

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Botanica  
701 N. Amidon, 67203  
Monday, April 18, 2011  
3:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Bryan Frye, Andy Solter, John Stevens, Matt Goolsby, Randy Brown, Cindy Claycomb

**Absent:** Tom Roth

**Also Present:** Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Interim Supervisor of Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Deborah Lambert, Clerk, Christina Butler, Clerk, Curt VanBoening, Delores Craig-Moreland, Mark O'Brien, Marty Desmarteau, Barry Carroll, Jerry T. Spaulding, Doug Tredway, Shane Turley, Lee Engler, Ryan Utz, Pam Dennis, Don Skokan, Larry Bird, Judy Newton, Nancy Purkey, Lynn Brown, Hank Conley, Carol Lambe, Beth Hurst, Rita Shultz, Ragen Allison, Sheryl Mankel, Monte W. Shaw, Nancy Carroll, Grady Kallenbach, Kim Smith, Kathy Dittmer, Stacey Hamm, Jennifer Rygg, Jerry Warner, Gary Swartz, citizens

*President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m.*

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Frye, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO DEFER APPROVAL of the March regular meeting minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners to the May Meeting.**

**Item 2: New Issues for Consideration**

None

**Item 3A: Air Capital Park (ACP) Bike Trail**

Doug Kupper stated that at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Advisory Board of District IV voted to approve the building of a Single Track Mountain Bike Trail at ACP. He had done some research and looked at regional facilities that offer mountain bike and equestrian trails on the internet in Kansas and Oklahoma. He also stated one of the concepts was reviewed and the cost was estimated to be approximately \$12,000 to construct the single track. Annual maintenance is estimated to be \$2,000 to keep the track in good, useable shape. If the Board of Park Commissioners agrees to this, a Memo of Understanding (MOU) would be worked out between the Park & Recreation Department and Single Track Association.

There was a cost analysis completed for fencing PPP and the cost is estimated to range from \$300,000 for a hog wire fence similar to what was used at Chapin Park to \$957,000 for a 5 foot chain link fence which does not include site clearing to get a straight line for fencing. He stated that signage could be focused on cul-de-sacs that currently have access to indicate "no bicycles" and "equestrian trails only". He stated that the motion for this Single Track Bike Trail was taken to the District Advisory Board (DAB) and they had approved it. He noted that this request was for ACP only, not PPP.

Frye asked if the Board had any questions for Kupper or the staff.

Andy Solter stated that he thought cost for fencing was requested for ACP instead of PPP.

Kupper responded that they looked at the high side of enclosing PPP because that is where the real conflict is occurring. It would be cheaper to fence in ACP because it is only a 10 acre parcel.

Solter stated he was concerned with cyclists having access to PPP and he thought barriers were needed.

Randy Brown asked what the vote was. Was it unanimous?

Kupper stated it was 6 in favor and 1 no. The DAB member who voted no did not disclose why they voted no.

Bryan Frye opened discussion up to the Public. He noted that there would be a five minute time limit.

Pam Dennis (22331 W. 101<sup>st</sup> in Mt. Hope) She stated that she uses PPP and drives in to ride all day and was at the last meeting because she had heard about this at the last minute. She suggested that maybe the city could postpone this and look at K-96 and Ridge to see if it could be donated to use.

Cheryl Mankel (919 Morrison Drive, Derby) She stated that she is a CHA certified instructor (Certified Horsemanship Association) and a NARHA (North American Riding Handicap Association) Instructor. She worked with troubled teens that are incarcerated and is affiliated with Flint Hills Society and Heroes for Horses which is an organization that helps veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and head trauma. She is concerned with safety and that the park will not be just single track users. She feels that parents will drop off their kids at the Single Track and kids will break rules. She would like to be on a committee to educate schools on why you don't ride bikes at PPP.

Randy Brown stated that Kansans do not like government public ownership of land and he shares her puzzlement as to why Kansas does not have more horse riding trails.

Engler (1557 N. Shepherd, Wichita) He explained that the concept of the park is to provide a two mile single track closed circuit trail to work on technical skills. There is already construction debris there and they would use it. Kansas Single Track Society has acquired grants at Fall River and more than three other trails in Kansas. They acquire volunteers to maintain the trails and help fight erosion.

Carol Lambe (2221 N. Brammelwood Street, Wichita) Stated she is affiliated with American Competitive Trail Horses Association (ACTHA) who had a licensed ride with 33 riders. She stated that she is afraid parents will drop the kids off and the kids will go to PPP because there is no fencing or barrier to keep them out. She believes that proximity is an issue.

Marsha Middenhall (2902 Sennett, Wichita) Stated she was at the District IV DAB meeting and noted two things...bikers want a trail and horse people want bikes out of PPP. She stated that someone suggested they build a bike park and the bikes would be out of PPP. She wants a solution to keep bikes out of PPP because this is the only horse park. Stated she does not think the fence will keep bikers out. She recommended further research into something more suitable for bicyclists.

Marty Desmarteau (339 S. Belmont, Wichita) He stated he is the trail steward for Miller's Meadow and was present to answer questions. Stated that the local mountain bikers and the Association would take care of the trail.

Claycomb asked Marty if it could be several levels of riders on the track.

Desmarteau responded with yes. He stated that they suggest that new riders walk the trail first.

Barry Carroll (1134 N. Coolidge, Wichita) He stated he is favor of the trail. Stated this could help with the obesity issue in our society. Most cyclists want to have fun and will be respectful of people with horses. Most of those who have spoken about horses do not pay taxes since they are out of Wichita.

Beth Hurst (23510 W. 47<sup>th</sup>, Wichita) she stated that this is out of a fear issue. She asked if the Board had received the letter from Terry Frye. Asked about how they would go about insuring that PPP would not be taken away from them. And what would they have to do to rename the park.

Frye asked if they wanted to make a motion and get on the agenda.

Kupper stated that he would not recommend riding horses at Chisholm Creek Park because it was not an adequate size.

Hurst stated that she rides bikes as well. She stated that a mountain bike website has information on how to sneak into parks.

Brown stated that they would need to bring the name change to the board. He stated that there is a need to get more public land for use.

Hank Connelly (2221 N. Bramblwood #303, Wichita) He stated that biking is a sport and there is a need for a dedicated park for them designed by them. There is a danger with the blind corners and no reaction time.

Mark O'Brien (309 N. Bluff, Wichita) He stated he is a KSS member and an affiliate of the International Mountain Biking Association. With the IMBA there are rules for how to ride with equestrians and when to dismount. Most riders wear helmets because safety is a concern. They maintain technical sections on the trails and you can also ride at a leisurely pace. He noted that there are no mountains here to ride.

Stevens asked if there would be adult supervision.

O'Brien replied yes. He stated that Miller's Meadow has parents that bring their kids out.

Stevens asked how many ride at Miller's Meadow.

Ryan replied there are usually six cars on Sunday or approximately 50 people per day.

Judy Newton (14314 E. Hawthorne, Wichita) She stated that he wanted to clear up something that was stated by one of the previous speakers...he knew most of the horse people present and they all live in Wichita and they all use the trails. Thought there was a question at the last DAB meeting regarding the \$10,000 in the general fund.

Kupper stated that currently maintenance is being done at ACP and PPP. It depends on signs, barriers, fencing that would be required. There was a front estimate that would be less than \$10,000 of City funds. To fence PPP would be \$300,000 - \$975,000 for fencing which would be approximately \$41 per linear foot.

Delores Craig (19 Chisholm Creek Dr., Wichita) she stated that she is a member of a bike club and is a horse person and was conflicted. She stated there is no evidence there will be more or less riders at PPP. Others who use multi-use facilities have learned to cooperate with one another because there are not many resources for either of these groups.

Jennifer Rygg (155 N. Glendale, Wichita) stating she is a trail runner and has used Miller's Meadow and it is ok because they step aside so they can go by. There needs to be a place for both horses and bikes.

Stevens stated that 1.5% of land is being requested for mountain bikes. This property has repair issues and it would cost the City lots of money. The bike group is volunteering to clean it up and if it were to be used, it would be maintained by the bike group as well. He asked Sharon Dickgrafe what kind of laws there were in order to punish the violators of the policies at PPP.

Sharon Dickgrafe stated that violators can be ticketed. The police can be contacted as well and they can give warnings, citations, tickets and go to court. But they would need to enforce the rules.

Solter stated that barriers need to be in place if this is passed. Also stated that in the time he has been on the Board the Council approved \$300 million PROS plan. It was supported by the Board. Stated that the Board should be stewards of open spaces and this is a good example of public and private partnering. Stated he supported this and he appreciated the challenges.

Stevens stated that if the bike trail is included as a Park operation it could increase citizen usage and that is a good thing. He saw problems/concerns on both sides of the issue. He welcomed the horse people to return and make a proposal to the Board.

Goolsby asked if the Board passed the motion, what would the next steps be and if the City would sign off on it with the hazards.

**Motion by Frye, second by Brown, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to develop an MOU for Board approval with the Kansas Singletrack Society (KSS) to develop, care for and maintain a mountain bike facility at Air Capital Park . Staff will work with KSS to develop a lease for on-going care and maintenance. The lease will be brought back to the Board for approval.**

**Motion by Frye, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to develop a coalition with respect to safety and security at Pawnee Prairie Park (PPP) with representatives from the horse community, bike community, Park and Recreation and neighbors of PPP to make it safe & secure for people who are using PPP the way it was intended to be used.**

**Item 4: Updates from the Director and President**

Frye asked if there were any updates on Dr. Dye was on the agenda for tomorrow.

Frye stated he would be at City Council in support. He extended an invitation to the new Council members to join the Board today. Stated that the council member from District III could not make it.

Frye stated that Marty Miller would be speaking at the Grand Opening of the Children's Garden at Botanica on July 2, 2011.

Kupper introduced the Park and Recreation Marketing and Development Director, Stacey Hamm, who starts on 5/2/11.

Karen Walker stated that she and Misty Bruckner from WSU have been working with the Recreation Staff to develop a mission statement to present to the Board in May. They are focusing on several goals. The new Summer Activity Guide will be out on 5/8. She stated that the department was approved as a 501C3 status. This grants the department a non-profit status for capital improvements for facilities. The department also brought approximately 200 former Syndeo workers to the City payroll. She also stated that there would be a fall retreat for the staff and their efforts would be brought to the Board for approval.

Stevens asked if anyone on the Board was attending the meetings.

Walker replied that it has just been her staff.

Stevens answered there are millions of dollars in the facilities. And it is a profit venture that should be taken more seriously.

Goalsby asked if Stephens wanted to be invited to the meetings.

Stevens replied that someone that is equivalent to one of them needs to be included in the meetings.

Walker stated that she would like to have one more meeting with just her staff. She stated she is concerned that her staff will not be as open if there are Board members present. She has already told the staff they would have to come to the next Board meeting to give an update.

Kupper asked the Board to review the handout from Walker and if they saw any holes to let them know.

Solter stated that he agreed with Stevens. He said he had asked Misty to involve the Park Board and thought she was going to do that. But it looks like it is ok.

Brown asked that the Board be given documentation sooner.

Stevens stated that he started out against it...saving the \$1 million on the recreation centers' operation. The City Manager had come to the Board stating that they had to save \$1 million. After making the study and working on the project Stevens stated he was now in agreement with saving the money and providing better service to citizens. What aggravated him was that the City plans to give a \$10,000 forgivable loan to Nestor Weigand, one of the city's wealthiest citizens, and he had a serious problem with that. It's not right for the Park department to save money just to turn around and give it to rich folks.

Goolsby stated that he thought the Park staff agreed with Stevens.

Frye introduced Marty Miller to give an update on Botanica.

Miller stated that Botanica had had a good year. He stated that the Children's Garden was approximately 85% done. On 6/23 there will be a soft opening for donors. On 6/26 there will be a soft opening for members. And the grand opening to the public will be on 7/2. He stated that there will be an overlay road at Sim Drive. There will also be a second entry for buses and special events.

Frye stated that the next Board meeting will be on 5/16 at Auburn Hills.

Claycomb stated that Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) regional board would meet for the first time on 5/9 and would continue to meet through the fall.

Brown suggested moving the June meeting to Botanica.

Dickgrafe announced that she has a new position in law and may not be present for the next meeting. She was promoted to First Deputy. She stated that she is still trying to get Airport under the Park Board.

#### **Item 5: Issues on the Horizon**

None

#### **Item 6: Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:20 p.m.

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**Bryan Frye, President**

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**Christina Butler, Clerk**