

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
Watson Park Enclosed Shelter  
3022 S. McLean Blvd.  
Saturday, September 18, 2010  
9:00 a.m.**

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

**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, Warren McCoskey, Acting Park Superintendent, Tracy Tams, Keri Miller, Carolyn Lindsey, Tom Hein, Phyllis Stanger, David Springs, Anthony Boyle, citizens

President Frye called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. and welcomed all visitors to the meeting.

**PUBLIC AGENDA**

None.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**Item 1: Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Brown, second by Claycomb, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board regular meeting minutes of August 16, 2010.**

**Item 2A: Election of Officers**

Frye stated the Board of Park Commissioner Bylaws state yearly elections are held to select a President, Vice President and Second Vice President. Frye stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve with all the Board members and as President of the Park Board. The Board is a unique collection of appointees with varying strengths and abilities. The different strengths, opinions and diversity have allowed the Board to represent the entire community as a whole. Not all decisions have been or will be unanimous, but the Board has maintained a goal to maintain and improve the parks to serve the public in all of their decisions.

Frye stated for the third year in a row, the Board is faced with questions and uncertainty. Staff and the community wonder what will be happening to Park and Recreation in the future. Right now the Park and Recreation Director, men and women of the department and the community need the Park Board to act as leaders to set the course for the future.

Frye said everyone who wants to be president should have the opportunity to lead. Going forward through this nominating process this year, we are set with a bare outline as it relates to the Bylaws; simply that we elect those three positions. In previous years, it has been cut and dried, we had one person who wanted to serve as president and it made it easy for the nominating committee to fulfill

that. This year there were different ideas presented, with different names bantered about. This put the nominating committee in a difficult position that was unfair to ask them to make a recommendation. Also, there was concern about open meetings and staying true to the intent of an open body. With that, there was no nominating committee, but Frye suggested he continue to serve as President, Matt Goolsby as Vice President and Tom Roth as Second Vice President.

Board members agreed; no discussion.

**Motion by Frye, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE Bryan Frye, President, Matt Goolsby, Vice President, Tom Roth, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.**

Brown suggested a more formal process for nominating officers, possibly following the Library Board format.

Kupper stated the nominating committee process had been used for many years. The Board has the authority to change the process.

Frye asked for a review of the Library Board nominating process at the October meeting.

Stevens stated he had never seen the Board in more difficult situations than are facing Park and Recreation at this time. He expressed his thanks to Frye for continuing as President. The Department will be facing difficult times with the loss of Tim Martz through retirement and Larry Foes who took a position elsewhere.

Brown said Frye has the ability to lead the Board through the difficulties ahead.

### **3. Continuation of Prior Business**

None.

### **4. Updates from the Director and President**

Kupper informed the Board of eleven agendas from the Department of Park and Recreation that had gone before City Council on September 14, 2010. All agendas were approved.

Policy 13, regarding the naming of parks and facilities was approved without considerable discussion. Kupper thanked the Board members who spoke at the council meeting. The City Council accepted the revised policy which will be the accepted guideline for future naming requests.

City Council approved the naming of the dog park in Chapin Park the "Arson Canine Ashley's Memorial Dog Park" as well as renaming the skate park in Edgemoor Park the "Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Park".

There were several Continuous Improvement Projects initiated under New Business. Funds were initiated from the Park Improvement Fund, which is used in part as matching funds for grants. The Sunflower Trails grant that Sack wrote and received required matching funds to complete the walking trail at Harvest Park. Money will also be used for completing the walking path at Boston Park and

kitchen renovations will take place at Linwood and Evergreen Recreation Centers which will enhance class opportunities and rentals.

Approval was given to begin the city's third dog park and the Park Department's second at Meridian Dog Park on 21<sup>st</sup> street, west of Meridian between 21<sup>st</sup> and the River. The Dog Park will be oriented so the parking area will be across from an apartment complex. A large open area will remain for baseball, soccer or kite flying.

The Irrigation system project will make improvements at Watson Park. The plan is to jack-n-bore under the river from the Gilbert/Mosley water reclamation plant to irrigate the most populated areas of Watson Park.

Permission was granted to apply for the Fit for Kansas Kids grant written by Sack and Walker for \$69,631. The primary request of the grant is for a traveling playmobile trailer filled with play equipment for children to have healthy play in the parks. The grant would also provide toddler age 2 – 5 play equipment at three of the city's parks.

An item from Public Works was approved for the bicycle path completion between Garvey Park through Chapin Park to Planeview Park. Completion should be in the fall.

Frye stated thanks to volunteers and staff that assisted with storm clean-up at Auburn Hills and tree clean-up in south Wichita. Park and Recreation staff did the majority of work to re-open the golf course for the scheduled tournament. Thanks were also given to staff for their effort to provide the second annual Play Day at Watson Park.

Frye reminded the Board of Tim Martz retirement. Martz had been with Park and Recreation for over thirty years.

Frye asked if a dedication is planned for the Arson Canine Ashley's Memorial Dog Park and the Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Park.

Kupper stated staff is working on the signage and when that is completed, dedications will be planned. A dedication will also be scheduled for the Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame Athletic Fields.

Kupper said this is the second year Wichita has successfully been identified as a Playful City, which is a national recognition. This goes along with the Tree City USA designation, which Martz has successfully maintained for 28 years. Wichita was the first Playful City in the state of Kansas, now there are four designated municipalities, all in our area; Wichita, Bel Aire, Maize, and Derby. Wichita is leading the community's awareness of the need for healthy unstructured play.

Kupper stated Prairie Pines is the new vendor for the Haunted Island at Watson Park. A new vendor with fresh ideas should increase the attendance at the Haunted Island. The train ride will be incorporated into the haunting.

Claycomb asked how this will be advertised.

Kupper stated Prairie Pines will be advertising and the Haunted Island is advertised on the Website.

**Item 5: Issues on the Horizon**

Kupper stated there will be an easement request at the October meeting.

**Item 6: Adjourn**

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m.

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Bryan Frye, President

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Lee Ann Sack, Clerk