

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners  
April 7, 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 7th day of April, 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.

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ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Brockhaus and London

City Officials

Present: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation  
James Briggs, Park Planner  
Mitch Miles, Assistant Park Planner

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ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 3, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

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

NAY: None

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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: Vice Chairman Farley and Commissioners Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover and McGuire

NAY: None

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ITEM 4, being:

PRESENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FROM THE FIREHOUSE ART CENTER

Douglas Elder, Executive Director of the Firehouse Art Center presented to the board. He stated even with the economy, they have done ok. He said the Center's biggest contribution to the community is through the schools. The Center provides a full time art teacher at Jackson Elementary. In addition they provide classes at several local elementary schools. Last year they serviced 1750 adults and 430 children at the Center. Through their school program they serviced an additional 1614 children. The Firehouse Art Center is currently going through their third audit which shows they are doing well and are secure. A capital campaign kicks off in June to add another classroom and 2 bathrooms to the facility.

Commissioner Gallagher questioned the \$2,000 elevator expense in the budget. Mr. Elder replied that it was to bring the elevator up to code and to install a phone with contact to the police department. Jud Foster added there is a regular state inspection required that is included in the cost. Commissioner Gallagher asked if they have looked at areas where they could make cuts to keep their head above water. Mr. Elder replied they have. Commissioner Gallagher also asked if there was a more current tax statement than the 2008 one provided. Mr. Elder replied he would look into it and report back to Jud Foster.

Commissioner Ferrier complemented the quality of the Firehouse Art Center Gallery.

Douglas Elder invited the board to come out to the Luncheon on the Grass which they co-sponsor with the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art and the Jacobson House. The lunch will be on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in Lions Park.

A written report including a financial report was submitted prior to the meeting. The board acknowledged the report.

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ITEM 5, being:

PRESENTATION OF ACTIVITIES FROM THE NORMAN FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Mickey Williams, Coordinator of the Norman Football Academy presented to the board. The Academy just completed their 10<sup>th</sup> year of leasing fields at Griffin Park. Mr. Williams stated because of the rules and officials training they have had no one file an injury on the insurance. Participation was down 2 teams this year to 24. This year the Academy is hosting a Spring League which will be a developmental league.

Mickey Williams stated at the end of the 2009 season he purchased a John Deere mower for \$2,000 which was not reflected in the 2009 expenses. This year he has purchased an additional riding lawn mower for \$750 which is not reflected on the expenses and needs to be deducted from the \$832 balance.

Commissioner Gallagher asked if there was an insurance break for having no claims. He said he wished they would. He has not shopped the insurance around but would be happy to.

Jud Foster requested a copy of the tax information submitted to the IRS. Mr. Williams said he would provide a copy.

Mr. Williams stated the organization is at the end of their 2<sup>nd</sup> contract and the new lease is yet to be finalized. He requested the new lease include all fields at Griffin Park. This would allow him to expand the sport to include Women's, High School and 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Flag Football which the Optimist has dropped. He stated the entity that leases fields 1, 2 & 3 has no need for those fields to just practice on.

Mr. Foster stated he understands the need for the request and he has requested Jeff Hill to organize a meeting with all of the organizations before any contracts are renewed to create a better situation for field usage. Commissioner Gallagher requested a report back to the board.

Commissioner McGuire asked if Mr. Williams would be willing to go up on the team fees, if he was given additional fields. Mr. Williams said he would.

A written report including financial information was provided. The board acknowledged the report.

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ITEM 6, being:

2011 YOUTH BASEBALL/SOFTBALL RULES REVIEW

Jeff Hill, Recreation Superintendent reported on a rule change for the 12 & Under Fast Pitch League. Each year we review the rules for our Youth Baseball and Softball Programs at Griffin Park. If there are any proposed changes by coaches or staff we will offer recommendations for consideration by the Park Board. This year there is one recommended rule change in the 12 & Under Girls Fast Pitch Softball League. Below is a summary of the proposed change.

12 & Under Girls Fast Pitch Softball Rules:

- 1) Playing Field: 60 feet between bases; **43 feet from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber.** The pitcher's circle shall be a 16-foot circle (8' in radius) drawn from the center of the pitcher's plate.

In discussion with the coaches in the 12U Fast Pitch League we were asked to consider moving the pitching distance from 43 feet to 40 feet. Both the ASA and USSSA governing body's use the 40 foot pitching distance in the 12U Fast Pitch Leagues and Tournaments. Middle Schools teams in Norman are using the 43 feet distance. We were able to contact 7 of the 8 coaches in the division. All seven of the coaches we talked to were in agreement with using the 40 foot distance.

We discussed this rule change with the Park Board Rules Committee Members; all were in agreement with the proposal. Therefore staff is recommending changing the above rule to read: **"40 feet from the back of home plate to the front of the pitching rubber."**

Commissioner Goth made the motion and Commissioner Hoover seconded to approve the staff recommendation to change the pitching distance rule. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice Chairman Farley and Commissioners Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover and McGuire
NAY:	None

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ITEM 7, being:

**CONSIDERATION OF PARKLAND DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MARRIOTT RESIDENCE INN ADDITION**

Marriott Residence Inn Addition is a part of the southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2 of T-8-N, R-3-W of the Indian Meridian. This addition is south of State Highway 9 and east of Interstate 35, just north of the South Canadian River. The property is currently being sold by one management group to another. Part of this sale includes a request to change the zoning of the property from Commercial to Residential. The original construction of the property did not come before park board; however, now that the zoning is being changed from Commercial to Residential, a park land decision must be made.

This property contains 126 units of RM-6 housing which requires 0.5387 acre of park land. The site was fully constructed as commercial property, and therefore no new building permits will be issued. As a result, the development will not generate any Neighborhood Park Development or Community Park Development fees. However, the Park Land Dedication Ordinance is put into effect whenever this type of zone change is considered by the City of Norman.

The developer is requesting a fee-in-lieu of land for the project, as there is no park land available on the already-developed site. This fee would be used to make improvements to the nearest neighborhood park, which in this case is the Adkins Crossing Park site (see Map).

Staff recommends that Park Board make a fee-in-lieu of land decision for this project.

Commissioner Gallagher made the motion and Commissioner Goth seconded to approve a fee-in-lieu of land decision for the Marriot Residence Inn Addition. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice Chairman Farley and Commissioners Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover and McGuire
NAY:	None

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ITEM 8, being:

**CONSIDERATION OF PARKLAND DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GLENRIDGE ADDITION**

Glenridge Addition is located in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section 3 Township 9 North, Range 3 West of the Indian Meridian and is located south of Indian Hills Road, between 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest. The Glenridge Addition is located east of the J&J Addition PUD which was seen recently by Park Board and adjacent to the Bridgeview United Methodist Church that fronts Indian Hills Road.

Glenridge Addition is on a tract of land that will encompass approximately 48 acres, with a total of 154 single family lots. At this density, the addition will generate a public parkland dedication requirement of 1.01 acres. When completed, Glenridge Addition will generate \$11,550 in Neighborhood Park Development Fees, and the same in Community Park Development Fees.

The developer would like to pursue a private park decision, which would total 2.02 acres of land for Glenridge. This request is being made, in part, based on the plan to make this a gated community. The attached plat map shows the proper amount of land which would be developed as park land. Part of the private park land will be in the vacant areas along and adjacent to the gas line that passes through the addition. At this location, the developer plans to add a playground and provide some flat un-programmed green space. The rest of the private park will be provided in the dry areas around the detention ponds in the development, where the developer will construct walking trails and provide landscaping and benches along the trail. The pond and all of the private park land will be owned and maintained by the mandatory HOA.

The plat shows how the Glenridge Addition will connect to the J & J Addition on its southern and western borders. The J & J addition contains a large amount of private park area that will include a combination of active and passive space, as requested by the Park Board. Also, the proposed development of the adjacent Bridgeview Church site includes a large amount of outdoor recreation space that may be available to the residents of Glenridge in the future. In addition, a public park location is proposed one half mile north of this development and the Ruby Grant Park site is located one mile to the south.

Given the proximity of other park land and open space near this development and the fact that a gated community is proposed, staff recommends that the Board of Park Commissioners approve the request for a private park at Glenridge Addition.

Commissioner Gallagher questioned the access to adjacent parkland besides going out of the addition and back in. James Briggs responded there was no guarantee for access, but it has been discussed. Vice-Chairman Farley questioned the issue of having 154 single family lots and no open space for people to practice and would J & J be happy about those residents coming over and using their space. Jud Foster replied there is a public park site ½ mile to the North and if there was a public park requirement, it would only be about 1 acre which is not suitable for a soccer field.

Commissioner Goth made the motion and Commissioner Hoover seconded to approve a private park decision for the Glenridge Addition. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice Chairman Farley and Commissioners Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover and McGuire
NAY:	None

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ITEM 9, being:

**CONSIDERATION OF PARKLAND DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
COMMERCE PARKWAY ADDITION PUD**

The Commerce Parkway Addition PUD is located in Section 35 of T-10-North, R-3-West of the Indian Meridian. Specifically it is located on the northeast corner of Indian Hills Road and 36<sup>th</sup> Ave N.W. A plat for this development was seen by Park Board in July of 2005; however that preliminary plat has expired. The revised preliminary plat now being submitted has a mixture of commercial/office and industrial uses and some RM-2 zoning for residential units.

The Development includes 258 units of multifamily residential zoning as part of the PUD which requires a 1.1417 acre parkland dedication. This development will also yield \$19,350 in Neighborhood Park Development Fees and the same in Community Park Development fees once all building permits have been issued.

Park Board recommended a fee-in-lieu of land for this plat in 2005. However, since that time, the area has been re-designed to include a large expanse of park land, totaling 8.67 acres. This far exceeds the 1.1417 acres required by ordinance. This park land is part of the large green space that has been shown in recent months as a "Gateway Park" area at the northern border of Norman on the west side of I-35. The total area is a combination of park land dedications from the Redlands, Foxworth, Whispering Pines and (now) the Commerce Parkway Additions. The park area shown in the Commerce Parkway plat is the western segment of the trail and park area that begins in the Redlands area at the public park for that addition (1/2 mile west of 36<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW) and which stretches along the Moore/Norman border all the way east to 36<sup>th</sup>, where it crosses the road into the area being seen in this proposal.

The land is in the 100 year flood plain, however, that does not prohibit the area from being developed into a public space—with walking trails, playing fields and some site furnishings.

Staff Recommendation:

Recognizing that the 2005 plat and park board recommendation for the Commerce Parkway Addition has expired and since been re-designed, staff now recommends that the Board of Park Commissioners make a land decision for the Commerce Parkway Addition PUD as shown in the attached drawing. This plan is consistent with the proposals we have reviewed and approved for the adjacent neighborhood developments mentioned above.

Commissioner Gallagher questioned if the land being deeded in the area among all of the developments was enough to meet the proper land dedication requirements. Mr. Briggs stated it was. She again questioned the safety issue of residents crossing 36<sup>th</sup> Ave to the east playing fields and if anyone has a plan to put protective crosswalks there. Jud Foster stated yes, staff is working with the traffic engineer to come up with a safe crossing there.

Commissioner Goth made the motion and Commissioner McGuire seconded to approve a land decision of the 8.6 acres per the attached drawing for the Commerce Parkway Addition PUD. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice Chairman Farley and Commissioners Ferrier, Gallagher, Goth, Hoover and McGuire
NAY:	None

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ITEM 10, being:

SPRING PARK TOUR DISCUSSION FOR MAY MEETING

Jud Foster asked for suggestions for the Spring Park Tour. If there was anything in particular they want to see to e-mail him their suggestions. He also recommended that the Park Board informational workshop "Park Board 101" originally slated for this evening be postponed to May as well. Board members agreed.

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ITEM 11, being:

MISCELLANEOUS

Jud Foster reminded the board about the 7<sup>th</sup> Free Tree giveaway tomorrow at Reaves Park.

Saturday will be the annual Kid's Fishing Derby at N.E. Lions Park co-sponsored by the Wildlife Department. There is also a fishing clinic on Friday evening at the 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. Recreation Center.

Commissioner Gallagher mentioned that Saturday was Special Olympics at Norman High.

Commissioner Gallagher questioned a report from David Lisle stating rounds were down, yet the numbers reported were showing rounds being up. Jud Foster stated he would check into it.

Commissioner Ferrier asked if there were development plans for spending the money freed up by the Charter Amendment. Jud Foster replied no specific plans were in place, but we would be gathering public input for individual projects as they occur. Commissioner McGuire asked for more information about the Charter Amendment. Mr. Foster explained that the amendment freed up funds that could originally only be used to purchase parkland and there was no parkland available to purchase in the area the funds came from. The Charter Amendment approval allows for these funds to be spent on park improvements in the areas the fees originally came from.

Commissioner Goth complimented the Parks and Recreation Department on plans for the Planet Reaves Summer Camp to be held in Reaves Park this summer.

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ITEM 12, being:

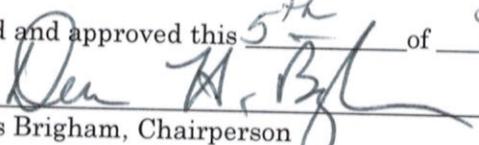
ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2011

  
Dennis Brigham, Chairperson