

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Park and Recreation Conference Room
11th Floor, City Hall
Monday, April 19, 2010
3:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: Randy Brown

Also Present: Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Karen Walker, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Debbie Williams, Health and Wellness Coalition, Dick Sanders, Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame (KBHF), Daryl Spencer, KBHF, Paul Savage, KBHF, Janet Wright, Wichita Festivals Inc., Linda Davidson, Wichita Festivals Inc., Jerry Warren, citizen

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

PUBLIC AGENDA

None.

REGULAR AGENDA

Item 1: Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Roth, second by Goolsby, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board regular meeting minutes of March 8, 2010.

Item 2A: Wichita Festivals

Davidson and Wright, from Wichita Festivals, Inc., presented current plans and future possibilities for Wichita Riverfest and proposed utilization of parks. 2010 plans include usage of the Hyatt lawn, Century II, Kennedy Plaza, A. Price Woodard Park, West Bank Stage and areas along the river. Hyatt lawn will have a new addition of a Hot Air Balloon Glow on Sunday, May 9. Via Christi will have a Walk Fest in Central Riverside Park. A change to the event will be a gate admission of \$10 per person to West Bank concerts. Buttons remain \$5 each for 9 days of events.

Frye asked what a Hot Air Balloon Glow entailed.

Davidson explained the balloons would be inflated and tethered, there is no launch. There will also be a helium biodegradable balloon launch for the first 500 kids in attendance.

Goolsby asked if permits would be required under the newly passed Ordinance 9.3.

Kupper stated this is covered by the special event application from Wichita Festivals for the entire event.

Dickgrafe stated the special event application required the approval of the director.

Wright presented the Board with a potential scenario for 2011 as the 40 year anniversary of the event and in contingency to the downtown area, should the need arise. The committee is seeking input for changing the primary location to Central Riverside Park. Other locations were considered and omitted as they did not meet the needs of Riverfest. A presentation has been made to the Riverside Citizens Association, Downtown Development Corporation and all City Council members. The committee is seeking a family friendly location that supports growth, is central to downtown, has river access and is conducive to safety controls to participants. There needs to be minimal impact to businesses and residents. Nearby parking is required. 2.3 million square feet is potentially available in Central Riverside Park. The location is near and accessible to downtown-museums, Botanica and an abundance of parking and Bus routes. Natural points of entry could be at the Murdock Bridge off Waco and also Nims near the parking area. The area would be gated. The river is wide, shallow and slower in the Riverside area. Wichita Police Department and private security would provide security 24 hours during the event.

Dickgrafe stated the ordinance now allows the gating of any park, with director approval and the appropriate application and permit.

Wright said parking is the main concern for residents in the area as well as access for their guests. Parking in residential areas would be restricted for homeowner and guest use. A shuttle service could bring attendees to the park.

Davidson stated the committee is fully aware of the challenges traffic and parking will pose to the change in venue. Presentations have been made to Riverside Neighborhood Association, Wichita Police and Fire Departments for access alternatives. Other considerations would be made for trash disposal, problem citizens on the perimeter, handicap drop-off point and portable restrooms. Residents would have access to walking paths in the morning before events began.

Goalsby asked if there would be compensation for using the park.

Wright said there would be none. Wichita Festivals would leave the park in the same condition as before the event began. If grass or trees needed replacement, that would be done.

Dickgrafe said City Council gives in kind donation of resources. The Special Event application would address vending and admission to the park.

Goalsby asked if they intended to bring the beer garden to the park.

Wright said the intent would be to serve 3.2 cereal malt beverages and continue the beer garden.

Goalsby asked if this is proposed for 2011.

Wright confirmed.

Frye asked if available area is being lost in the downtown area for 2011 by downtown development.

Wright said they are not aware of the final master plan for downtown development. The committee is making contingency plans should the need arise to move the event and also as a celebration of the 40 year anniversary.

Solter said he was certain the preparation and planning would make it possible to work together to use one of the city parks for Riverfest.

Claycomb asked about the set up and teardown time that would close the park to citizens.

Wright said this central location would make it much simpler and less of a burden on volunteers. An estimate would be three days prior and after the event.

Frye asked if there was any comment from the public.

Walker stated a concern over night concerts with noise and lights for the residents.

Wright said concerts would end by 9:30-9:45 p.m. All other events close at 9:00 p.m.

Davidson stated as this will be the 40th anniversary, the committee is seeking to update and implement changes where necessary. Usage of the Intrust or Hartman Arenas alleviates the need for large concerts so smaller concert stages will be dispersed throughout the area.

Tyler Cooper, 8026 E. Morningside, said he was supportive of the plan. Traditionally central events have been planned in the downtown area, is the committee concerned that moving those events will reduce attendance.

Davidson said they like the downtown setting as it promotes one big party. Future space may be an issue and it is time to have a contingency plan in place.

Wright said she hoped the change in location would not lose downtown involvement.

Frye asked if they were seeking an endorsement or agreement from the Board.

Wright said they would like a statement of support from the Board.

Claycomb asked if the Block Party is still moving to Old Town.

Wright confirmed.

Frye stated this possibility would keep parks in the forefront of citizen's attention and a good opportunity to promote city parks.

Motion by Goolsby, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE entering discussion for moving Riverfest 2011 to Riverside Park.

Stevens asked if Davidson or Wright would like to see a new park in the downtown area.

Davidson stated it would have a positive impact to make the West Bank Stage and Amphitheater into a permanent park.

Frye noted that Music Theatre would also be celebrating their 40 year anniversary next year.

Davidson said there may be a change in event dates for Riverfest in the future to begin the Friday after Memorial Day and lasting 9 days.

Item 2B: McAdams Park Proposed Memorial

Don Porter, presenter, was not present.

Motion by Frye, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to delay item 2B to the end of the meeting.

Item 2C: Health and Wellness Coalition

In support of 2010 Park Board Goal three (3) to continue developing partnerships in the community, Williams was invited to make a presentation before the Board.

Williams gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board on the Health and Wellness Coalition. The vision is for the entire community to live a healthy lifestyle. The mission statement is to promote physical activity and good nutrition for every generation living in the greater Wichita area through people, programs, and policies.

Williams stated the coalition is a 50 member organization, meeting bi-monthly, seeking to change the behavior of the community through increased activity. They hope to impact planning and policies in the city to achieve health and wellness. The addition of walking and bike paths would be an example. A monthly newsletter is produced and dispersed to approximately 5000 people. Funding is acquired through grants and awards. The coalition has an interactive website, www.hwcwichita.org.

Williams alerted the Board to the Working Well Conference to be held August 24, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. Board members are invited.

Williams informed the Board that May is Bike Month. Last year's activities included a Bike to Work Day. This year the Sedgwick County Commission and City Council will be proclaiming May as Bike Month. Activities scheduled are Bike to Work Day, Bike to School Guide, and Bike Rodeo with bike handling skills. Random acts of kindness will reward children biking to school by handing out helmets or t-shirts. Gift coins will be handed out to those biking to Old Town, Farmers Market and Kansas Grown Market. Bicycle exchange will be offering bike inspections. Oz Bicycle Club is providing their schedule of events. Channel 7 will be showing bicycle safety information and Bike Month promotion and the Mayor will be demonstrating putting your bicycle on the city bus. Council Members Williams and Miller will be promoting Bike to Work. Park and Recreation will be providing bike racks at Riverfest.

Williams said the citizens of Wichita will be challenged to ride their bikes a combined one million miles in the month of May. Miles would be logged on a website. Seattle tried for three years before they obtained a million mile month.

Goolsby asked is you still need a license or permit for a bicycle.

Kupper stated a new ordinance may be presented in the near future to eliminate bicycle licenses.

Williams said another event is I Bike Douglas, May 22, sponsored by Downtown Development.

Williams stated they continue to seek partnerships to advance health and wellness. Some existing partnerships are with Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care, City of Wichita, Park and Recreation, Wichita Play Commission, Dump the Pump, Built Environment and Visioneering Wichita.

Claycomb asked where to sign up for the newsletter.

Williams referred Claycomb to the website, www.hwcwichita.org.

Goolsby asked how all of this is funded.

Williams stated the YMCA, Wichita Community Foundation, grants and donations fund the programs. There is no budget.

Kupper stated that no taxpayer money is used for the program.

Frye asked for public comment. There was none.

Item 2D: Request from Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame to rename West Side Athletic Field – Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame Athletic Fields

Dickgrafe stated section 6 of City Council Policy 13 should apply to this request;

“The selection of a name, if not a person’s name, must be based on the function of the facility and the image the name would project.”

Savage, Board of Directors Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame and President of the Wichita Sports Hall of Fame, on behalf of the Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame, petitions the Board of Park Commissioners to rename West Side Athletic Field, Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame Athletic Fields.

Savage introduced in attendance Daryl Spencer, Vice President Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame and Dick Sanders, President Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame. KBHF was founded in 1939, the second oldest hall of fame in the nation. Cooperstown was founded in 1936.

Savage cited three major reasons for the name change. First, it would be a great way to honor Kansas baseball players. Second, Savage believes it would be a great inspiration for upcoming players. Third, they believe the name is no longer relevant as the city has grown large enough the fields appear to be in the downtown area. Petitions from members were handed to the Board.

Goolsby asked if this violated the lease with Friends University.

Kupper stated he believed it did not and he had spoken with the Friends University Athletic Director who supported the name change.

Savage thought the Friends University partnership was good for baseball and was hopeful of the name change.

Frye asked if there was a Softball Hall of Fame.

Savage said there is an organization, but no location at this time.

Frye asked how much ball is being played at West Side Athletic Field.

Kupper stated all fields are playing either baseball or softball. Friends University has a lease of the main field.

Goolsby inquired to the cost of renaming and signing the field.

Kupper said that wood signs which are routed by park employees cost under \$500. The painted/stenciled signage on the stadium front at West Side Athletic Field is now covered up by the new sign for Friends University. On this sign, it has "West Side Athletic Field" painted on it.

Savage indicated they would be willing to help offset the cost.

Goolsby stated the name change would attract people who value the Hall of Fame.

Claycomb asked if the request is to rename the entire complex.

Savage confirmed.

Stevens asked if this request would comply with Facility Naming Policy 13.

Dickgrafe thought the request complied with the policy.

Roth stated he was uncomfortable with this request and did not think the City Council was prepared to name another facility name change at this time.

Frye asked for public comment.

Tyler Cooper, 8026 E. Morningside, suggested the Hall of Fame sponsor tournaments to gain public interest.

Savage stated that would be a possibility.

Roth stated he was not comfortable voting on this request at this time and would like to table the item.

Claycomb asked if the Board voted on the request, would it go to City Council right away.

Kupper said he takes all motions to City Council as quickly as possible.

Roth motioned to table the request to rename West Side Athletic Field, Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame Athletic Fields until the meeting in May. No second.

Motion by Solter, second by Stevens, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE renaming West Side Athletic Field to Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame Athletic Fields. 5 approve, Roth dissent.

Item 3: Continuation of Prior Business

Frye asked about two previous naming motions before City Council, Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Park and Arson Canine Ashley Memorial Dog Park.

Kupper stated he is working to get those before the City Council.

Frye encouraged all members to contact their council representative to bring the naming motions before the City Council for an up or down vote.

Kupper stated the City Manager is making sure all submissions follow Policy 13. The policy is being reviewed for clarity. Kupper is working to maintain the Board of Park Commissioners as naming authority for parks.

Stevens stated the City Council is abdicating their responsibility by not voting on the motion.

Item 4: Updates from the Director and President

Frye offered thanks to staff for planning the dedication of Chapin Park. The event was well attended. Frye asked who provided the kites.

Walker stated the Park and Recreation Department provided them.

Frye stated he would be attending the Goody Clancy meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on April 18, 8:00 a.m. There are enough members attending to constitute a quorum. The meeting needs to be published.

Frye stated April 29 is the ground breaking for Children's Garden at Botanica. He also noted Facilities Renovation and Lincoln Street Dam are on the April 20 Council agenda.

Solter asked how the Lincoln Street Dam proposal is going.

Kupper stated it is up to City Council to pick which plan to accept. The options are to replace the dam underneath the bridge or to separate the two and move the dam downstream. The canoe passage and fish passage are workable either way. Grant funding should cover a portion of those projects. Coast Guard funds for the canoe passage and Wildlife funds for the fish passage.

Kupper informed the Board that Ordinance 9.8 is ready to go back before DAB's. Subcommittee made no relevant changes. Martz and Combs will be presenting the revised ordinance at all DAB's in May and June. After Kupper reviews the changes, it will be sent to the Board.

Dickgrafe is also reviewing.

Claycomb asked if it will come back before the Board after re-presentation to DAB's.

Kupper confirmed.

Frye stated May 20, 4:00 p.m., Osage Recreation Center will be the next Wichita Play Commission meeting. Board members were encouraged to find their replacement if they have not already done so. The re-certification process is underway.

Stevens asked how to get \$10,000 for a trailer filled with play equipment that could be used by neighborhoods and special events in the city. CSBG funds were denied.

Kupper will check on this but stated the Wichita Play Commission is autonomous and can seek donations or grants separate from the Department of Park and Recreation.

Item 5: Issues of the Horizon

Stevens passed out a flyer proposing Park Board meetings be changed to another location outside of City Hall. Security screening is inconvenient and inefficient. The Mayor, City Manager and Police Chief have stated they would get security clearance for all Board members serving the city, but it has never accomplished. Stevens believes the MAPC is having the same problem.

Dickgrafe advised against adding off agenda items to the meeting, especially when it concerns moving scheduled meetings.

Frye asked if it would be possible to add this motion to the May meeting.

Stevens said he had been working on this issue for some time and now wants to make an official motion. Putting the motion on May's agenda would be acceptable. Parking is also going to be a problem as renovations are completed.

Goolsby agreed with Stevens.

Kupper stated the item would be on the May 17, 2010 agenda.

Frye asked if there were any other concerns from the public.

Tyler Cooper, 8026 E. Morningside, stated he appreciated the activities at the dedication of Chapin Park.

Item 2B tabled until May 17, 2010.

Walker passed out copies of the Kingsbury Master Plan and PROS annual report.

Item 6: Adjourn

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m.

April 19, 2010

Bryan Frye, President

Lee Ann Sack, Clerk

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