. Snead wanted to discuss the wave pool at City Waterpark. The wave pool was envisioned as a unique attraction that would increase attendance and interest. At the time it was planned to be an upcharge on the entry fee. Mr. Snead wanted to ask the Board the status of the wave pool and whether or not it would be opened again this year. Mr. Eastes shared at this point it is not intended to open the wave rider for this coming summer as there are repairs that need to be done due to being closed and not running for 2 years.

MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 4, 2022. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY VIRTUAL TOUR

Mr. Eastes shared Staff felt it was important to develop a virtual tour and Staff spent quite a bit of time putting it together. This could be something that can be put on the website and will continue to build on it as improvements and projects occur. After the meeting the Board will split up into groups and take a tour of the Douglass Center and the City Waterpark.

Mr. Thompson, with the help of Mr. Smithson, Mr. Leyva, and Mr. Shoemaker, took the Board on a virtual tour of several facilities and current projects around town and showed photos, gave some background, described each location, and answered questions from the Board. Mr. Thompson mentioned at the City Park location that Parks and Rec will not have the Flag Football program this Fall due to the struggles with hiring seasonal staff and pulling full-time staff away from the Rec Centers. The locations discussed during the tour included: Douglass Activity Center, Joint Maintenance Facility, City Park, Warner Memorial Park, Aggieville, Pollinator Pockets, Sunset Zoo, Stonehaven Park, Roger Schultz Park, Anneberg Park, CiCo Park, Anthony Recreation Center, Eisenhower Recreation Center, Manhattan Hill Overlook, FHDC Playscape, and Trails.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes shared the items on future business have not changed. The Joint meeting with Riley County Park Board will likely occur in September. These items will continue to be on future business.

MISCELLANEOUS

None.

## STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Shoemaker shared Expedition Asia opened on April 9<sup>th</sup> with other 1,400 people in attendance. Zoo hosted a Friends of Sunset Zoo appreciation breakfast on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Earth Day Party for the Planet occurred on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with around 900 people in attendance. The Zoo is in Summer hours and is open from 9:30am-5pm. The concessions stand deck was completed in time for the opening of Expedition Asia. Wine in the Wild will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> and Brew at the Zoo will be September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration for Summer camps is ongoing but are almost all full.

Mr. Leyva commented he is switching from working mostly on construction administration to working on construction documents for Roger Schultz Park and finalizing everything with that project.

Mr. Smithson shared all his crews are working on getting pools up and operational by the end of the month and continuing to keep up with mowing. Working on current construction projects and keeping up with things that need done daily.

Mr. Thompson stated Arts in the Park starts June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Little Apple Day Camp starts on May 31<sup>st</sup> and has 132 participants in Session 1 and 125 in Session 2. Aquatics has hired enough seasonals to open all 3 pools and continue to hire to have a few extras. Registration is open for waterpark activities, swimming lessons, and season passes. Rec Center program numbers for Pickleball, Volleyball, My First Soccer, and City League Baseball/Softball are back to pre-covid numbers and trying to get staff hired on to run those programs. Several special events occurred in April. The Bike Swap in City Park on April 3<sup>rd</sup> had over 85 families participate. Easter Family Drive Thru with Hy-Vee occurred on April 16<sup>th</sup> and handed out goody bags to kids. Youth Outdoor Adventure Challenge occurred on April 24<sup>th</sup> at Wildwood Park and had 225 kids that participated. Several tournaments occurred at Twin Oaks almost every weekend.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Klimek mentioned this is Eddie Eastes' last Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting as he is retiring on May 6<sup>th</sup> after 17 years in the Department. The Board congratulated and thanked Eddie for all he has done for Parks and Recreation.

Meeting Adjourned.