

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Park and Recreation Conference Room
455 N. Main, 11th floor, City Hall
Monday, October 18, 2010
3:00 p.m.**

Present: Bryan Frye, Cindy Claycomb, Tom Roth, Andy Solter, John Stevens, Matt Goolsby

Absent: Randy Brown

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Mark Savoy, Savoy Company Land Surveyors, Stan Kent, USD 259, Curt Van Boening, Audubon Society, Richard Schodorf, citizen, Jerry Warren, citizen

President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. and welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

PUBLIC AGENDA

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

Motion by Solter, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the September 18, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the September 18, 2010 retreat meeting minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners.

Item 2A: Easement Request at Lynette Woodard Park

Kupper informed the Board that Estelle Street easement runs through the adjoining properties of Isley Elementary and Lynette Woodard Park. The easement request runs diagonally across the northern portion of the property and will have no impact on the facility.

Savoy requested the Park Board vacate the easement to allow installation of approximately 20 feet of storm sewer drainage to allow for USD 259 construction of a new building. The area will be returned to original condition when completed.

Frye clarified the easement location on Lynette Woodard Park and USD 259 property and asked if there would be any displacement of athletic field use during the construction.

Savoy stated there are no athletic fields at this location, it is open space.

Claycomb clarified the area would be returned to original condition, including grass.

Savoy affirmed.

Kupper stated there had been a previous long term lease with USD 259 of the open space between the buildings. The lease was terminated to allow USD 259 construction.

Frye asked for public comment, there was none.

Motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the 20 foot permanent storm sewer drainage easement on the north side of Lynette Woodard Park.

Item 2B: Nominating Process for Officers

Frye stated Brown suggested a review of the Bylaw process for officer nominations at the September meeting. The Bylaws are non specific on the process other than which officers should be nominated. Frye read the Library Board process for nominations.

Solter said it was in the best interest of the Board to have a formal procedure.

Frye asked Dickgrafe to confirm the process for the Board to amend the Bylaws.

Dickgrafe stated the Board would direct the amendment of the Bylaws, vote to approve the amendments at the next meeting, and submit to City Council for approval.

Claycomb suggested the number of members to the nominating committee should be determined.

Dickgrafe stated no more than three, as four would be a quorum of the Board, assuming all seven members are seated.

Goalsby stated the Library Board has fourteen members and their process may not necessarily be relevant.

Kupper suggested the President appoint the Vice President and second Vice President as the nominating committee.

Solter asked if the primary function of the nominating committee would be to gain nominees.

Goalsby said the process also leaves the nomination open to suggestions from the floor.

Dickgrafe stated the nomination would be by written ballot if more than one name was nominated for one position.

Motion by Frye, second by Solter, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE Dickgrafe amending the Board of Park Commissioner Bylaws to add appropriate legal wording for the nominating committee to be the first and second vice presidents appointed two months prior to September elections. An open position will be appointed by the president. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers at the September meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the

floor. The vote for officers shall be by written ballot if two or more persons have been nominated for one office. Dickgrafe will present amendments to the Board for approval at the November 2011 meeting.

There was discussion relating to attendance required by the Bylaws and the process of notification to the appointing Council Member.

Item 3A: Finalize West Douglas Park lease to USD 259 for athletic track

Dickgrafe provided a copy of the lease agreement to the Board. The lease was negotiated between the legal departments of the City of Wichita and USD 259.

Goolsby asked if the lease could be cancelled in the future.

Kupper stated with appropriate notice the lease could be cancelled.

Dickgrafe stated the lease is for 10 years with 4 – 10 year extensions, without notification there is automatic renewal.

Frye noted there was no mention of tree replacement in the lease.

Kupper stated that forestry has been contacted to meet with USD 259 to inventory the trees for removal.

Stevens noted there was no mention of the cooperative signage to be placed at Cessna Elementary School and West Douglas Park in the lease.

Dickgrafe stated it was located in item 3B. Sign design is not attached to the provided lease.

Kupper stated he has seen the sign design but does not have a copy.

Stevens asked if Dickgrafe had attachment "A".

Dickgrafe stated she did not.

Claycomb noted the lease states the improvement cannot be used while school is in session. The public would not have access between 9 am and 3 pm or during after school practice or games. This restriction was never marketed to the Board and the Board never agreed to such restrictions. The restrictions are stated in sections 3B and 4.

Goolsby questioned the spirit of the trade when USD 259 is restricting access.

Stevens agreed this restriction was never mentioned during the request for lease from USD 259.

Kent questioned whether the Board had the current lease version.

Dickgrafe left the meeting to check with legal for an updated lease.

Solter stated he did not disagree with the school restricting access when children are using the playground at the elementary or the athletic track at the middle school.

Goolsby questioned the lease by a business standpoint alone. The Board is trading the unrestricted use of park land for an improvement on school property. The money is used for improvement to their property and restrictions will be placed on the trade. The Board is giving something up and relinquishing control when the trade will continue to be possessed by the school and further restrictions will be placed on it. This is not good business.

Stevens stated the Board was not told about any restrictions.

Solter stated he is appointed to help produce a quality City of Wichita and that includes the safety of the school children.

Goolsby stated his first priority as a Park Board member is to preserving the parks and then to the City of Wichita. The Board is first charged with preserving park assets and then to promote the city. The Board is charged with being good stewards of public park land.

Kent stated he understood the concerns of the Board. Kent stated when the fence location is determined at Mayberry Middle School, park Architect Hoetmer will have input where the fence and gate will be installed. A gate in the park is planned. USD 259 has tried to make the process a give and take. The drive leading to the pavilion and parking lot crosses school land and access is unrestricted by the school.

Goolsby stated he appreciated the give and take process. But while considering the driveway a give and take, USD 259 is placing restriction on what should also be an unrestricted give and take at Cessna Elementary and Mayberry Middle School. Goolsby stated he understood the safety aspect to protect the kids but that is not going to circumvent his duties as a Park Board member to protect parks and the Park Department. Goolsby stated he is tired of hearing about the driveway.

Kent stated the other reason for the fencing is to prevent vandalism and driving on the track.

Frye stated the concern is the restrictions at Cessna Elementary, the Board understands the need for fencing at the athletic track.

Claycomb suggested the restriction should state when the walking path is not being used by Cessna Elementary School students. This would be less restrictive than when school is in session.

Stevens agreed that the children should be protected but the restriction was not brought up during the lease request presentation. Something was changed during the legal process and the lease no longer reflects what was agreed to by the Board.

Kupper stated changes can be directed through Dickgrafe.

Dickgrafe returned to the meeting and stated she did not have an updated lease or attachment "A".

Solter supported Claycomb's suggestion for stated restrictions.

Frye asked for public comment, there was none.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Stevens, for Dickgrafe to amend verbiage in the lease agreement to state the members of the general public at Southview Park shall have access to the walking/exercise path at all times at Cessna Elementary School when the walking/exercise path is not being used by Cessna Elementary School students.

Roth offered an amendment to add the same verbiage to the athletic track at Mayberry Middle School in West Douglas Park.

Claycomb accepted the amendment, Stevens second.

IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE the motion with amendments. 5 – 1, Goolsby dissent.

Motion by Frye, second by Claycomb, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE Dickgrafe amend the lease to add the original Park Board motion to replace 8 – 12 trees, 1 removal to 1 replacement, at least 2 inch caliper at locations determined by the Department of Park and Recreation. If more trees require removal it will require additional Board approval. 5 – 1, Goolsby dissent.

Frye stated the amendments to the lease do not indicate approval of the lease. The amended lease will be brought back to the Board for the November meeting.

Item 3B: 2011 Park Board Goals

Frye reviewed the 2011 Park Board Goals with the Board. There was no discussion.

Motion by Frye, second by Goolsby, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the formal adoption of the 2011 Park Board Goals.

Item 3C: Discussion of Public Meetings

Kupper stated the initial Focus Group meeting to plan the future of the Department of Park and Recreation with information from the Public Meetings is scheduled for November 2, 3:00 pm in the Park Conference Room.

Frye asked if any other public meetings are scheduled.

Kupper stated none were scheduled. Board Members may want to get the opinion of their district Council Member of how the model drafted from the Focus Group will be presented to the public. This will also be a topic for the Focus Group.

Frye asked what the timeline is once the model is drafted.

Kupper stated the City Council will have to take official action on whatever is proposed from the Focus Group on the model and how things will move forward in the Park and Recreation Department. Plans need to be finalized by January 1, 2011. A workshop with the City Council is anticipated.

Stevens stated the Lynette Woodard public meeting had conflict. The WSU representative did not provide an adequate view of the public meeting and was dismissive to attendees. The opinion of the public was that the decision had already been made to shut the center down and the public meeting was just a formality which would not be considered. Stevens stated he promised the citizens at that meeting the model would be presented back to the public and they would have an opportunity to provide additional input. Council Member Lavonta Williams was to be meeting with the council of elders in that community.

Frye asked if problems occurred at other public meetings.

Claycomb stated at the meetings she attended, citizens were told the final model would be presented back to the public for further comment. No one said it would be through public meetings at each recreation center, but that the model would be available for public input before it was voted on by City Council.

Kupper stated it might be through the media, internet, or publications.

Solter stated at Colvin Recreation Center there was the same lack of sensitivity or respect to the public from the WSU representative. No translators were present. Hispanic and Asian members were not properly considered. Solter stated he asked for the meeting to slow down to allow translation to the attendees, but that consideration was not given. WSU was going through a set of motions instead of an engagement with the public. Solter stated it was so obvious he was ashamed of the presentation. Solter asked if WSU is the only one working on the data at this time or is anyone else involved.

Kupper stated his understanding is all comments from the public meetings will be compiled for the Focus Group. Some of the work was done by park staff and provided to WSU. WSU is providing their completed documents to the Park Department.

Claycomb asked if both presenters were the same person because the facilitator at McAdams and Evergreen were very good.

Kupper stated they were different facilitators.

Stevens stated the facilitator at Linwood was excellent. The whole issue is emotional for people who use the facilities.

Solter stated the people attending the meetings are dependent upon the services provided by the centers.

Kupper said he is not aware of any meetings scheduled prior to the November 2 meeting. Attendance at the public meetings was around 1,000 people. The biggest problem was the majority of people were not users of the Department programs; they were users of the building through rented space such as senior services. The fundamental question is would those services continue if the center was not staffed by Park and Recreation. Could programming go forward if it is not provided by the Department.

Goalsby stated only 1 parent from Summer of Discovery attended the Aley/Stanley meeting. 384 children may care more about the program than the parents.

Claycomb asked if the November 2 will be a public meeting.

Kupper stated citizens may attend and their participation would be solicited if they are willing to attend all of the focus meetings.

Solter stated his respect for Misty Buckner. The presenters at each center determined the quality of the presentation.

Claycomb asked if there was a Park Board member at every public meeting.

Frye affirmed.

Kupper said 25,500 meeting flyers were distributed through the public schools and to neighborhoods. People responded when they believed they were losing services or the center would be closed. Council stated the centers will not be closed but that does not mean the centers will be staffed.

Goolsby stated concern over accuracy of numbers presented at the public meetings. The WSU representative at Osage stated some of the numbers were inaccurate.

Frye said there was expressed interest in how many users are non city residents.

Claycomb stated the YMCA facilities have hurt the neighborhood recreation centers for youth attendance. The YMCA does not offer senior programming.

Stevens stated there was concern over 10 year old census data.

Goolsby stated Osage did not appreciate being compared to Evergreen where they have a neighborhood City Hall, Grace Medical, amenities and space that are not comparable to Osage. There is also an increased youth demographic at Evergreen. It is impossible to make accurate comparisons when each recreation center is unique.

Kupper stated some of the discussion suggested duplication of assets to increase capacity.

Claycomb said the compressed time frame for the study is unfortunate. The end result could be positive if assets improve to increase to capacity. Claycomb asked what the Board can do to use the opportunity to increase capability at each center.

Frye said the Board should make an effort to attend the November 2 meeting and to visit with their Council representative.

Stevens left the meeting.

Item 4: Updates from the Director and President

Frye stated he attended the Boo-tanica event at Botanica. Attendance was triple last year's numbers. There is an obvious interest in the Children's Garden.

Kupper stated the access road construction was completed just prior to the event.

Frye stated the West Douglas Park shelter had been completed and asked if plans are being made for a dedication.

Kupper stated a date is being finalized.

Kupper said the Ashley Dog Park dedication went smoothly. 50 – 60 dogs attended and the Fire Department canines attended.

Kupper said the latest CIP plan is being updated. Two new years and a better definition of PROS outcome are being included. Parks are being looked at as a whole instead of making single improvements.

Kupper stated approval is being requested on October 19 to apply for a grant to initiate walking groups at several recreation centers.

Kupper said the Lincoln Street Dam project has been approved with canoe-ability. With City Council approval final design documents are being completed. Construction should begin in 2011 with a target completion date of 2012.

Item 5: Issues on the Horizon

Kupper stated Richard Schodorf plans to make a presentation on Trail Markers at the November meeting.

Item 6: Adjourn

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:45 p.m.

Bryan Frye, President

Lee Ann Sack, Clerk