

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
CITY COMMISSION ROOM
September 9, 2019 - 4:30 P.M.

Present were the following members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Mr. Ed Klimek, Ms. Sue Maes, Mr. Darell Edie, Mr. David Colburn, Mr. Dave Schafer, and Mr. Mark Bachamp.

Absent: Ms. Marcia Rozell.

Employees present: Mr. Eddie Eastes, Director of Parks and Recreation; Mr. Randi Clifford, Recreation Director; Mr. Casey Smithson, Park Superintendent; Mr. Alfonso Leyva, Park Planner, Mr. Jared Wasinger, Assistant City Manager.

MINUTES

Mr. Klimek called the meeting to order. It was moved by Ms. Maes, seconded by Mr. Bachamp, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on August 5, 2019. On vote, motion carried 6-0.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER DAVID COLBURN

Mr. Colburn stated he is with the School Board and will work diligently to catch up on what is going on and serve well while he is on the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CITY OF MANHATTAN NO SMOKING ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Mr. Eastes introduced Jared Wasinger, Assistant to the City Manager. Mr. Wasinger stated City Administration is working to combine the City of Manhattan smoking ordinance, passed in 2009, and the City e-cigarette ordinance, passed in 2016, so regulations can be consistent.

Mr. Wasinger stated the Kansas Attorney General and the Manhattan City Attorney's Office determined that e-cigarettes are not considered smoking so they are treated differently. In 2016, the Riley County Health Department requested the City pursue an e-cigarette ordinance banning them in a similar way. In January 2019, the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition requested City Commission combine the two ordinances and make certain changes as the original ordinance was written by local citizens and not by City's Legal staff. One change in particular that needs to be discussed is how it's enforced in Parks and Recreation facilities and to receive feedback from PRAB as to where to allow or prohibit smoking and e-cigarettes. Mr. Wasinger stated we have the ability to include the entire property of the Parks and Recreation facilities such as parking lots and roadways.

Mr. Colburn asked if there was any feedback from Lawrence or Lenexa Parks and Recreation Departments from going completely smoke free. Mr. Wasinger answered there hasn't been feedback but enforcement could be an issue. Currently our ordinance allows any member of Riley County Police Department (RCPD) or Fire Department to enforce and cite someone for smoking.

Mr. Bachamp commented he would see a problem with Anneberg Park and trails and it being an inconvenience for people if we included the entire property.

Ms. Maes stated it would be less confusing for enforcement to have a broad ordinance.

Ms. Debbie Nuss, chair-person of the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition, stated their work group that has been addressing this issue met on August 27, 2019, and agrees that all property under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department should be smoke free. She commented that she was part of the group that passed the ordinance in 2009 and it was always their intent to have all parks smoke free.

Dr. James Gardner commented he sees benefit to laws that are simple and if it makes a person who is addicted to nicotine have to deal with that addiction, it helps them quit. It helps to teach those who are young good information regarding their health.

Dr. Jennifer Green, Director of the Riley County Health Department, stated they have a Chronic Disease Risk Reduction grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Those grant funds help them to have a part time Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Coordinator and have been able to support the Flint Hills Wellness Coalition in retrieving data and research. The overall purpose of the grant is to reduce tobacco use in Kansas. She stated the Health Department had “No Smoking” signs ready to go for the parks when the ordinance passed in 2009 but due to the lack of clarity in the language they were not able to use those signs. It would not be an additional cost to the City to put those signs up, it would come out of the grant funds. Dr. Green stated the 2014 Surgeon General Report indicates that second-hand smoke exposure is known to cause strokes in non-smokers.

Ms. Charlene Brownson commented she appreciates a smoke free campus and stated it would be wonderful if our parks were smoke free as well.

Mr. Edie stated the Kansas Department of Education has created a special task force on e-cigarettes as it is a problem with high school students within the state and they are trying to correct the problem. He thinks of Parks and Rec as a place for health and wellness and encourages the board to continue on the current regulation on smoking and have our parks be smoke and vape free.

Mr. Schafer asked what the penalty was if someone was caught smoking in a no-smoking area. Mr. Wasinger stated our current ordinance stipulates it’s a minimum fine of \$100 and goes up with each offense.

Mr. Klimek asked if there was any data on reduction of medical conditions since the no-smoking ordinance has been implemented across the country. Dr. Green stated the Health Department has seen a decline in Riley County with only 15% of adults that smoke now. According to the 2014 Surgeon General Report smoking has become less popular over the years partly because vaping is becoming more popular. She stated there has also been a reduction in the number of deaths from lung cancer due to smoking.

A majority of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was in favor of banning smoking/e-cigarettes in all Parks and Recreation facilities and surrounding park property.

CITY OF MANHATTAN \$.03 SALES TAX PRESENTATION

Mr. Wasinger stated City Commission passed a resolution in May 2019 putting the \$.03 sales tax on the ballot to fund projects. This will fund 6 major projects. Projects include raising the levee, Aggieville improvements, north campus corridor improvements, replacing Manhattan Airport runway, Douglass Recreation Center, and City maintenance facility improvements. Total project cost are \$175 million and the City has secured \$106 million through grants and other revenues leaving a gap of \$69 million for the \$.03 sales tax to cover.

Mr. Wasinger stated the current sales tax is 8.95% where 1% goes to fund City operations, this was passed in 1972 and 1980. If the voters approve the \$.03 sales tax it will go up to 9.25%. He stated a reason communities rely on sales tax is due to the city having a positive pull factor. About 25% of annual sales come from visitors to the City.

Mr. Wasinger stated this would be permanent sales tax as opposed to a 10 year sales tax. This question will go on the ballot on November 5, 2019, and will go into effect April 2020 if it passes.

Mr. Schafer asked if the needs for the 6 projects were prioritized. Mr. Wasinger answered the resolution the City Commission passed did not necessarily prioritize the projects but the levee is one that we are obligated legally to complete so if this sales tax does not pass we would need to find other funds to finish that project. A Tax Increment Financing District is in place for the Aggieville project so we will start generating revenue to start working on the Aggieville improvements.

Mr. Klimek mentioned to Mr. Wasinger to include in his presentation that there are several special districts in Manhattan that have higher tax rates.

PARKS AND RECREATION AQUATIC PARK SEASON PASS DISCUSSION

Mr. Clifford mentioned the current season pass is \$60 per person with the option to receive a 20% discount if 5 or more passes were purchased in a single transaction. The 2019 season sold 2,669 passes generating \$135,270. The issue we ran into this season with our new CivicRec system was we were not able to provide the discount for online sales creating an inconvenience for patrons and staff. Mr. Clifford stated a solution would be to propose having separate youth and adult fees for season passes similar to our daily admission. This would eliminate the need to provide the 20% and allows the ease for online purchases of any quantity.

Mr. Clifford proposed fees for the 2020 season of a youth season passes at \$45/person and adult season passes at \$65/person. This change is not anticipated to have a significant impact on annual fee collections and season passes would still be eligible for scholarship assistance.

Mr. Bachamp asked if the passes were tied to a person's name. Mr. Clifford answered yes our season passes are tied to a specific person and we require a photo to be on file to identify the person using the pass when checking in at each waterpark facility.

Mr. Klimek asked if we had considered non-resident fees when making these fee adjustments. Mr. Clifford answered we did not. Mr. Klimek stated we have had a discussion on resident fees in the past and is one of the items the board discussed at its retreat and thinks a discussion should occur at some time on non-resident fees. Mr. Eastes commented if this is something City Administration or Commission is directing us towards, we could certainly have that discussion but it is not a discussion for one individual fee.

Mr. Edie asked if we still had the \$1 pass for non-swimmers. Mr. Clifford stated we used to have a punch pass program that we are no longer utilizing but we do offer a non-swimmer admission fee as well as twilight swim at City Waterpark where the admission rates are discounted to half price from 6-8pm.

It was moved by Mr. Bachamp, seconded by Ms. Maes, to approve Parks and Recreation Aquatic Season Pass fees as presented. On vote, motion carried 5-0.

FUTURE BUSINESS

Mr. Eastes stated the board had asked for a listing of 2020 CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) that were approved. We intend to discuss the 2021 CIP requests with this board as well and want to prioritize the list and how they pertain to our Strategic Facility Improvement Plan.

Mr. Eastes stated he intends to get Parkland Donation Criteria on the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Eastes stated the Arts in the Park Improvement Project that is developing as a potential project with private investors. Currently there is no City funding for this project so the community is stepping up. We have been working with a group and an architect to bring that project to this board. Mr. Klimek commented

we need to look at the funds we have available to bring in talent to the Arts in the Park series as we currently have a budget of \$50,000 to bring in acts so if that area were improved it could attract more people.

Mr. Eastes stated the Advisory Board By-laws Public Comment is still with our Legal Department to be consistent across all Advisory Boards within the City. Mr. Eastes commented that Jared Wasinger is working with Legal on having e-scooters in parks and on trails and will go to City Commission in a work session in October. He commented he wanted the board to be aware that e-scooters has another term called micro-mobility as there is a variety of different electronic modes of mobility.

Mr. Eastes stated the Trail Talks will come back in a future agenda to give more information.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Clifford stated he had the opportunity to talk with City Commission regarding the Arts and Humanities Public Art Project and received the authorization to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) that the Arts and Humanities Advisory Board (AHAB) has been working to finalize to issue that call in September.

Mr. Eastes commented the Johnny Kaw and Bluemont Hill projects are progressing. Expect to have a dedication for Johnny Kaw on September 20, 2019. Mr. Klimek added that Karen Hibbard with Convention and Visitor's Bureau (CVB) is putting that event together with several activities including a fun walk through the park and a brand new Johnny Kaw song debut. Anticipate having a dedication for the Bluemont Hills project before November.

Mr. Eastes stated McCownGordon provided a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) of \$17,032,679 to City Commission at the August 20 meeting. City Commission accepted and directed City staff to enter into Phase 2 which is final design, construction, and commissioning of the Middle School Recreation Centers.

Mr. Eastes provided a list of the 2020 Parks and Recreation CIP that were approved.

Mr. Eastes provided the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board list and will refer to those on how different projects, activities, and programs align with that list.

Mr. Eastes provided an update on the Mayor's tree in Aggieville per Mr. Klimek's request. That tree blew over last year and we do anticipate replacing that tree this Fall. Mr. Klimek stated the Mayor's Christmas Parade and tree lighting will be on December 6.

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Leyva stated the Warner Park Master Plan was presented to the City Commission in August and they gave direction to go with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommendation in 2018, the Coralberry Master Plan. This was to not expand the disc golf course, have a dog park or a playground. Will be looking at enhancing the management side of Warner Park working with Casey and his crew to come up with a plan and need to have more internal discussion about whether or not the road will be expanding. Plan to have a draft of the Warner Park Master Plan to release in October for public comment and come to this board in November for input and will hopefully receive action from City Commission by December. Recently received funding for the Fremont Pedestrian Improvements Project through ATA that will begin in Spring 2020. Will soon start planning the 2020 projects that were approved by the City Commission. Working on receiving construction documents for Roger Schultz project. Recently we were awarded the Twin Oaks Shade Structure project for Anneberg Park that we plan to install before next March.

Mr. Smithson stated all Waterparks closed after Labor Day so they are working on winterizing them. Plan on painting all painted surfaces within City Waterpark in October. Peace Memorial City Auditorium roof is out for bid and plan to have the work done before next May. Planning to close the splash park in City

Park in October and Blue Earth Plaza in November. Ice Rink will be set up by the end of October in time to open November 11. Park staff has started reseeding and will get to sports fields when weather clears up. Mr. Klimek asked why the doors were closed to the auditorium. Mr. Smithson answered there was moisture that came in through the foyer and went under the gym floor and it buckled. We are trying to dehumidify it slowly so we don't damage the wood and have to potentially replace it.

Mr. Clifford stated our Fall classes are underway in several areas. We had over 3,000 people attend the three week extended waterpark season at CiCo Waterpark. Planning to move forward in the future with having CiCo Waterpark continuing to host the extended season due to lower operating costs. The twilight swim throughout the Summer at City Waterpark continues to be well attended with 14,500 people. Season Waterpark pass holders generated 25,000 admissions over the Summer. The Just Tri It Triathlon had record numbers for youth with 247 entries and over 100 for adults. Tournament team totals for 2019 have already exceeded the final total for 2018. We anticipate having over 550 teams for 2019 season. Mr. Klimek commented the Wamego Pool opened late this Summer and asked if we expect any impact on what we do here. Mr. Clifford answered we do not anticipate it having a major impact on our numbers, they improved it by adding several amenities but is not necessarily a large facility that matches the size of some of our facilities. It may however impact our staffing as some of our staff come from that direction.

Mr. Eastes commented on Ms. Maes' request last month in regards to the KS hill and how it could be viewed as an art component. It will be brought up to the AHAB meeting this month. That hill is outside of City limits so we would not entertain maintaining it. It would be worth mentioning to AHA Manhattan, which is commonly with AHAB, to see if they are willing to advocate for the continued maintenance and upkeep of KS hill.

Meeting Adjourned.