

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Summary of Motions
Park and Recreation Conference Room
11th Floor, City Hall
Monday, August 16, 2010
3:00 p.m.**

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

Absent: Matt Goolsby

Also Present: Karen Walker, Doug Kupper, Director of Park and Recreation, Assistant Director of Park and Recreation, Sharon Dickgrafe, Assistant City Attorney, Lee Ann Sack, Clerk, Joe Johnson, Shaefer Johnson Cox Fry, Julie Hedrick, USD 259, Curt Van Boening, Wichita Audubon Society, Annie Work, citizen, Jerry Warren, citizen, Larry Ross, citizen, Mike Barushok, citizen

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 Claycomb, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2010.

Motion by Frye, second by Brown, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE moving item 2B before item 2A.

Item 2B: McAdams Golf Association recognition plaque proposal

Kupper introduced Annie Work, 2743 N. Grove, representing the McKinley-McAdams Golf Association, who addressed the Board in support of a plaque recognizing this longest standing golf association in Kansas. The McKinley Golf Association was organized in 1935. Work shared brochures with the Board detailing the history of the association. Work informed the Board the proposal is supported by the McAdams Recreation Center director and district council member, Lavonta Williams.

Work also informed the Board of the need for additional playground equipment and a drinking fountain in Grove Park.

Kupper asked for the verbiage Work is requesting on the plaque.

Work did not have exact wording, but no names are requested. Work would like it to detail the McKinley-McAdams Golf Association.

Frye asked for public comment, there was none.

Brown asked if the association was originally the McKinley Golf Association.

Work said it was the McKinley Golf Association and originally McAdams Park was named McKinley Park, which had a three hole golf course in it which had sand greens.

Frye asked if plaques existed at other golf courses.

Kupper stated existing plaques detail the person for whom the course has been named or history of the course. Since the golf course no longer exists, Kupper recommended the plaque be placed in the McAdams Recreation Center.

Frye asked where the funding would come from.

Kupper said the association has stated they will fund the plaque.

Motion by Frye, second by Stevens, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE staff to finalize wording of a plaque in recognition of the McKinley-McAdams Golf Association to be placed at McAdams Recreation Center and bring back to the Board for final approval.

Item 2A: City Council Policy 13

Robert Layton, City Manager, reviewed the additions and changes to City Council Policy 13 regarding the naming of Parks, Right of Ways, and Open Space. Revisions have been made to assure consistency. The previous naming approved by the Park Board for the Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Park in Edgemoor Park and Arson Canine Ashley's Memorial Dog Park in Chapin Park will be grandfathered and the revised policy will be in place for future naming. Layton will submit both naming agendas to the City Council with his recommendation for approval.

Revised item seven addresses the recognition of animals in the naming policy. Item six clarifies how significant contribution to the community can be applied to children.

The policy also addresses over-naming of streets which will be implemented by Public Works.

Layton asked the Board for an endorsement of the revised naming policy.

Stevens asked if number six was intended to allow the naming of Ryan Woodward Memorial Skate Park.

Layton said the intent was not for that specific naming but to have a policy in place for any future requests. Layton re-stated his support for the skate park naming. The naming request will go to City Council the same date as the revisions to City Council Policy 13.

Kupper stated the City Council wrestled with how you justify contribution to the community for someone who has had such a short life. It cannot be measured in the same manner as an adult. The

new policy allows their short life to be evaluated by the manner of their contribution, instead of the quantity, to value their meaningful betterment of an existing facility.

Stevens asked if the youth still has to be deceased.

Kupper affirmed.

Frye asked if the Woodard Skate Event is still ongoing.

Kupper stated the 2nd Annual Ryan Woodward Skate Event is scheduled for this fall at Edgemoor Park. Proceeds go to support Skate Parks and events in the community.

Claycomb asked if the substantial contribution could be done by the family in their name.

Layton said the contribution cannot be a donation from the family. It should be from the individual through ways such as in-kind maintenance or fundraising.

Layton said the policy revisions will quantify naming requirements.

Stevens stated the policy will favor rich children over poor.

Layton disagreed stating no money can initiate a naming. Criteria will be evaluated by fundraising, maintenance or events initiated by the designee. The Park Board would make the determination if the youth qualified.

Stevens stated it was a policy of exclusion and his intent to vote against the policy. The Park Board should investigate each individual situation.

Roth said the City Council should be the final judge for approval of the guidelines and the Park Board should follow them.

Claycomb noted that the provision exists within the policy for a waiver to be submitted for approval from the Mayor and City Council.

Frye asked for public comment.

Mike Barushok, 354 North Green, stated that ordinary citizens would not know from the meeting agenda what the item was about. He requested better clarification or description on Park Board Agendas. Barushok also stated exceptional circumstances have existed for deviation from the policy. The policy should be simple and deviations should acknowledge the special circumstance.

Brown agreed that agendas should be more detailed.

There being no further public comment, Frye brought discussion back to the Board.

Motion by Frye, second by Roth, IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE revisions to City Council Policy 13 regarding naming policies to submit for City Council approval. 5-1, Stevens dissent.

Item 3A: USD 259 Proposal Concerning Mayberry Middle School and West Douglas Park

Kupper stated this item is brought back to the Board from the May 17, 2010 meeting when the Board approved opening negotiations with USD 259 to determine suitable compensation or exchange of real estate for the requested land in West Douglas Park.

Joe Johnson, Shaefer Johnson Cox Fry, and Julie Hedrick, USD 259 and Director of Design and Construction for the project, presented the current proposal to the Board.

Johnson stated the request is for a new regulation athletic track and field facility to be installed at Mayberry Middle School which would extend into West Douglas Park.

Hedrick said schools are located within the school district that are adjacent to city parks. The site at Cessna Elementary was chosen which is next to Southview Park. There are currently limited resources within the neighborhood for public fitness. Cessna Elementary currently has outdoor fitness equipment along a wood chip path which is in disrepair. The exchange proposal is for USD 259 to make modifications to this area in exchange for the land usage in West Douglas Park. The fitness equipment will be restored and playground surfacing material will be installed underneath. The approximately one half mile wood chip path will be replaced with a five feet wide concrete path. All signs at the fitness stations will be replaced. USD 259 will pay for all improvements which are located on school property and be completed at the same time as the track at West Douglas Park.

Solter supported the shared facilities, missions and goals of the school district and the Board. The improved facility will serve all members of the community.

Stevens asked how people will know this facility is open for public use.

Hedrick said signage could be installed which showed the area open for public use.

Dickgrafe stated the original request from the May 2010 Board meeting was for 5,000 square feet but the actual request is for 50,000 square feet.

Hedrick confirmed the wrong square footage had been requested and that the request is for 50,000 square feet in West Douglas Park.

Claycomb stated eight mature trees will be lost to the new track. Claycomb stated concern about the tree removal. USD 259 should replace the trees at either West Douglas Park or Cessna Elementary where the improved facility could use shading. Forestry could determine where to place the trees.

Stevens asked if Kupper supported this area for improvements

Kupper stated the area is not as affluent as others in the city and the citizens should benefit from the improvements. This would correspond with the PROS and benefit a lower income area in the city. Trees are needed in the area. The Board will have to make the value judgment of whether it is acceptable to agree to the land request at West Douglas Park for improvements to school district facilities and property. The Board will have to determine whether it is fair to give an acre of Park Board property for improvements which will be on school property and belong to USD 259.

Stevens asked if the maintenance would be the responsibility of USD 259.

Kupper stated the maintenance would be their responsibility because it is on their property.

Claycomb stated the Board would be giving a long term lease and not giving the property.

Brown did not see any downside to the proposal.

Johnson stated an acre of useable land will be lost in West Douglas Park.

Frye asked if the fence surrounding the track would be square or rounded.

Hedrick said it would be squared, but it could be rounded if requested.

Brown asked if there would be bleachers.

Hedrick said not at this time, but it is a possibility for the future.

Frye asked if the area would also be used for soccer.

Hedrick said the interior of the track will be used for soccer.

Claycomb stated there is a large neighborhood to access this improvement.

Frye asked for public comment.

Larry Ross, 114 North Estelle, said that if a track was to be installed at Cessna Elementary, he would prefer an asphalt track to concrete. Asphalt is better suited for walking and jogging. There is also no allowance for bicycles. A bike rack would be beneficial. There is no source of water at Cessna Elementary which limits users. Ross suggested a peer review from potential users.

Kupper stated there is access to water at Southview Park. The concept of a neighborhood park is that there are no restrooms or drinking facilities.

Curt Van Boening, 5219 East Plaza Lane, stated the facilities at Cessna Elementary were originally installed by the school and they had responsibility for maintenance. Van Boening asked if USD 259 previously let the facility become in disrepair, where is the guarantee that they will maintain the facility in the future. Van Boening asked if this would impact the soccer games.

Kupper stated all soccer games are played in Southview Park. The improvement will not have an impact on soccer games.

Stevens asked if there is playground equipment at the site.

Kupper stated the school has a playground. Kupper stated it is the decision of the Board to determine if improvements to school property are worth one acre of park land.

Stevens said signage should be installed to state a cooperative effort between USD 259 and the Park Board.

Hedrick said signs could be designed that met both USD 259 and Department of Park and Recreation approval.

Frye asked if the proposal had been presented to DAB 4.

Hedrick said no comments from the community have been solicited.

Frye stated that any motion should include signage at both parks. Frye also stated he did not support the proposal as an equal trade and the best use of this opportunity. The improvements are on school property and the Park Board loses an acre of land and eight mature trees. Frye stated there is only so many dollars available for capital improvements in a year and this agreement does not benefit any of the current needs of city parks or facilities.

Brown said all units of government need to cooperate and this proposal is good for citizens.

Stevens asked if the parking lot is open for public use.

Hedrick said both parking lots at West Douglas Park and Cessna Elementary are open for public use.

Motion by Brown to accept the concept of a long term lease with USD 259 for 50,000 to 58,000 square feet at West Douglas Park, the removal of 8-12 trees; if more trees require removal it will require additional Board approval, tree replacement will be 1-1 at either West Douglas Park and/or Cessna Elementary. The Department of Park and Recreation will determine the locations of the replacement trees. Signs stating a cooperative venture between USD 259 and the Department of Park and Recreation will be placed at both sites and signs advising citizens the area is open for public use will be placed at both sites. Sign language will be approved by both parties. In exchange for the long term lease, USD 259 will replace a ½ mile wood chip path located at Cessna Elementary with a 5' wide concrete walking path. Rubber safety surface will be installed under outdoor exercise equipment. The existing outdoor exercise equipment will be renovated. Proper maintenance of the path and maintaining the equipment in safe and working order will be the responsibility of USD 259.

Roth offered an amendment to the motion to connect the north end of the pathway to the existing sidewalk. Brown accepted the amendment.

Claycomb offered an amendment to the motion stating the replacement trees will be at least 2" caliper. Brown accepted the amendment.

Second by Stevens. IT WAS VOTED TO APPROVE the motion including all amendments. 5-1, Frye dissent.

Item 4: Updates from the Director and President

Frye reminded the Board of the change in date and location of the September meeting. The meeting will be at Watson Park, September 18, 2010, 9:00 am followed by the annual retreat. The Play Day will

be at Watson Park from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Election of officers for 2010-11 will occur at the September meeting.

Claycomb asked which positions will be elected.

Frye stated President, Vice President and 2nd Vice President.

Kupper said the support person from WSU will be at the September meeting to discuss the Park Board's vision for what the Park Department should look like going into the future. This will likely be on the retreat agenda and some of the determined goals may be part of the Park Board goals for the year.

Brown asked Kupper to provide a brief review of the budget impact on the department during the retreat.

Kupper said the City Council has determined that the Park Department is an essential service and not a core service. Core services are not impacted by budget cuts. The recreation division is being re-tooled and the determination is being made if recreation services will continue to be provided by the city or if private providers can do a better job. The concept of continuing education is being explored. USD 259 is getting out of this market and it may be profitable to enter the market. The task is to create a sustainable model. The City Manager is asking for 80 – 100% cost recovery from the department.

Solter stated community education is a new component being brought forward. Core values have centered on activities for the community as a whole. We should continue to place emphasis on the needs of the community. The parameters need to be discussed at the September meeting.

Kupper stated all these issues will be discussed in September. Sustainability will have to be reviewed for all programmed activities, such as those at Great Plains Nature Center, Dog Days of Summer, Night with Santa, Mayor's Health Initiative and many other programs that are offered throughout the year.

Kupper said no Continuing Improvement Projects have been initiated but the Chapin Park construction continues to move forward.

Kupper stated a partnership with Greenway Alliance is being sought to spearhead a million dollar capital campaign to build a leading regional attraction skate park at Chapin. It would be an economic boost to bring regional and national events to the city. The location is near the highway systems for accessibility. More park improvement funds will be initiated soon.

Frye asked about the construction at West Douglas Park and if a ribbon cutting could be scheduled. This would offer an opportunity to let the public know about the future improvements and cooperation between the Park Board and USD 259.

Kupper stated the lease agreement will have to go to City Council for approval, but a ribbon cutting could be scheduled.

Stevens stated he has given presentations to Lavonta Williams DAB breakfast and the Wichita Independent Neighborhoods. The presentations have conveyed his frustration with the city's cuts to the park and recreation services for the city. People have come to expect certain services from their neighborhood Recreation Centers, including children. Stevens plans on continuing his presentations.

Solter asked about the Mountain Bike Trail at Chapin Park.

Kupper stated it was complete. A paved bike path connecting Garvey Park through Chapin Park over to Plainview Park is anticipated to go to City Council soon.

Frye conveyed positive responses he has received regarding the trail improvements south of Douglas along the riverbank to Watson Park.

Kupper said he would convey those thanks to Public Works.

Frye asked about a grant received for the Red Bud Trail.

Kupper said he would update the Board at the September meeting.

Item 5: Issues of the Horizon

Frye asked if an additional update on the Downtown Development Plan is scheduled.

Kupper anticipated another presentation to the Park Board at the October 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