

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
March 3, 2011

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the City Council Chambers on the 3rd day of March, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Public Library, and 201 West Gray Street, 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Farley, Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover, London and McGuire

Absent: Commissioner Brockhaus

City Officials

Present: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 3, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Ferrier made the motion and Commissioner Gallagher seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Farley, Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover, London and McGuire

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Ferrier made the motion and Commissioner Goth seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Farley, Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover, London and McGuire

NAY: None

ITEM 4, being:

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS FROM OPTIMIST FOOTBALL AND
BASEBALL CLUB

Russ Lowry, President of the Norman Optimist Club presented the annual report for the Optimist Football and Baseball Clubs. He stated some highlights were the scholarships they awarded for children to be able to participate in the various sports; 63 Tackle, 22 Flag, 30 Cheerleading, and 17 Basketball. Basketball participation was up about 32 percent this year. They have been doing exit interviews with their coaches to find out how to improve their program. He said they were interested in coordinating schedules with the City of Norman's Junior Jammer League.

Commissioner Gallagher asked if they were combining Tackle and Flag football together, and questioned where Basketball and Cheerleading fell on their financial statement. He stated due to the death of a founding member the financial department was not present, but he would get with them and have any questions answered.

Commissioner London inquired as to where the money for scholarships comes from. Mr. Lowry stated they receive some donations and the rest from program fees. Commissioner London asked if that was shown as income. Mr. Lowry stated he was unsure. Commissioner London also stated there was no listing under expenses for scholarships. He stated there should be a line item, and he would get with Christina and Jamie Parkman their financial people for an answer. He also stated as President, he has requested the club have a 3rd party review their accounting. Commissioner London asked him to relate the concern that it seems donors were giving money and there is no line item that breaks out donations and no line item that shows scholarships.

Commissioner Farley questioned the loss of money on concessions; something seems odd, stating they need to look at product pricing. Mr. Lowry commented they have a person wanting to bid on the contract.

Commissioner Farley asked if medical people were available on the sidelines and how is that evaluated. Mr. Lowry stated helmets were checked out every two years. In the past they have had paramedics on call and at the fields, and rules regarding spearing and tackling are addressed with the referees. He stated a rule of the club is they do not allow a person to carry the ball if they are over a certain weight. Commissioner Farley said her main concern was head injuries and said there needs to be something in writing about how they are being dealt with.

Commissioner Gallagher questioned helmets being checked every two years and stated she would like to see them checked every year. Mr. Lowry replied the rep comes by every two years, but they clean and inspect the helmets every year before they go out.

Commissioner Ferrier followed up on Commissioners Farley's question and asked again as to if medical people were on call, or actually there. Mr. Lowry stated they were normally put on alert and in the past they have had them there. This year they have had them there. Commissioner Ferrier stated she would be more comfortable with someone present. Mr. Lowry said he has told his coaches if there is any doubt regarding an injury, sit the person out. Commissioner Farley replied that it was probably cost prohibitive, but they need to make their coaches aware.

Chairman Brigham stated his middle son played football this year and the officials were more than aware and play was stopped as soon as there was a violation.

Commissioner McGuire inquired if there has been any change in regard to how to teach tackling. Mr. Lowry stated they do not lead with their head anymore.

A written report including financial information was provided to the board prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Ferrier complimented the club and said we were appreciative of the job they were doing.

The board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 5, being:

PRESENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FROM WESTWOOD GOLF COURSE

David Lisle, the Head Golf Professional reported on the activities at Westwood Golf Course. He stated rounds and revenue were down this past year, but performance outperformed other courses around the state and nationally. Commissioner Farley asked about how much they were down. Mr. Lisle replied about 5%, (35,000 rounds to about 33,000; revenue \$875,000 versus \$850,000 approximately). Weather is still the leading factor in the business.

Mr. Lisle said they were identifying areas for improvement. One item is they have offered too many discount options and programs, so they are not making as much per round as they would like to. Some discounts will be eliminated. The Monday green fee for \$10 will be eliminated. The course will begin monthly specials; the March special is a Tuesday special for \$15. Different specials will be used throughout the year. Some of the successful things have been the beginning ladies clinics and the juniors programs. This year they are going to add a men's beginning clinic and the Norman Junior Championship. Another program they did this year is the national 1st Tee Program. This year approximately 22 children participated in the program. Westwood is part of the Oklahoma City chapter. The program not only teaches golf, but life skills like integrity, honesty and sportsmanship. Mr. Lisle showed the board tools used in the program.

In closing Mr. Lisle stated he knows they are being subsidized, but feel they do a lot for the community and the staff works hard and Ralph and his crew do a great job to prepare the course for play.

Commissioner London requested a copy of the report he had been reading off of. He stated he would re-produce it and get it to Jud for distribution.

Ralph Cagigal reported on the maintenance activities at the Golf Course. He is starting his 27th year at the course. The biggest focus this year is recovering from winter kill. He presented a slide show of various damage to the course. Approximately 30,000 square feet of sod was laid in addition to seeding of an additional 1 acre of turf. Improvements done since last year included refurbishing the tree farm. To date they have planted 450 trees that were established in the tree farm. They also renovated the course bathrooms. Mr. Cagigal

complimented his staff and especially recognized Mike Winkler, his "mad scientist/mechanic/genius and inventor". Mike has been responsible for designing and creating many tools useful to maintaining the course. His recent invention is a compost shaker, which shakes the compost obtained from the compost facility through a grid leaving useable material which is spread on the course. He showed several pictures of Mike's various inventions and projects.

Commissioner London asked if repairs included the pool area. Mr. Cagigal replied they have helped the pool on various items.

The board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 6, being:

MISCELLANEOUS

Commissioner London asked if anyone had seen the Chamber of Commerce article in the paper and questioned the item about supporting a significant citywide parks improvement program if it requires an increase in our taxes at this time. She asked if there was such a plan out there to be talking about. Commissioner Farley stated there was a Master Plan. Mr. Foster said there is a Master Plan and there are discussions in the community about what people might be willing to support and when. Commissioner Ferrier stated there are groups talking about raising taxes to improve our city. Commissioner London felt the wording was encouraging people to take a negative stance against park improvement. Commissioner Farley stated she did not read it that way, but could understand why she saw it that way.

Commissioner Ferrier commented she noticed that the park issue passed better than any other issue and feels that it was a tribute to Jud and his staff.

Commissioner Ferrier commented staff does a good job at preparing materials for the board meeting and it was appreciated and made it easy to be on the board.

Jud Foster welcomed Mark McGuire to the board.

Mr. Foster informed the board about the 7th Free Tree Giveaway. The Apache Foundation of Houston has agreed to donate 550 trees to be given away on April 8th. Registration for a variety of Oklahoma proven trees will begin on March 16th.

Mr. Foster told the board staff was working closely with the Sutton Wilderness Advisory Committee on a management plan to remove the Red Cedars in the northwest area. Park Maintenance staff has been removing trees in the area. Also, the dam on the west side of the lake was inspected and was found to be a high hazard dam because of the trees and shrubs growing on the backside which could potentially undermine the integrity of the dam. Park Maintenance has been removing trees from the top of the dam and the Public Works department will take over the project and hire a contractor to remove the rest of the vegetation and ultimately a ground cover will be established.

Jud Foster proposed after the conclusion of the April board meeting that those interested could stay after and have a discussion about the different ordinances and policies the board is responsible for. It was the consensus of the board to stay after the April meeting. Mr. Foster stated he would put some materials together and send them out prior to the meeting.

Mark Campbell, 2821 Dewey Ave thanked the board for doing the Apache Tree Giveaway. He asked if the Firehouse Art Center was on parkland. Mr. Foster stated it was part of Lions Park. Mr. Campbell shared his experiences about applying for a scholarship from the Firehouse Art Center a few years back and was denied. He stated he would appreciate the programs being open to everyone. He said he was flabbergasted the Firehouse Art Center was undergoing a Civic campaign to expand and he doesn't feel they are taking care of people who may not be people they want to work with. He stated he also noticed there were water pipes being run recently north of Sutton Wilderness and asked if a water line could be run to the pavilion for a water fountain.

Chairman Brigham stated he would like to thank David Lisle and Ralph Cagigal for the job they do at Westwood, we are lucky to have them.

ITEM 7, being:

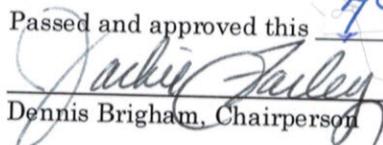
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Farley made the motion and Commissioner Gallagher seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Farley, Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover, London and McGuire

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 7th of April 2011


Dennis Brigham, Chairperson
