

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
October 18, 2017
Minutes**

Members Present:

Matt Guthrie
Loren Anthony
Brandi Lane
Wendy Wilkinson
Betty Kirkpatrick
Miles Harvey
Brett Remsberg

Members Absent:

Bill Young
Susie Carson
Russ McCaig
Phillip Solorio

Visitors:

Commission Representative:

Kendra Wilkinson

Staff Present:

Kevin Wishart Don Argo Tabitha Sharp

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Miles Harvey moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Wendy Wilkinson seconded the motion.

Motion carried 7 – 0.

Sales Tax Projects

- Kevin reviewed the projects for 2018 funded by excess sales tax.
- Kevin reviewed items he was thinking about for the next round of funding: Floor Covering for Activity Center Office, Wireless Controllers @ Activity Center, Picnic Tables, Sidewalk @ Rice Park, Practice Fields @ RIO, Signage for Parks, Batting Cage @ Central, Concession Stands @ East Park, Improved lighting @ all parks, Bike Path Expansion, Tennis Courts @ Prairie Trails.
- Miles asked if the park lighting includes improved lighting along the bike path.
- Kevin stated that it would, he is looking at solar lighting.
- Miles stated that the linkage of the bike path has been a great project, but wanted people to feel safe.
- Matt asked if there is lighting in the new bike path grant.
- Tabitha stated that she was unsure, she showed them a map of the proposed route.
- Kevin requested suggestions for other projects at the November meeting.

Fall Program Report

- Kevin stated that we are wrapping up fall youth programs over the next two weeks.
- He stated that basketball registrations are out and practices will begin in November. Games start in January.
- Brandi asked if they could bring a team already put together.

- Kevin stated that at this point the direction from the Commission is that any child who wants to participate is able to, so we use the draw system.
- Loren asked about the league.
- Kevin stated that we are in the Walnut Valley League for 3rd and up, and we play three on three for our 1st and 2nd grade league through the rec department.
- Don stated that 1st and 2nd grade coaches can protect three players and 3rd and up can protect five.
- Miles stated that the previous rec boards have made this decision based on a lot of research and historical information. They considered a balance for how to take a tax funded program and still incorporate a competitive element.

New Business

- Matt asked if anyone had considered what projects they might bring to the sales tax committee.
- Wendy stated that she thought they should stick to the master plan.
- Matt stated that was what he was thinking about, just something specific. He stated that Gordy Park is the place he thought needed the most effort.
- Kevin stated that we could start with a new shelter or playground equipment.
- Miles stated that he didn't think that had made the top of the rec board list. He stated that he felt that this board should work on a written list to submit to the City Commission with their priorities for large projects.
- Brandi stated that she has been very disappointed in the past, she wants to see this project move forward.
- Betty stated that she has been to several parks in her travels and the slides are always on hills so that when a child falls, they don't fall far. She felt that Gordy Park would be an optimal place for that.
- Miles stated that he read about the vandalism at the Disc Golf course and he knows that it is happening at other places, he asked if we go look for this and if we have a plan to handle it after.
- Kevin stated that we rely on citizen reports and the weekly review by staff. He stated that we have asked that they sweep the disc golf course twice a week.
- Brandi stated that she spoke to Vince about the track at BG being open to the public, but he did not have an answer for her. She stated that she has asked for it to be open during certain times each day and keeps getting put off.
- Kendra stated that she would bring it up at the next Commission meeting.
- Brett recommended that she go to the EFABC as well.
- Brett asked if we had considered a soccer coaches clinic for new coaches.
- Kevin stated that we have done them in the past and Chuck did one this fall.
- Brett stated that he wasn't aware of the clinic.
- Kevin stated that they would do a better job of advertising in the future.
- Brandi encouraged staff to use social media to advertise these items.
- Loren stated that they have worked on a plan for parks and recreation and then things were done that didn't follow that plan. He stated that he felt they need more direction. He didn't feel that Gordy Park was important to the rec board.

- Matt stated that the reason he brought up Gordy Park is because he grew up down the street from it and it is special to him.
- Miles stated that he felt like the frustration was historical. He just wanted to make the list and put the plan to work or to rest.
- Brandi said she wanted to see this through, get a business plan and get started.
- Miles agreed that we might already have a list.

Director's Report

- Kevin recommended dedicating the November meeting to the topic of the master plan.
- Loren stated that he would like to do that.
- Brandi asked for another copy of the list from the previous Commission meeting.
- Kevin stated that the city has purchased the old Squires building, which will then serve as a storage building for parks and recreation equipment as well as more parking for the East Park fields.
- Andrea Conrad is the new Parks and Rec Administrative Assistant, Haley will be stepping into an HR role.
- The Community Marketing Manager is working on a promotional video and so we hope to have a draft in November.
- Kevin stated that the pool has been collapsed at Prairie Trails and is being filled in. He stated that they are cleaning up some items at the course as well.
- Kevin stated that the cemetery sexton is no longer with us, our Parks and Rec Superintendent, John Scanlon is overseeing operations now and things are running smoothly.
- Matt asked if he will be staying in the position. He stated that it is an important position.
- Kevin stated that we have some ideas to handle it in the spring with some staff changes.
- Kevin stated that Prairie Trails was a suggestion for the tennis courts in the master plan. He stated that as we have been discussing projects at the golf course, we have realized that the old courts there are in better shape than our courts by the water plant. He stated that staff believe it is possible to get two courts there for less than new courts or fixing the water plant courts. He stated that this would be sufficient for recreational use. He stated then we could have a conversation with the school district about helping with two more if they need four.

Miles moved to adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

Matt seconded.

Motion carried 6 – 0.