

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
City Hall, 11th Floor
Park Conference Room
455 N. Main
March 4, 2013
3:00 p.m.**

Present: Bryan Frye, Andy Solter, Tom Roth, Jerry Warren

Absent: Cindy Claycomb, Ron Allen, Randy Brown

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Elizabeth Harlenske, City Assistant Attorney, Christina Butler, Clerk, Don Harrison, Golf Division Manager, Hank Blase, DeAnn Most, Cherise Langenberg, Jon Sidwell, Claire Willenberg, Susan Edgington, citizens.

**PUBLIC AGENDA
None**

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Solter, second by Roth, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO approve the minutes of the January 28, 2013, Board of Park Commissioners Regular Meeting (4-0).

Item 2A: Aquatics Update (Brian Hill/Karen Holmes)

Frye noted he had asked staff to review the Aquatics Master Plan with the Park Board.

Holmes stated that the Aquatics Master Plan was in draft form and she noted the history of the Aquatics program, the closing of pools, and statistics. She also noted the Aquatics Committee members had attended District Advisory Board (DAB) Meetings to discuss the plan. She noted that Edgemoor and Country Acres were closed in the Summer of 2012 due to structural problems and water leakage in excess of 10% of the volume daily. Analysis had been done by Larkin and Associates and this was confirmed. Jason Earl, Fellow for the City Manager, implemented an aquatics survey on SurveyMonkey. The survey had 1200 + responses. The survey had noted that the public wanted pools, longer hours for the pools, and more amenities. Some neighborhoods conducted their own survey and those results were taken into consideration as well. The committee reviewed the budget and the structure of the pools and was considering closing one or two pools for the Summer of 2013.

Frye asked if this was due to attendance or structural problems.

Kupper stated they need to start process of the Aquatics Master Plan and start the synergy of what the committee thinks has the most ability to be the most equitable for the future of the Aquatics program. He noted there is a synergy with the recreation centers and parks with more amenities and the committee looked at those. He noted that some pools may have had more use or higher attendance, but with the synergy of the respective parks, they may not have been the best for the master plan.

Solter asked if Kupper was referring to the Aquatics Master Plan or the City's Master Plan.

Kupper responded the Aquatics Master Plan as well as the Park and Recreation Open Spaces (PROS) Plan.

Solter stated that to his knowledge there was no mention of a reduction in pools in the PROS Plan.

Kupper noted that Solter was correct, but that looking at the budget situation, it makes sense to close some pools and keep the program sustainable. He also noted that the committee needed to get back out to talk to the neighborhoods.

Solter asked who was on the committee.

Holmes responded that John Stevens, Jerry Warren, swim team parents, Hutchinson Aquatics Director, and many concerned citizens were on the committee. She reviewed a map with pool coverage of the city which included YMCAs and HOA pools in the maps.

Warren added there had been a lot of research done by the committee and they were aware of the possibility of closing the pools.

Solter stated that there was incredible furor over the closing of Lincoln pool several years ago. He watched this and noted that the neighborhood is ecstatic over the fountain that replaced the pool.

Holmes stated that part of the engagement of the community is to see if they should close the pool and if they do what the community would rather have there. A splash pad? A skate park?

Frye asked if the next step would be engagement with the community.

Holmes responded yes.

Kupper added that after the recreation public meetings and golf public meetings, they had learned to survey the community to find out what they want.

Frye asked if those had been scheduled.

Kupper stated they did not have anything scheduled yet because they wanted to present it to the Park Board first.

Frye stated that Maize is trying to put a bond issue together for a natatorium in Maize.

Warren stated that the committee had Minisa and McAdams as potentially closing for Summer 2013.

Frye asked if other communities were having the same problems.

Kupper responded that yes, other communities were dealing with the same issues, partly due to having to comply with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) enhancements at an approximate cost of \$60,000.

Warren stated he appreciated all the work that the committee has done on this project.

Kupper asked the Board to read the draft Aquatics Master Plan and email their thoughts, recommendations, and/or concerns as soon as possible to Karen Holmes.

Frye asked if there was any public comment. There was none. He noted there was no action required

and asked the staff to review the draft and get feedback to staff.

Item 2B: Phil Lambke Path Naming (James Clendenin)

Clendenin distributed a map to the Board with the multipurpose path in south Wichita highlighted between Garvey Park and the entrance to Chapin Park. He noted he was requesting to have path named in honor of Phil Lambke. He stated Mr. Lambke's widow had approached him regarding this request. He noted that Mr. Lambke had served two terms on the City Council, was a business owner in south Wichita, was a veteran of World War II and Korea, was instrumental in the south Hydraulic improvements and started the Garden of Eden next to Garvey Park. This small section of the bike path is fitting to honor a man who served south Wichita and is a few blocks from his home where he served.

Solter asked if there was anything that would preclude this request.

Harlenske noted the Board would have to make their recommendation in writing to the City Council. She asked if he had an interest in the parks.

Clendenin responded he thought he served on the Park Board, but had not verified that yet.

Solter stated he was active and supported everything that was needed for the community garden and was instrumental in fighting crime in the community.

Frye asked if there was any chance someone else would want to have something else named after Lambke such as the Garden of Eden.

Kupper responded that if the Board approached City Council with the proposal to name the path then all other requests would not be considered.

Clendenin noted that Lambke's widow really wanted the path named after him. She had someone propose to name Chapin Park after him, but she preferred the bike path.

Frye asked if there was public comment and there was none.

Motion by Solter, second by Warren, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to recommend to City Council to approve naming the path after Lambke from Garvey Park to Chapin Park (4-0).

Item 2C: Fresh Air Baby Camp (Kathy Morgan)

Clare Willenberg (1402 Garland) stated she was filling in for Kathy Morgan who was unable to attend. She stated that on 2/9/13 the City of Wichita was presented a trust fund grant from the State fund office to start work on the roof of the Fresh Air Baby Camp. They had been waiting for funding to tackle replacing the roof which has been the main cause of deterioration. She noted that once that is replaced, other projects will begin. It was a \$90,000 grant with a match. The roof estimate is \$195,000, but is dependent on the tiles of the roof and how much of them will be reusable. They are sending some tiles off for evaluation for the integrity of the tile and are hoping to be able to reuse much of it.

Kupper asked if they anticipate staying on the timeline as submitted in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Willenberg responded they thought they would stay on time and could start in May or June.

Frye asked about the windows.

Willenberg responded that 14 of 28 windows had been restored completely.

Frye congratulated Willenberg on the grant. He asked if the snow storm caused any damage.

Kupper responded that Public Works had worked hard to keep the building protected.

Willenberg stated she could add the Board members to their email list.

Kupper suggested the Board could give their email address to Christina Butler and she would send the list to Willenberg.

Item 2D: Pickleball Courts (Hank Blase)

Hank Blase (1601 Lynnhurst) stated he was requesting that the Board consider converting a set of tennis courts at Seneca Park to pickleball courts. He noted that pickleball is a fairly new sport that is played with a paddle and wiffle ball and was started in 1965 in the state of Washington. He noted that the game is played indoors at the downtown senior center, Linwood and Orchard recreation centers. He noted that the senior center has competitive pickleball players and the recreation centers have the recreational players. The Senior Olympics were held in Topeka outdoors and the Wichita players had only played indoors. He stated that there are 75 outdoor tennis courts in the City and none of these are for pickleball. The Seneca Park tennis courts are in bad shape and no one uses them, so he would like to convert two (2) of the courts to eight (8) pickleball courts. The nets are almost the same as tennis and having outdoor courts would open the sport up for the community and could expand to other courts. The senior center would be available to administer the program and they would eventually like to have a pickleball league. He would like the Board to consider the transformation from tennis to pickleball.

Kupper asked if the USAPA has grant funding available for upgrading the courts.

Blase responded no, but they have funding for portable nets. He looked into the Kansas Health Foundation for grants, but it would probably be limited to \$25,000 and cannot be used for permanent improvements.

Kupper stated they would need money to improve the courts due to cracks in the courts.

Frye asked if they might be able to get one court.

Kupper responded they might be able to, but he would have to re-familiarize himself with the courts.

Cherise Langenberg (200 S. Walnut) stated it would be ideal to have a court at Seneca Park and noted that Andover is adding pickleball courts.

Blase stated they could play on tennis courts with two (2) pickleball courts across the court, but the striping can be confusing.

Solter noted that this may be an excellent public/private partnership to pursue.

Blase stated he would try to get funding if he could get the cooperation to use the court.

Solter stated he would support it.

Kupper stated the Board would have to decide if they want to pursue it.

Frye asked if there was comment from the public and there was none.

Langenberg stated she is the Director of the Senior Center downtown and they monitor the courts at Seneca Park. She noted that these courts could bring positive interaction with Alison school that offers

pickleball for physical education classes. She also noted they could have tournaments and bring in revenue. She also noted that Andover has some courts in their plans.

Frye asked if there was possible grant funding at the senior center.

Langenberg stated the Kansas Health Foundation had funding available, but it did not cover physical permanent improvements.

Susan Edgington (2810 River Park Drive) is an occupational therapist who played pickleball in Florida. She stated it is a great game for seniors and those who have played ping pong and tennis find it an easy transition. She noted there are limited opportunities for working players due to limited hours on the courts. She stated they need facilities with longer hours. She noted that if courts were open to the public, it would be a big advantage to getting more community involvement, and in turn, could get more enthusiasm to provide money for funding.

Kupper stated he would get with the recreation centers to see if they could use the gyms to create pickleball leagues on the weekends and evenings.

Warren noted that Orchard Park has tennis courts and maybe they could be converted too since they already have indoor pickleball. He noted that money is hard to come by, but maybe a minimum of two (2) courts could be an option.

Motion by Warren, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to direct staff to investigate and pursue outdoor pickleball courts for the aging population wherever that may be (4-0).

Item 2E: La Familia Lease Agreement

Kupper stated that it was time again to renew the lease agreement for La Familia Senior Services and since the Board owns the property, they would have to provide permission to sign the renewal of the lease at North Woodland Park.

Frye asked who was responsible for maintenance.

Kupper responded that La Familia is responsible and noted that Building Maintenance makes sure they are doing all the maintenance they are supposed to do.

Motion by Frye, second by Warren, IT AS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to approve the lease and authorize signatures (4-0).

Item 3A: Golf Advisory Committee

Frye stated he wanted to keep the Golf Advisory Committee (GAC) going and had asked Randy Brown to step back in. Frye wanted to give the City Manager's response to the GAC's recommendations because he pretty much agreed with everything recommended by the GAC.

Kupper added the City Manager agreed with mostly everything other than keeping the Golf Division in Park and Recreation.

Frye agreed and noted that the City Manager thought that moving the Division may be a little much and it should stay with Park and Recreation. He stated this information would be shared with City Council on 3/19/13 and he wanted to share this with the Park Board. He asked the Board to forward any comments or observations to himself and Brown prior to 3/19/13. He noted he was not sure if they would be able to have a GAC meeting prior to 3/19/13.

Kupper stated that the City Manager was not supportive of having a separate marketing position because of redundancy.

Frye noted that the GAC plan recommended a full-time marketing position.

Kupper added that instead the City Manager approved more budget dollars for marketing, so they were looking for a Golf Pro with a marketing background.

Frye asked if it would behoove the City Manager to have the Park Board endorse the recommendation.

Kupper responded that he could not respond to the question because he had not discussed the City Manager's response with the City Manager.

Frye noted that he did want the GAC to look at it before it was presented to the City Council, but since the Park Board is the appointing Board, it might be good to say the Board endorses the City Manager's response.

Kupper reminded the Board they would have another opportunity to do that at the 3/18/13 Park Board meeting.

Frye stated he would try to get to the GAC to let them look at the City Manager's response and the Park Board could take action at the 3/18/13 meeting.

Warren asked if the City Manager's response included not increasing green fees.

Kupper responded that Warren was correct, but he did not think it was addressed in the recommendation.

Frye agreed and stated it was not addressed. He stated it could be the GAC to say there will be no increase in green fees.

Item 4A: Golf Update (Don Harrison)

Harrison introduced Michelle Gould as the new golf support staff and noted she will do clerical work for the GAC. He noted that the Navarro Memorial Pergola at Sim Park was nearing completion. The pavers still have to be placed when the weather warms up and the landscaping should be completed by the first of April. He stated that Tex Consolver is in disrepair with the restrooms and patio being worked on for updates. Clapp clubhouse should be put out for bid within the next couple of weeks. He stated that the snow affected the numbers and it is a slow time of year. He shared the year-end final results and there should be a cash balance of \$900,000 in the reserve fund so they should be in good shape.

Frye asked if there were wells at three of the golf courses.

Harrison responded that MacDonald and Clapp are on City water. He noted that most at MacDonald's is runoff water while Clapp is all City water.

Kupper stated they would like to look at other options water at Clapp.

Frye noted that the last couple of years, the golf courses have looked better than others.

Warren asked why materials and supplies were so far under budget.

Harrison responded that the actual amount was only \$20,000 less. He noted they had over-budgeted in some line items and contractuals were down \$200,000 with personal services up \$200,000.

Frye asked if there were any questions or comments and there were none.

Item 4B: Recreation Update (Karen Holmes/Jon Sidwell)

Holmes stated that the Recreation staff had met for a retreat on 2/6/13 and reviewed the Strategic Plan and tracked progress. Misty Bruckner from WSU joined the staff on her own time to lead in the follow-up. They reviewed the established goals and tracked progress. She noted they are doing quite well with many of the Phase 1 items accomplished and some Phase 2 & 3 items accomplished. She noted that Butler Community College had created a culinary arts center at the Boston Recreation Center as well as offering summer camps there.

Sidwell presented a PowerPoint on the summer specialty camps that were offered for Summer 2012. He noted they offered four (4) full day camps and six (6) half-day camps. The camps were marketed in the Recreation Activities Guide and by distributing fliers to USD 259. The half-day camps did not go due to low registration even though there was an extended day care offered. The full day camps were more successful. For Summer 2013, they will probably only offer full day camps.

Sidwell reviewed the individual camps. The Outdoor Adventure Camp was offered for two (2) different age groups and included fishing, archery, and horseback riding for \$139/week at Watson Park. The Camo Camp was offered for children ages 6-12 for \$119/week at Boston. Activities included an obstacle course, sling shot range, making dog tags, and sampling MREs (Meals Ready to Eat). There were 16 volunteers from the military that joined the camp. The Hogwarts Academy Camp was offered for children ages 8-12 for \$119/week at Boston with 20 participants. Jedi Training Camp was offered for children ages 8-12 for \$119/week at Boston with 28 participants. Activities included clone wars relay races, light saber competitions, and a field trip to Exploration Place. He noted that they surveyed the campers and parents and received great positive comments and no negative feedback.

Frye asked if they had the camp schedule for Summer 2013 yet.

Sidwell responded that they were developing the schedule this week.

Holmes noted that this was the first year to try higher cost camps that were theme related.

Solter asked if these were the only types of camps offered.

Kupper responded that they still offered Summer of Discovery (SOD) and Summer Activity Camp (SAC) at some locations.

Sidwell noted that this was the second year for the Outdoor Adventure Camp while the other themes were experimental.

Solter asked if parents paid the \$119.

Sidwell responded yes. He also noted the fliers that were distributed had \$5 coupons and 14 coupons were redeemed.

Item 5: Issues on the Horizon

Frye noted that the next Park Board meeting would be on 3/18/13.

Frye noted that there was a nice article in the newspaper regarding the Grandparents Park.

Kupper stated they should hear back on the Transportation Grants for Chisholm Creek Park and Crystal PrairieLake Park in August.

Kupper stated the Recreation Division had partnered with the USD259 school system to receive a 21st Century Grant for \$60,000 a year.

Warren asked about the Pawnee Prairie Park bridge.

Kupper responded they were accepting bidding for the remediation of the creek bed.

Frye noted that the Air Capital Singletrack is coming along well.

Kupper had suggested to engineering to create a cantilever bicycle bridge off of the service road bridge over the Cowskin Creek so bicycles would not use the horse bridge. Engineering told him it should be sound enough that it could be pursued.

Item 6: Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:35pm.

Bryan Frye, President

Christina Butler, Clerk