

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
May 23, 2018
Minutes**

Members Present:

Loren Anthony
Wendy Wilkinson
Miles Harvey
Russ McCaig
Brandi Lane
Betty Kirkpatrick
Susie Carson
Brett Remsberg
Steve Jackson

Members Absent:

Visitors:

Commission Representative:

Matt Guthrie

Staff Present:

David Dillner Kevin Wishart Don Argo Tabitha Sharp

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

Wendy moved to approve the minutes as presented.

Brett asked for a correction to the previous minutes, he was not present at that meeting.

Russ seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6 – 0.

YMCA Partnership

- David Dillner provided an update on the YMCA Partnership proposal. He stated that when staff began looking at the 2019 budget, it was apparent that there were still some cuts that had to be made in order to bring it to a balanced budget. He stated that we have deferred costs for equipment, not filled empty positions and made other cuts, but haven't been able to get to a balanced budget yet. He stated that staff have been looking at other places that we could save money, and based on the fact that we are already partnering with the YMCA on various activities, thought it might be possible to let them take all of the activities on. He stated that conversations are still taking place on costs and fee structures and many other items.
- David stated that he thought that we should go to the Commission first because if they were not interested in the idea, it would be a waste of the advisory board's time.
- David stated that he plans to now discuss it with the advisory board and then continue the conversation with a few public forums.
- David stated that this would allow staff to focus efforts on the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities.
- Betty asked if the YMCA would include a charge that is not currently implemented.

- David stated that we do not yet have a fee schedule for the plan, a discussion took place today to begin working it out.
- Betty stated that when the YMCA came, they said there would be free activities and then they changed it.
- David stated that the in-city and out of city rate would still be in place. He stated that they will offer scholarships and that could reduce the amount more.
- Russ asked
- David stated that last year, the general fund spent approximately \$300,000 more than they brought in. He stated that this has been a trend for the past several years. Recreation programming comes from the General Fund.
- Russ stated that this seems like a miniscule amount of money that would be saved in order to help this problem. He stated that with all of the other changes made to fix the budget problem, this seems like something that could wait until we see what those changes will bring.
- David stated that we are still not where we will meet our required fund balance which we need in order to meet emergency situations.
- Loren asked if they would take over the activity center.
- David stated that it would be up for discussion still.
- Loren asked why the city will still be taking care of all of the facilities, would the lease payment be sufficient to cover that.
- David stated that it would help recover as much of the expenses as we can negotiate.
- Loren stated he didn't think the savings was enough to justify this.
- David stated that the goal of the city is to enhance the maintenance at these facilities. He stated that while the Y will manage the program, the benefactor would be the children.
- Loren asked if the Y was more capable of handling the program than our staff.
- David stated that he didn't, but part of this discussion is that we do not feel we are dedicating enough resources to our facilities so this is a way that we can improve the condition of our facilities. We cannot do that in our current financial condition.
- Betty stated that she thought that the recreation department is the only connection that the citizens have to the City.
- Russ stated that this sounds like a different version of what was discussed a few years ago. He reiterated that it might be able to wait a year and see what is happening then.
- Brett stated that he knows that the Y has had problems with keeping a youth program director. He asked if we were comfortable that they would be able to handle this program.
- David stated that they have stated that they will have to hire more people. He stated that we might be able to negotiate some input on that position in the agreement.
- Brett stated that the YMCA would be able to do the more convenient online enrollment options and things like that.
- Brandi stated that the Master Plan stated that we were understaffed by 12 to 15 people. She asked how this would fix that issue.
- Kevin stated that it doesn't address it directly, but if we pivot out of recreation, we are able to reallocate two full time staff members to facility maintenance and management. He stated that the part time staff would be able to work for the Y in the same capacity that they do for us.

- Brandi stated that around two years ago Susie asked if we knew what the cost for an individual child was.
- Kevin stated that he only included the costs for supplies and officials for the report we gave to the Commission.
- Brandi stated that she would like to see more information on that number.
- Brandi stated that she wanted to make sure the advisory board was heard in the discussions going forward.
- David stated that they would be heard. He stated that he took it to the Commission as part of a budget discussion and to get their approval to move forward with the advisory board on a survey and community forums. He stated that we are asking the advisory board to develop questions that will help them make a recommendation to the Commission.
- Brandi asked if the questions needed to be in favor of the proposal.
- David said no, they need to be impartial in order to help the rec board make the recommendation. He stated that it would be distributed to the citizens and then the rec board can make a recommendation on that.
- Brandi asked why the Y will allow the City to sit in on anything.
- David stated that because it is a good partnership effort, he stated that it will be in the contract.
- Wendy asked if the parks and rec department had more dumped on their plate that weren't before.
- Kevin stated that the golf course is now under parks and rec, we have more property that needs mowing and maintenance.
- Wendy stated that more keeps coming and the budget is in a horrible position. She stated that the recreation portion of the city could be better if we gave it to a group who does this for a living. Then Kevin and his staff can manage the items being put on their plate. She stated that the transition will be smooth as long as the agreement is well written. She stated that she is also on the YMCA board and felt that the partnerships were going well and were getting stronger. She stated that the Y is like the city's community center. She felt that the proposal was good. She said she wouldn't think it was good if the budget was in better shape and Kevin could add staff where he needed it. She stated that the amount might seem small but when added to everything else, it helps with the big picture.
- Russ stated that a local business will lose the t-shirt contract because the Y uses a Wichita company.
- Loren questioned the community center comment, he thought everyone had to have a membership.
- Wendy stated that she felt it was because people go there, they pay a daily fee when they don't have a membership, or they hang out in the lobby or participate in extra programs that aren't part of the membership.
- Steve stated that he wanted to know what effect the Wichita standards will have on our programming.
- David stated that the Wichita representative has been involved each time, and they understand that it has to be what El Dorado wants, and if certain points can't be met, then the deal will be off. He stated that he felt that they want to make a good faith effort to make it what we want.
- Brett asked if the agreement would be annual or for a few years at a time.

- David stated that in his opinion, it would be best to do a three year agreement. He stated that if the transition didn't go well, it would effect a one year agreement renewal. He stated that even at three years, we will meet and discuss and if it's not working, the agreement would not be perpetual.
- Loren asked what the Commission thought.
- Matt stated that they discussed the membership/fee issue. He stated that the conversation turned to let's discuss and see if it will work. He stated that they have asked for more information on the costs. He stated that the Commission asked staff to look at it and see what an agreement will look like, but they are not committed to agreeing to the proposal.
- Russ asked what staff thought.
- Kevin stated that as the director, he sees both sides of the coin. He stated that he understands why we are having the conversation, but said there will be sadness because it has been a part of the city for so long.
- Russ stated that from a parent's perspective, things have calmed down since we began partnering with them on sports. He stated that there will likely be hiccups in the initial transition, but it might not be a bad partnership.
- Loren stated that they will have to make a profit or they won't enter into the agreement. He stated that they will want things to benefit them as much as they benefit the city. He stated that three years is a long time if the contract isn't good. He stated that he isn't convinced that we will save money or that it would be better for the kids.
- Russ stated that he thought there was a lot more discussion to take place.
- Loren asked what the board needed to do.
- David stated that we need questions for the survey. He stated that we would also ask if they could make themselves available for June 7th for the first public forum. He stated that there will be an overview and then opportunity for the public to ask questions.
- Brandi asked if the meeting will happen regardless of when the survey goes out.
- Russ stated that it might not hurt to wait until after the first forum to see if questions could be developed from it.
- Brandi asked if they could do the Facebook live with the meeting so that other people could participate.

Summer Programs

- Kevin stated that we are one team down from 2017 in baseball and up three in softball. He stated that this year is the first of all Heights except machine pitch and t-ball.
- Russ stated that Heights did not prevent participation.
- Kevin stated that there have been a few that couldn't participate or find a team. He stated that staff aren't coaching except for Don and so that's good.
- There have been a few rain outs, but those are going well.
- Minor spectator problems, nothing major to date.
- Mostly positive feedback about officials, they have been very good this year.
- Pool opens Saturday, 22 life guards hired and trained, 6 of them are new. In-service is Friday.
- 24 pool parties already scheduled. 123 kids signed up for swim lessons.
- Brandi asked how those compare to last year.

- Kevin stated that we are in line with last year right now.
- Swim lessons are a partnership with the Y with one of their staff being the coordinator.
- Russ asked how the finances were done for that.
- Kevin stated that everything is split 50/50.

New Business

- Russ asked what the golf course costs the general fund.
- Tabitha stated it averages \$300,000 a year.
- Russ asked if it was a part of the conversation yet.
- David stated that he is going to present some options about the golf course, but has not had much support from the Commission in changing that situation.
- Brett said thanks for the umpires, they are getting better. At first they were not good, but after some prompting from staff they are doing better.
- Betty stated that she appreciated staff getting a new net for pickle ball.
- Loren asked if we are losing \$15,000 a year on concessions.
- Kevin stated that yes, approximately.
- Loren asked why it continues.
- Kevin stated that the Commission in the past has requested that we continue to offer young people through the concession stands, if they were operated on a volunteer basis, the product would be covered by charges.
- Loren asked if we pay coaches.
- Kevin stated that we pay Don and Brian overtime if they have to coach and if he has to recruit a young person to help, he pays them too.
- Betty asked how USD 490 has volunteers.
- Brett stated that it is extra duty employees.
- Kevin stated that the civic groups can volunteer.

Kevin stated that he was late because of problems at the North Main Spray Park, a very important motor failed, we have it fixed for now, but is not permanent.

Russ moved to adjourn.

Brandi seconded the motion.

6:32 p.m.