

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Orchard Recreation Center
4808 W. 9th Street
September 19, 2011
3:00 p.m.**

Present: Bryan Frye, Andy Solter, Randy Brown, Tom Roth, Cindy Claycomb, Cynthia Landers

Absent: None

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Christina Butler, Clerk, Don Harrison, Golf Division Manager, Sharon Dickgrafe, Chief Deputy City Attorney, Karen Holmes, Superintendent of Recreation Department, J Van Sickle, David Traster, Charles Wiggins, Jack Kratzer, Brooke Martin, Jerry Warren, Trisha Epps, Citizens

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

Frye introduced the newest Park Board Commissioner, Cynthia Landers, and the Superintendent of Recreation, Karen Holmes.

Brown noted that District IV had not appointed a new member for the Park Board yet.

PUBLIC AGENDA

J Van Sickle represented Ventures Business Park which is adjacent to Chisholm Creek Park. He proposed changing the chain link fence currently separating the business and the park to a wrought iron fence at their expense because the company would like to build apartments. He has received an estimate from American Fence and the cost would be approximately \$30,000.

Kupper asked if there would still be public access to the park.

Van Sickle replied yes and that gates would be provided. He stated that they wanted to improve the quality of the fence and sought the Park Board's approval of the proposal.

Solter asked if the fence would be on the property line of Ventures Business Park.

Van Sickle replied yes due to the upkeep of the fence.

Claycomb asked if the old chain link fence would be removed.

Van Sickle replied yes.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Brown, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO move this off-agenda item to an on-agenda item.

Motion by Landers, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO authorize and accept the offer to replace the fence.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion by Frye, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO swap 3A with 3B on the Agenda.

Item 1A: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Frye, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO approve the minutes of the August 10, 2011 Park Board Meeting.

Motion by Frye, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO approve the minutes of the August 15, 2011 Park Board Meeting.

Brown noted that on the minutes of the September 10th meeting his statement should read “all scenarios should have the bottom line at \$500,000 with no course closings” rather than “a scenario....”.

Motion by Frye, second by Roth, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO approve the minutes of the September 10, 2011 Park Board Meeting with changes as per Brown’s comments.

Item 2A: Charles Wiggins & Duplicate Bridge Request to Lease Building

Kupper stated that Charles Wiggins had approached him regarding a partnership with the Duplicate Bridge Club. He introduced Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Traster to the Park Board.

Wiggins gave a brief history of Duplicate Bridge and stated that the local group of players lacked focused leadership and a place to play. He noted that there were approximately 400 registered members with the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) and 200 of those members were from Wichita. He stated they needed the help of the Park Department whom they had previously approached, but had focused on buying property. He stated his group was currently playing at Wassall and Hydraulic and would like a better location. He requested Goldenrod Enclosed Shelter and would like to make it the center for Duplicate Bridge and perhaps Rubber Bridge in Wichita.

Solter asked if they would lease a portion of the building.

Wiggins stated he would like almost exclusive use of the facility. He stated they would have 16 tables set up for 64 players and would use the south side of the facility six (6) times a week.

Solter stated that their use of the building would preclude any other rentals of the facility.

Kupper stated that they were basically proposing an exclusive lease. He noted that a church group was using the facility on Sundays and the Young Champions cheerleaders were using the facility as well. However, he noted that the Young Champions cheerleaders could be moved to a different location.

Holmes asked if they would consider offering a class to teach younger people the game.

Wiggins replied that they would be interested.

Brown noted that there was a large class at Wichita State University (WSU).

Wiggins stated that one of his people taught the class at WSU and there were several classes being taught throughout Wichita which could be brought under one umbrella if the proposal were approved.

Landers asked if the group would lose players if they moved to a different location.

Wiggins stated they would not lose members because most of the people who ran the games were in favor of the move. He noted they had spent \$4500 on equipment for scoring and computer hands.

Solter asked who would be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance if they were the sole users of the facility.

Wiggins replied that they would be responsible. He also stated that they had driven by Goldenrod and felt it was very accessible and in a good neighborhood.

Traster stated that there were younger people such as himself who played the game and they have had problems finding a place to play where they were not bothered by other activities.

Brown suggested that having a centralized location could help de-fragment the group.

Frye asked Kupper if there was a concern over losing revenue if they were to approve this partnership.

Kupper stated they might make more money with this partnership. There could be a possibility of taking down the set-up on Saturdays for weekend rentals of the facility.

Frye stated that if the current tenants were good tenants, they may not want to push them out.

Kupper stated that the rule states that church groups may use the facility two (2) times a month for services, but this group had been using the facility four (4) to five (5) times a month. He stated that his staff could bring different scenarios to the Board for review.

Motion by Solter, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO investigate the possibilities of a partnership and bring back for discussion to possibly negotiate a lease.

Item 2B: Elections

Frye noted that John Stevens had been the nominating committee, however since he had resigned Tom Roth was in his place.

Brown stated that he had been uncomfortable with the nomination process.

Roth stated that he did not want to violate any open meeting rules.

Dickgrafe stated that it is acceptable to solicit input or recommendations. She also noted that the by-laws state all appointments to the Board must have been made prior to nominations and elections. Therefore she stated they may have to delay elections until all appointments have been qualified. She suggested they could defer for a month.

Motion by Brown, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO defer elections until a full Board was in place.

Item 3B: CIP Review

Kupper distributed copies of the current adopted CIP from 2008/2009 and the most recent Park and Recreation rebuttal of the CIP. He stated that the CIP was typically reviewed every two years and they were entering the third year.

Claycomb asked if Golf had already been removed from the CIP.

Kupper stated that yes it had been removed because it was not under GO funds. Golf funds would be used for the Golf CIP.

Frye stated that there had been discussion about forgiving the Auburn Hills debt so there had to be a correlating CIP fund reduction.

Kupper stated that the athletic courts (basketball and tennis) had allotments to be repaired and/or replaced. He noted that the Arkansas River Access Plan had been added to the CIP in order to make the Arkansas River one of the longest navigatable rivers by creating access points in order to get past the concrete if one is floating on the river. He also noted that according to the PROS plan, Boston Recreation Center may need renovations. He stated that the first two (2) years of CIP are usually set in stone, but the next eight (8) years are nebulous, thus the reason to review the CIP every two (2) years.

Brown stated that he thought the Board was only going to review the CIP in regards to what was to be deleted per the Golf scenarios.

Kupper stated that he and his staff did not want to pre-suppose what the Park Board would want to forego in the CIP.

Claycomb asked if 2011/2012 would be set once City Council approved it.

Kupper stated that the Board could eliminate a little from 2011 and 2012.

Frye asked if the Board would get credit if they removed the Golf Course dollars.

Kupper replied no. He stated that they each represented a district and he had chosen not be presumptuous with their districts.

Brown stated that he would like Kupper to have the recommendations for the Board.

Solter asked how soon this would be needed.

Frye stated that the Board had until the end of the year.

Solter stated that he agreed with Brown and liked the idea of Kupper making the recommendations rather than the Park Board.

Kupper stated that one of the scenarios eliminated all Golf Course CIP.

Frye asked why there was \$500,000 added for Recreation Centers.

Kupper replied that Finance had added this to cover the Recreation Center improvements. He noted that they would like to replace the Edgemoor pool due to a leaking issue and to make it ADA accessible. He stated that Finance had cut \$1 million from the bottom line of the Park and Recreation proposed CIP. In 2008 Park and Recreation had asked for \$3.2 million.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO receive and file the CIP.

Kupper noted that the City Manager may have already changed the CIP and that he could not guarantee the dollars of the current CIP.

Harrison added that the document presented to the Board by the City Manager at the previous meeting had items that totaled to \$22 million which did not match the \$28 million on the CIP.

Item 3A: Golf Course Sustainability Scenarios

Kupper distributed a Golf Course Sustainability plan to the Board. He stated that regardless of which scenario(s) was chosen, improving marketing for the golf courses and enhancing customer service skills for the pros and the employees would be in place. He noted that there were daily operation changes

being suggested and a request to create classes for golfers. He also stated that the pros had suggested an incentive program for all full-time employees of each golf course.

Frye asked if the seasonal employees were considered part-time.

Kupper replied yes.

Kupper reviewed the first proposal which would be to eliminate all discounts and decrease the green fee with cart to \$30. This proposal could make \$4.8 million for the Golf Division.

Landers asked what discounts were currently offered.

Kupper stated that there were currently 18 different discounts offered. Kupper noted that there was a Senior Discount, Super Senior Discount, 7-Day Couples Pass and several others.

Brown asked which discounts were the most popular.

Harrison stated that the Senior and Super Senior discounts were the most popular.

Brown asked how many senior rounds were included in the 160,000 rounds of golf.

Harrison stated that approximately 23,000 rounds were senior rounds.

Kupper went on to the second proposal which would increase everything by two dollars (\$2).

Solter asked if the Golf Division would lose seniors if they raised fees for them.

Kupper stated that they had increased fees for them last year.

Harrison stated they estimate they could lose approximately 10% of the seniors with a fee increase.

Frye stated that he did not like proposal three.

Brown stated that he thought proposal three should be skipped.

Solter stated that he did not like proposal two because they would have to defer any golf course improvements to 2016. He stated there was a need to improve the quality of the golf courses.

Harrison noted with proposal two they would be charging more, but making no improvements to the golf courses.

Solter stated that he preferred proposal one.

Brown stated that he did not feel proposal one was as attractive because they would be eliminating all discounts. He felt proposal two was better because they could still offer discounts. Or he suggested refining proposal one to maintain discounts for seniors and youth.

Frye opened the discussion to the Public.

Jerry Warren (520 N. Elder) stated he supported proposal one with a 10-15% discount for seniors and youth. He suggested a tournament to support/sponsor the golf courses could be an opportunity.

Trisha Epps (620 W. Osie) stated that if they decided to close one of the golf courses, she would like to open a dog sports/country club where different classes could be offered.

Frye stated that the Board had previously voted not to close a course. But there was a possibility of reducing to a 9-hole course. He thought Ms. Epps had a good idea and should talk further with Karen Holmes and possibly bring the idea back to the Board.

Motion by Brown, to send back one or two proposals with fee increases to allow flexibility for earlier CIP.

Frye asked for an amendment to identify the CIP projects.

Brown accepted the amendment.

Second by Claycomb.

Roth asked if there was concern that the Golf Division would lose more rounds if the fees were increased too much. He asked if they should implement the fee increase now since the golfers had stated they were willing to pay a fee increase now.

Kupper stated that the City Council could change the fee increase if they do not like the \$5 fee increase.

Claycomb suggested the proposals should not include a 2% round increase.

Brown asked if someone could email a list of the discounts to the members of the Park Board.

The motion passed 5-0 (Landers had excused herself from the meeting).

Item 4: Updates from the Director and President

Frye thanked all staff for their participation in Play Day 2011.

Kupper stated that there were an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 citizens in attendance that day.

Frye stated that Park Board Goals would be placed on the agenda once all Commissioners had been qualified.

Frye noted that the ground breaking for the Via Christi/LaFarge Miracle Field at Orchard Park would probably be next month.

Frye stated that per the by-laws, the Park Board meetings are to take place in City Hall, however last year it was voted to move the meeting locations to see the various recreation centers and enclosed

shelters. He stated that while it was good to see the centers, he would like to see the meetings back at City Hall.

Brown stated that he would like to have some off-site meetings, but would like most to be at City Hall.

Frye stated that if the Board wanted to continue to have all off-site meetings, there would need to be a motion and vote to do so for 2012.

Kupper stated that they had broken ground for the Meridian Dog Park. He stated that the Rain Garden Grotto project was complete and thanked Larry Hoetmer and his staff for their work on the project.

Solter asked about the Golf Advisory Committee.

Frye stated that he had talked with some people who were interested in participating on this committee. He suggested forwarding names and contact information to Kupper.

Claycomb stated she had been approached regarding implementing a Tobacco Free Policy at all athletic fields.

Dickgrafe stated that she would review the state law and would advise the Board of her findings.

Kupper stated that a policy could possibly be enacted, but not an ordinance.

Item 5: Issues on the Horizon

No items.

Item 6: Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25pm.

Bryan Frye, President

Christina Butler, Clerk