

May 17, 2010

**BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
Park and Recreation Conference Room
11th Floor, City Hall
Monday, May 17, 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, Norman Williams, Chief of Police, Captain Joe Dessenberger, Wichita Police Department, Dave Sanford, GraceMed Inc., Terry Bourlard, GraceMed Inc., Richard Schodorf, Sunflower Title, Joe Johnson, Shaefer Johnson Cox Fry, Bill Faflick, USD 259, Julie Hedrick, USD 259, Pam Klos, USD 259, Blake Taylor, USD 259, Tim Segkine, USD 259, Jaycie Gleeson, student, Kelly Gleeson, citizen, 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 Solter, second by Goolsby, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the Park Board regular meeting minutes of April 19, 2010.

Item 2A: Park Board Meeting Location

Stevens said he would like to move the Park Board meeting location outside of City Hall until security passes are issued to Board members. It is inconvenient for people who donate their time to the city to attend scheduled and non-scheduled events when screening is required to enter the building. Stevens said information on Board members is available to security, the same as employees. The screening equipment appears unclean. Stevens stated he is allowed access to the Federal Building without screening. Each member has experienced inconvenience and disgrace during the screening process. This issue was to be addressed by the City Manager by Christmas, but nothing has been done. Parking will also be a problem with the security changes being implemented. Stevens said in his opinion, the changes will prevent people from coming to City Hall.

Motion by Stevens, second by Goolsby, to move the Park Board meetings to a location other than the City Building until City Administration can issue passes to those who work for the city and volunteer time

to do the necessary work of the Park and Recreation Department as required by State Law and City of Wichita Ordinance. Discussion.

Frye asked Chief of Police, Norman Williams to respond.

Williams stated the decision to issue security passes to Board members is in the hands of the City Manager. Police Department responsibility is to the well being of all citizens inside City Hall post 9-11. There are those in the community who have distaste for government. A balance must be met between safety and inconvenience. There is ongoing discussion with the City Manager, but no changes have been decided.

Goolsby acknowledged government is an elevated target. Goolsby asked Williams how many passes have been issued.

Williams approximated 2000. Not every employee has a pass. There are approximately 3000 city employees.

Goolsby asked if other passes could be issued to bypass security. It appears that security is not the concern or everyone would be screened, including employees. Citizens are treated as subordinates. Employees can bring contraband into City Hall just as easily.

Williams stated there were penalties for sharing or losing a security pass. Employee regulations address that possibility.

Goolsby stated that 2000 employees with unrestricted access, unscreened, is a liability.

Williams denoted airplanes are more restrictive. The processes are intended to be preventative and proactive.

Stevens asked Kupper if it would be a problem to move the Park Board meeting outside City Hall.

Kupper said staff would accommodate whatever location was chosen.

Stevens restated he would like the meetings moved until security passes have been issued to Board members.

Dickgrafe stated that Board members are volunteers, not employees who have a background check and are regulated by city communication and ethics policies.

Frye stated that security procedures are a way of life. They are inconvenient, but hopefully a hindrance to anyone who would cause harm. He also has experienced delays, but City Hall is a central location, staff and resources are at City Hall. He supported keeping meetings at City Hall.

Claycomb asked if there was a timeframe for a resolution with the City Manager.

Williams stated there have been brief conversations, but no meeting is currently scheduled with the City Manager to discuss the issue.

Kupper stated the City Manager knows this is an important issue. The City Manager has not had time to talk through a new policy with Chief Williams. There are twenty or more Boards that support city activities, not all meet in City Hall.

Stevens asked if any security passes have been issued to other Boards.

Williams said none have been issued.

Frye asked for public opinion, there was none.

Solter stated he also has had challenges moving through security.

Williams said that Kupper has discussed the issue during Department Director Meetings.

Kupper stated that all Directors who work with Boards have made recommendations to Williams and the City Manager to make access easier for Board members.

Frye asked Stevens if he wished the meetings to be moved outside of City Hall beginning in June.

Stevens affirmed.

Dickgrafe stated the Bylaws allow moving the meeting with public notice of the change.

Motion by Stevens, second by Goolsby, to move the Park Board meetings to a location other than the City Building until City Administration can issue passes to those who work for the city and volunteer time to do the necessary work of the Park and Recreation Department as required by State Law and City of Wichita Ordinance. 3-3 Motion Failed.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Frye, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to bring this issue back before the Park Board at the June, 2010 meeting for discussion.

Item 2B: Public Works Right of Way – 119th Street

John Philbrick, City of Wichita Property Management, petitioned the Board of Park Commissioners for a right of way to widen 119th street at Kellogg and Maple. The Board owns parcels on both sides of the street. The proposal is to widen 119th street to four lanes with curb and gutters. A right of way in West Millbrook Park is requested to install a ten foot sidewalk and the ditch will be re-routed east to protect the trees. A right of way in Auburn Hills Golf Course would move the ditch with no impact on trees and the service building will be avoided. Fencing will be moved by the contractor or Park Department will be reimbursed for cost.

Kupper stated West Millbrook Park is titled to the Board of Park Commissioners, but other parcels are titled to City of Wichita.

Claycomb asked if any trees would be affected and if park use would be restricted.

Philbrick said no trees will be affected and no park restriction will occur.

Kupper stated the improvements will help drainage in West Millbrook Park. Auburn Hills is already designed to hold run-off.

Frye asked if landscaping was included in the project.

Kupper said only the 10 foot sidewalk will be added.

Solter asked if there was any connection to Bike Paths.

Kupper stated it was a walking path. The bridge at 119th and Millbrook is pedestrian friendly.

Frye asked for public comment, there was none.

Motion by Roth, second by Frye. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the requested right of way at West Millbrook Park and Auburn Hills Golf Course.

Item 2C: Public Works Right of Way – Grove Park Easement

John Philbrick, City of Wichita Property Management, petitioned the Board of Park Commissioners for a right of way to install water and gas lines for the Heartland Preparedness Center. The installation will require a 3 foot encroachment onto Board of Park Commissioner land at Grove Park.

Frye asked if the waterline would be underground.

Philbrick affirmed.

Frye asked if the construction would affect the bike path.

Kupper stated it would not affect the bike path.

Frye asked if any trees would be affected.

Philbrick stated the area is open ground; nothing is currently in the easement.

Frye asked for public comment, there was none.

Motion by Stevens, second by Frye. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the requested right of way for water and gas lines in Grove Park.

Item 2D: Evergreen Lease to Grace Medical

Kupper introduced David Sanford, GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc. Grace Medical provides services at Evergreen Recreation Center. GraceMed has worked with the Park Department since 1998. They provide health and dental services.

Sanford gave a brief description of Grace Medical services. Staff includes Family Practice providers and a dental hygienist. Demand from insured and uninsured citizens in the area has steadily increased.

Charges are based on a sliding scale. Grace Medical is requesting a long term lease which will be beneficial when soliciting donors.

Solter asked the length of lease Sanford is requesting.

Sanford said five years with three five year extensions.

Goalsby noted this is a great compliment to Evergreen Recreation Center.

Kupper stated the lease length is comparable to other nonprofit leases. This would equate a twenty year lease.

Claycomb asked how the lease payment would be determined.

Kupper stated that Philbrick in Public Works would work with the GraceMed Board to finalize lease documents.

Stevens asked what the current lease payment was.

Sanford said \$2,555 per month.

Goalsby asked where those funds are applied.

Kupper said the funds go into a park fund to maintain the shell of the building.

Frye asked if the building was in good operating condition at this time and will any major changes be required by the remodel.

Kupper said the interior changes made by Grace Medical should not alter heating or air conditioning vents. The building is in good operating condition.

Sanford said additional venting will be required for new dental equipment.

Frye asked for public comment, there was none.

Motion by Claycomb, second by Solter. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE staff to begin working with Grace Med, Inc. to enter into a long term lease at Evergreen Recreation Center.

Item 2E: USD 259 proposal concerning Mayberry Middle School and West Douglas Park

Kupper informed members the school bond program has called for improvements to athletic facilities to increase opportunities for children. The current proposal is for a regulation track and field facility at Mayberry Middle School, adjacent to West Douglas Park. Kupper introduced Joe Johnson, Shaefer Johnson Cox Fry Architecture, as Bond Issue Plan Manager for USD 259.

Johnson outlined the Bond Issue plan for a regulation track at Mayberry Middle School. In order to accomplish the plan, the track would extend into West Douglas Park. The park contains two baseball fields, tennis courts, shelter play area and two parking lots. The district would pay for all construction

costs, upkeep and hold the Park Board harmless for any future expenses. Eight trees would be removed. Track is a competitive sport at the middle school level.

Julie Hedrick, USD 259 Administration, stated the public would have full access to the track when not in use by the district. The fence would be open for public access. Fitness is important for students and adults. This would give opportunity for physical fitness for the entire community. The track would be an asset to the park and the school.

Solter asked if they were asking for the land to be donated.

Johnson said the request is for use, not for transfer of land title.

Kupper said the Park Board could propose sale of the land or long term lease.

Johnson stated a lease would be problematic due to length restrictions by the district.

Goolsby stated he was not interested in a donation of land, a negotiation of trade would be a possibility. The school just passed a multimillion dollar bond issue and now is asking for donation of land. There needs to be benefit to parks.

Hedrick said they came today to ask if they could put the track on the West Douglas Park. They are unprepared to discuss any other options.

Johnson stated the community would have access to the track.

Goolsby stated a track was not an amenity that is requested in parks. Goolsby asked if there were any other parks with tracks.

Kupper stated there were none. However, the City Council has asked recreation to begin a track program at the recreation centers.

Goolsby asked if there was a Recreation Center at this site.

Kupper said there was none, but it could be a destination for Summer of Discovery or other summer activities.

Hedrick said there was already cooperation at this site, as the access to one of the parking lots is from a drive on USD 259 land. Also, citizens park in school parking lots as overflow for the baseball fields.

Goolsby stated he would be open to a land trade. Use of a track is not demanded by the public. They want restrooms, walking paths, spray grounds and open space. Goolsby asked how much square footage is requested.

Hedrick stated it was about 5,000.

Goolsby asked if this was for the track or for the fenced area.

Hedrick was unsure.

Goolsby stated residents do not like giving up their park land for no return. There was a significant backlash for the school built in Linwood Park. Park land should not be cannibalized for the benefit of the school district when the only benefit to citizens is they can use it when the district is not.

Hedrick suggested the eight trees which would be removed could be replaced.

Goolsby stated trees are not square footage of usable green space. He would be open to discussion of trade, but at this point would offer a motion to reject this proposal.

Roth asked is the track would be open if it were positioned only on school land.

Hedrick said it would be.

Kupper stated the track would fit on school land, but would be shaped more oval. Proper student instruction would be more difficult.

Claycomb clarified the track would be open whether it was positioned on park land or not.

Kupper said the other tracks will also be open to the public.

Claycomb asked if this has been discussed with the neighborhood as this is taking their neighborhood park.

Johnson said it had not.

Claycomb conveyed concern about taking pieces of park land. Claycomb said the potential of this happening here and there would result in parks being pieced and public use would then be diminished.

Stevens said he liked to see cooperation between the city and the school. The project needs to be beneficial to children, citizens and all taxpayers. In the past, USD 259 has been uncooperative to share utilization of facilities after hours with citizens. After looking at the site, it did not appear there were barriers to the project. It appears the play equipment will have to be removed from the school site.

Hedrick said it is yet undetermined where to move the play equipment.

Johnson said portions of the school building will also be rebuilt. All plans have not been made.

Goolsby stated he is open to negotiating with the school district but will not support giving the land away. The track is in large part for the school's benefit, not parks. This sets a precedent, Grace Medical is a non-profit and yet they are being charged \$32,000 year for use of a facility. Goolsby stated he did not want to cannibalize park assets. Goolsby questioned how receptive the School Board would be to Parks asking to build on school land because they did not have enough room.

Hedrick stated this had been done at Isley.

Kupper stated there was a long term lease at Isley where tennis courts, a basketball court and half of a parking lot was built.

Goolsby asked if this was the same arrangement at Linwood.

Kupper said seven acres was exchanged for Wildwood, Goldenrod and Leon Robinson parks.

Johnson said the point is well taken, but the point of the bond issue is neighborhood schools. Utilization is for neighborhood children.

Solter supported the bond issue and appreciates the suggestion to talk to the neighborhood and see that the residents support the project. Negotiating a trade would be in the best interest of citizens. Every amount of park land lost is part of open space that is no longer under park control and protection. Solter said he would support a motion with trade.

Stevens said he supported the project, but as caretakers of park land, trade should be negotiated. The School Board needs to look at their inventory and see what is appropriate in exchange for the requested land at West Douglas Park.

Johnson stated bids had already been received.

Frye asked if there was public comment.

Bill Faflick, USD 259 Athletic Director, spoke in support of the proposal. By reducing access barriers, participation will increase. Opportunities will be increased and students will learn discipline, teamwork and a healthy lifetime activity. Classroom success improves when students are involved in athletics. A close facility will improve the Mayberry community.

Jaycie Gleeson, 233 N. Richmond, student at Mayberry Middle School and member of the track team. Gleeson said practicing on a regulation track will improve the team and provide a safer environment to practice. Currently students run along a course through the neighborhood determined by coaches.

Pam Klos, Principal Lawrence Elementary, said she is excited about the possibilities for students at the elementary and middle schools. Klos noted that citizens use the school soccer fields, playground equipment and basket ball goals regularly. The park baseball fields and play areas are utilized a lot. Students and parents will benefit from opportunities the track will create.

Blake Taylor, Mayberry Middle School teacher, stated week end activities and after school the area is packed with citizens. Frisbee golf baskets are part of the play area and if requested more could be installed to benefit the park. Inner city kids will benefit from this project. Adults will also benefit. Taylor conveyed appreciation from the art teacher for including students in the art tile project at the newly completed pavilion in the park. This is a shared area that is utilized by the entire community. The track will provide a safer environment for the students.

Tim Seguine, Principal Mayberry Middle School, stated kids at this point have to learn track events from make shift facilities. Kids come from the community and the track will help the PE program. This is a win/win form everyone in the community. Track will help students by providing a flat surface and pre determined distances. Kids don't desire to participate in track because it isn't available. Other schools will also be able to utilize this track.

Jerry Warren, 1996 N. High, said this will be good for kids. There should be cooperation between the School Board and the Park Board. The point of cooperation on both sides is important. Parks rolling over is a concern and we don't want to make a precedent. All projects should be put together, presented to the neighborhoods and see what cooperation can be determined. Taxpayer money needs to be used wisely and not duplicate services.

No further public comment, Frye brought the discussion back to the Board.

Goolsby clarified his position. He agrees there is a significant case to build a track here and kids do not see the dividing line between the school and the park. The Park Board is charged with stewardship of park land and he is not saying no the entire proposal. The School Board should be open to negotiation for the land. Negotiation should be opened with USD 259 to find an appropriate trade or compensation for the land.

Stevens stated this will be a fine project and the need is apparent. Looking after park land is the job of the Park Board and care needs to be taken. The previous requested project for parking at Linwood Park resulted in a Yellowwood being removed without permission. There needs to be a better resolution without giving park land away.

Kupper clarified the motion.

Solter requested the motion be amended to approve the project and then talk about the exchange.

Goolsby declined to amend his motion. Suitable trade or compensation needs to be brought back to the Board for approval.

Dickgrafe stated any approval would go to City Council.

Stevens said there was considerable amount spent on the shelter and restrooms built in West Douglas Park. He inquired what the amount was.

Kupper stated \$250,000.

Frye agreed with the concept but the Park Board is the steward of park land. Any agreement needs to be right for the entire community, not just for one area.

Motion by Goolsby, second by Roth. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO REJECT the proposal and open negotiations with USD 259 to determine suitable compensation or exchange of real estate for the requested land in West Douglas Park.

Kupper stated he would work with the school district and bring a suitable resolution back to the Park Board.

Item 3A: Update on Trail Markers

Richard Schodorf, Sunflower Title, presented an update on downtown trail markers. Auburn Hills trail is complete. All golf courses should be completed by June. Three downtown trails at 90% complete.

Schodorf would like to add five more trails to the downtown area, making a total of eight trails: Sports, People of Kansas, Poets, Exploration, Native American, Historic Museum and African American. All trails will be ADA compliant when completed. An intended promotion is for each museum to have a sidewalk sale with reenactments to bring the trails to life. The goal is to start in August through the fall and restart in the spring. Schodorf stated this concept is unique to Wichita.

Solter stated his excitement for the project. It shows Kansas and Wichita in new ways. He offered congratulations to Schodorf on the concept and project.

Schodorf said the quotes will change every two years and he is committed to ten years of maintaining the quotes and markers. All trails have distance markers.

Goalsby asked if the markers had been damaged by graffiti.

Schodorf said there has been minimal graffiti and it has been cleaned. Every Sunflower Title employee has a trail to walk to watch for graffiti.

Goalsby stated this was a great gift to the city.

Frye said the PROS study shows walking trails are the primary demand from citizens. This project shows we can use existing assets to make great trails.

Schodorf noted that the Park and Planning Departments have been very helpful.

Claycomb asked how the trails will be advertised.

Schodorf said GoWichita will list all the trails. The information will also be packaged to hotels. Promotion will be from the Health and Wellness Coalition, a possible sponsorship of a Mayor's Walk and there are additional ideas being considered to bring people downtown.

Motion by Solter, second by Claycomb. It was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE the addition of five downtown walking trails for a total of eight marked downtown trails.

Item 3B: City Ordinance 9.08 concerning trees

Kupper advised the Board that City Ordinance 9.08 has been renovated and redrafted from DAB input. The revised ordinance is being presented to all DAB's again. Four DAB presentations were completed in May, two presentations are schedule for June. A new draft should be ready for the Board in July or August. No vote will be solicited until all Board members have had sufficient time to re-read the ordinance. Hopefully the ordinance will be ready to go before City Council in September.

Item 4: Updates from the Director and President

Kupper stated the second phase of Chapin Park is ready for bid. Access from Hillside will be connected to the existing road, which will help with police and fire access.

Goalsby asked if the plaque had been installed at the park.

Kupper stated installation should be in June.

Kupper said Peach trees have been planted in Peach Tree Park, the parking lot is complete and park benches and sign are installed.

Grandview Heights is complete.

The playground tot system in Meadowlark Park will be completed soon.

West Douglas Park improvements will be completed soon.

CIP is approved for swimming pool improvements of shading, lifeguard stands and new filters.

Summer of Discovery enrollment has begun. SOD is licensed daycare for ages 5-12, with completion of Kindergarten. At \$85 week, it is the most economical option for citizens and is tax deductible. Summer Activity Camp is free at five recreation centers. Federal dollars are accepted at two sites, requiring all sites to be free of charge. SOD is a licensed program through KDHE.

Frye asked if the riverbank at the Broadview Hotel will be under park maintenance when it is completed.

Kupper stated the Broadview Hotel has agreed to take on most of the maintenance. There may be some space between the walkway and wall and the plaza at 2nd and Waco that will be park responsibility.

Frye asked about the naming policy revisions.

Kupper stated the revisions are not complete.

Roth suggested the members look online at Cyber parks. They have hiking trails with terminals located throughout. The terminals have touch screens sealed from the weather.

Kupper stated he had seen them and would like outdoor electronic interactive games in Wichita parks.

Item 5: Issues of the Horizon

None.

Item 6: Adjourn

There being no further business, Frye adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Bryan Frye, President

Lee Ann Sack, Clerk