



Board of Park Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 12, 2020

3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

<https://youtu.be/70jLLuHFcVs>

Members Present: Alejo Cabral, Troy Palmer, Hoyt Hillman, Tori Deatherage
Members Absent: Eddie Fahnestock, Ty Tabing, Dale Goter
Guests: Hank Moyer and PJ Novick, Confluence
City Staff: Troy Houtman (Director, Park & Recreation), Elizabeth Harlenske (Assistant City Attorney), Penny Garding (Clerk), Reggie Davidson, Troy Hendricks, Gentry Thiesen, Emma Li-Wormington, David McGuire, Brian Hill, Larry Hoetmer

Item	Description
	<p>Call to Order Tori Deatherage, 2nd Vice President, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:04 p.m.</p>
	<p>Announcements: There were no Announcements</p>
	<p>Public Comments: There was no Public Comment</p>
1	<p>Approve Minutes Recommended Action: Approve, sign and file minutes of the September 14, 2020, Board of Park Commissioners Regular Meeting. Motion by Palmer, second by Cabral, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to approve, sign and file the minutes of the September 14, 2020, Board of Park Commissioners Regular Meeting (4-0).</p>
2A	<p>Park Board Retreat – 2020 Houtman stated since we don't have all members here we will wait on this topic. In the past we have always had a retreat for about 3-4 hours at a location with just the board and a few staff members to strategize for the future, look at goals and. It has been 2-3 years since we have done one. We usually do it on a Saturday so we can clear our schedules and roll up our sleeves and put some things out in the future. We'll bring the topic back next month. Deatherage asked what time frame we are looking at doing that. Houtman responded we typically have them in December. Palmer inquired if we had one last year at Botanica. Cabral confirmed yes.</p>
3A	<p>Clapp Park Houtman stated we have PJ and Hank here to go over what is being worked on. They will go over some of the things we have been finalizing and putting the vision together.</p> <p>PJ Novick, Confluence, provided an update on where they are as of now. They will discuss the concept summary and what they heard from the public; site plan updates and a series of enlargement plans. They took three concepts to the public: the Great Lawn, the Promenade and the Prairie Edge. We had 230 comments on the three posts. We put those comments into a spreadsheet and tried to figure out what were the major things heard. A lot did not come out saying they wanted one or the other; it was more comments about likes and dislikes. They did have 19 true votes on particular concepts. Of the overall general concepts, three rose to the top: more bike infrastructure, concern about amount of concrete and to</p>

	<p>preserve greenspace. The Great Lawn concept had 4 positives and 0 negatives; the Promenade had 4 positives and 1 negative, and the Prairie Edge had 9 positives and 1 negative. We pulled those together and came up with a composite of the two center concepts: Promenade at the Prairie's Edge. Hank Moyer went through and described each of the areas: Entry Activity Node with a Prairie Overlook, Bistro, Band Shell with amphitheater seating, Farmer's Market, Central Green with Shade Structure, an Aviation Hill, and creekway pollution removal system. South of Boulevard Activity Node with Cornhole Courts, Park Pavilion, Large Shelter and Destination Playground, and Natural Spray Ground. To the east Activity Node with Half-Court Basketball, Pickleball Courts, and Pump Track. To the west a Neighborhood Park Node with Neighborhood Playground, Small Park Pavilion, and Neighborhood Dog Park. Node with 18 Hole Disc Golf Course with a Pavilion and Hammock Grove Area.</p> <p>Hillman inquired about how they intend to handle the flooding that occurs within the park. Moyer responded they are working with Baalman & Associates, Civil Engineers, but have not got into the detail on that yet. They have been told there are ways they can set up overflows within the creek that would drain into the ponds to help mitigate some of the downstream flooding. Hillman stated the design incorporates more shelters than he had anticipated and it is a very nice design. Houtman added once we get a master plan in place we will spend time with Stormwater and talk through the things mentioned. Houtman added he has a meeting later this week with the school district to talk about the parking lot next to the dog park.</p>
3B	<p>Aquatics Master Plan – Art & Aesthetics</p> <p>Houtman stated last month Hill gave a good overview of what is going on with the Aquatics Master Plan. Today he is going over the Phase 2 Aesthetics for the Minisa and Harvest Pool renovations and the Linwood Splash Pad conversion.</p> <p>Hill stated today we are going to look at the aesthetic design concepts and the thoughts behind them.</p> <p><u>Linwood Splash Pad</u> – it is still the same basic footprint currently occupied by the pool. We retained the building. We're trying to make it more of a family experience. The theme is a lost in the wilderness/nature.</p> <p><u>Harvest Pool</u> – we've pulled the fence line away from the pool. We took the theme from the name, the bounty of the Harvest and the lifecycle of nature. The filter building is not being replaced so the artists have been tasked to make it fit in and look like it needs to be there.</p> <p><u>Minisa Pool</u> – we were able to pull the fence line out a little. We wanted to keep the aesthetics true to a lot of the architecture in the area. There is a strong Native American presence in this area. The art sculpture will serve as a shade structure/history lesson. It is a replica of a Wichita Summer Lodge.</p> <p>Houtman stated we are taking this to Council next Tuesday. Once that happens we can take it out to bid and start the project. The idea is to get this done by summer next year, it will be close. Phase 1 will definitely be done.</p>
3C	<p>Chester I Lewis Park</p> <p>Houtman stated there has been a lot of demolition next to the park and the footprint of the park is expanding. You will get to see the design, but it has slowed down working through the processes with some of the stakeholders. We've hired art consultants to work some of the art into the proposed design. We will bring you some of the designs once we get through that</p>

	<p>process. There is a lot of interest in making this a really nice park. Cabral asked if the park is staying in the same location. Houtman responded it is at the same location, just getting a little bigger. It is going to expand by 30-35%.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Recreation Update (Reggie Davidson) Davidson shared September activities.</p> <p><u>Colvin Elementary Afterschool Latchkey Program</u> – We implemented COVID precautions to ensure we are keeping participants and staff safe. Each participant has their own supply of markers, crayons, pencils, glue sticks, etc. Morning and afternoon groups have their own set of games and after each use, games are “quarantined” for 72 hours. Masks are worn at all times except snack time. Tables and chairs are wiped down after morning and afternoon programming. With hybrid learning going on we have about 25 students enrolled. Students from the school can attend for free through a program offered by the Housing Department.</p> <p><u>Edgemoor Recreation Center</u> – We began our fall programming on September 14 and are getting good attendance in classes with the restrictions we have in place. The Light Up Edgemoor group held an event on Saturday, September 19 to help raise money for the lights. The tournament raised over \$3,000 this year. We also had a social event held at the outdoor pickleball courts. It was a glow in the dark pickleball tournament with a DJ and good community support.</p> <p><u>Evergreen Recreation Center</u> – We are looking at some different programming to expand participation. We offered a new Salsa Dance class that had 9 people register. The new Tae Kwon Do class had 10 participants. We rented a part of the facility to the Health Department to have an immunization clinic for kids going back to school.</p> <p><u>Great Plains Nature Center</u> – We have a new caretaker at the Kansas Wildlife Exhibit. He is doing a lot of creative things and implementing some programming for the community. We are hoping to expand and bring some of that programming to the recreation centers and summer camps.</p> <p><u>Linwood Recreation Center</u> – We did a Fireside Chat with Councilmember Brandon Johnson and discussed some things coming up and happening at the Rec Center and with the Library moving to a different location. Linwood is one of five sites partnering with the Sedgwick County Election Office to provide Election Ballot Drop Boxes. A security system was installed by the County to monitor the boxes. One thing we have noticed while enduring the pandemic is an increase in park users.</p> <p><u>Drive-Boo Trick or Treat</u> – A new event at Watson Park for kids to come out and do some trick-or-treating. We have 36 vendors already signed up for the event. We anticipate 2,000 people coming out for the event.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Golf Update (Troy Hendricks) Hendricks stated September was great with 19,976 Rounds compared to 14,755 in September 2019. That is the most rounds played in September since 2014 and that was a five course system. Revenue was up for the month by about \$151,000, making this the best in the last five years. Expenses were up as well. Some of that was administrative charges that were posted since September is the end of third quarter. Auburn Hills continues to be up 19% in rounds, Tex Consolver is down 4%, Sim is down about 3%, both of those courses were closed for seven weeks in the spring. MacDonald still shows the most improvement with a 22% increase in rounds. Our memberships are still strong. We are at 1,164, with a little increase in</p>

Seniors and Young Adults. When we look at the first nine months, revenue is \$3,081,533. Using the same methodology that Finance used this spring, using the same projections for October, November and December this year, we should be about \$3,569,000 at the end of the year. Expenses are down at about \$2,641,000 at the end of September. Using that same methodology, we would be at about \$3,456,000, which would give us about \$113,000 of net income. That would be a good thing considering we lost a lot of revenue in the spring. Using the same methodology for the Equipment Replacement Fund, through the end of the first nine months we've generated \$61,000 in revenue. Looking at what we did in October, November and December last year, that puts us at about \$80,000. Plus the money we will charge all members in November, we are estimating about \$39,000, that brings us to about \$119,000, which is comparable to 2019 and a little more than 2018. Concession sales at the golf courses continues to be up, 14% over September of last year. Sim was up 15%, Auburn Hills is down 3%, Mac is up 83%, and Tex Consolver is up 1%. We were up \$23,000 in greens fees without adjustments. When we factor in the adjustments, we are up 51% with Sim being up 45%, Auburn Hills up 58%, MacDonald up 76% and Tex Consolver up 61%. Cart revenues continue to be strong. We are up 32% month-to-date. Sim is up 28%, Auburn Hills up 31%, MacDonald is up 54% and Tex Consolver is up 20%. Range business is great, everyone coming back is practicing. Auburn Hills is up 92% and Tex Consolver is up 81%. When you factor in the new range at MacDonald, we are up 155% in Range revenue. We had a significant electrical service problem at Sim. Our service line that comes in on the pole from the property just north of the course, shorted out just before Labor Day weekend. We had temporary service put in place. We are working with Evergy now to move a pole due to the new development on that property. The repair is going to be \$40-45,000. It is a 440 amp service. We should have it fixed in the next 30-60 days. We are looking forward to getting away from single rider carts and back to two rider carts. With four carts in a group we are seeing significant wear and tear and damage. The Golf Advisory Committee asked at their last meeting about the possibility of some cart fee increases. We are going to put together some information to send out to them next week.

Houtman stated he would like to talk about the two vacancies on the Golf Advisory Committee. He spoke with Tabing earlier in the day and he has not selected anyone. It is important we get this done. Cabral is working on it as well. Hopefully by next month you can bring that so we can get those folks on the GAC, there are going to be a lot of decisions to make in the near future.

Hillman asked about the greens fee adjustments. Hendricks responded our greens fees that are paid when a golfer comes into the courses were up \$23,000 from people just coming in and paying greens fees. What we have been doing all year long is taking our membership fees that are paid on a monthly basis and allocating those back out to the courses based on rounds played by members at each course. That was about \$85,000 for the month of September. When you factor that in the Golf Division is up about 51% in greens fees.

6 Wichita Parks Foundation Update (Troy Houtman)

Houtman stated he and Cabral sat in on the last meeting. It was a brief meeting but they are still talking about how to spend the Plates for Parks money. Right now we have collected over \$160,000. It looks like we are getting about \$15,000 per month now. The discussion is how to spend that money. How can we publicize and promote the plates to go along with a nice capital improvement project, there are several on the table to talk about. The committee has not yet decided how they want to evaluate and prioritize projects.

	<p>Something we have talked about in the past, we used to have a member that was on both boards. Cabral had made the suggestion that he could be that person. He stated this started when he was contacted by several constituents in District I asking about how we can use the Plates for Parks funds for the lighting of Edgemoor Park, specifically the pickleball courts. This started as trying to better understand the relationship between the Park Board and the Parks Foundation and how we can work together on some projects. It doesn't have to be him if there is a better candidate to be on both boards. He would like to have someone from the Park Board represented on the Parks Foundation board so they have an understanding of what we are doing and we have an understanding of what they are doing as well. Palmer motioned and Deatherage seconded.</p> <p>Motion by Palmer, second by Deatherage, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED to have Cabral serve as a Park Board representative on the Wichita Parks Foundation Board (4-0).</p>
7	<p>OJ Watson Park Committee Update (Troy Houtman) Houtman stated we need to work on trying to get some adjusted prices on the project for the four season shelter. We are going to wait until after Christmas, in the next fiscal we have another \$100,000 we can tap into to work on that project. It costs too much, but there is so much in there we want to keep, so we are going to wait and use those dollars toward that project. They are doing great with their programming and other projects as well.</p>
8	<p>Aquatics Master Plan Update (Troy Houtman) No additional updates.</p>
9	<p>President's Update (Eddie Fahnestock) No update.</p>
10	<p>Director's Update (Troy Houtman) Houtman stated things are starting to come back to normal but we are managing the COVID situation. We had Movies in the Park a couple weeks ago at Naftzger Park. It was pretty successful. The interesting thing is Katie put out 8 x 8 boxes that were socially distanced six feet apart. We didn't have to tell people what to do, they all just went into their boxes. We had the Wichita Symphony play at 12 different park locations this past weekend. Between all 12 sites we had about 900 people attend.</p> <p>Houtman stated the Park Board has a President, a First and a Second Vice President. When Mr. Goter came in he replaced Ramsey who was our First Vice President. We need to think about elections. You might think about who you want in those positions. We will put it on the agenda next month and vote. We are behind, we were supposed to do that this past summer. Harlenske stated April was the month where the president was to appoint a nominating committee and elections were to be held in June. Terms ran out the end of March. We will need to look at that as well. We can send out whose terms are out. The nominating committee is supposed to be the First Vice President and the Second Vice President, since there is no First Vice President, it is up to the Second Vice President. It is a small board and people don't fight for the offices, hopefully we can get a slate and have it voted on in our next meeting. Deatherage asked if we wanted Fahnestock to fill in as the second person on the nominating committee. Harlenske responded we could do that. The Bylaws are silent on how you fill an officer's position. Using common sense, she recommends we just fill it and then go through the motions. We need to first fill the First Vice President position then have that person plus the Second Vice President be the nominating committee for the new slate of officers. Or we could do it all in one meeting. How would you all prefer to do it, all at once or in pieces? Hillman and Deatherage responded all at once. Deatherage and Fahnestock can work on a slate for next meeting.</p>

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:09 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be a virtual meeting held on Monday, November 9, 2020.

/s/ Tori Deatherage
Tori Deatherage, 2nd Vice President



Penny Garding, Clerk