

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners  
April 5, 2012

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the City Council Chambers on the 5th day of April, 2012 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: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Chappel, Goth, Hoover, London, Perry and Stewart

Absent: Commissioners Brockhaus and Farley

City Officials

Present: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation

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ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2012 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Chappel, Goth, Hoover, London, Perry and Stewart

NAY: None

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ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Chappel, Goth, Hoover, London, Perry and Stewart

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 thanked the Parks Board for their support and the Parks and Recreation Department who have worked to renovate the facility. During the recent fiscal year, the Firehouse Art Center provided programming to 15,655 citizens through Community Art, Community Art Education and Art Education in Schools. This past year they expanded art education into seven new schools. Public events this year included the Chocolate Festival, Luncheon on the Grass and Midsummer Night's Fair, they also hosted 3 artists workshops and 6 gallery openings. Classes are available for ages five and above.

Commissioner London asked who does the grant writing. Mr. Elder replied he did. She congratulated him on receiving a grant from Sarkeys. She also commented the FAC had a small board and it appears to be working. Mr. Elder replied currently the board is more of a governing board, not a working board but they all work very hard.

Mr. Elder was asked about the recent showing in the gallery. He stated there was an exhibition of art from participants in the Healing Studio which operates as an open studio. Some materials are provided and there is no fee for participation. The Healing Studio is a supportive environment intended to improve the quality of life for participants by providing a risk-free social environment in which to experiment with the creative process through self-expression. He praised Jane Lawson, the instructor of the program, who has also been instrumental in all of the art education in the schools.

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 11<sup>th</sup> year of leasing fields at Griffin Park. This year they had 24 teams in 4 divisions. They played on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

Mr. Williams stated this year they played on 2 fields, and this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row he has come to the board and requested the use of all 4 fields. He stated they are strapped for fields and cannot grow the sport because of the lack of fields. Mr. Williams provided a request to the Parks and Recreation Department and Park Board signed by the Athletic Directors of Norman High and Norman North High School to provide fields for the purpose of conducting two flag football high school leagues, 9/10<sup>th</sup> grade and 11/12<sup>th</sup> grade league. He stated he is going to start these leagues, regardless if we give him the fields or not.

Mr. Williams made a formal request to Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, Jeff Hill, Sports Coordinator, and the Norman Parks and Recreation Board for a 5 year contract for use of all 4 flag football fields at Griffin Park in order to finally be able to expand the flag football program to the level that has been delayed the past 5 years.

Chairman Brigham asked about the allocation of the fields at Griffin. Mr. Foster replied we have tried to provide as many fields to each of the organizations as we could spread around and continue to do so. The Soccer, Optimist and Flag Football groups entered into a 1 year agreement where there were some expansion options and soccer is providing maintenance of the fields now. Mr. Foster stated staff will look into it further.

Commissioner London asked if groups who have made improvements to the fields have a factor in determining who uses the fields. Mr. Foster replied no it is just having availability.

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

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ITEM 6, being:

PRESENTATION FROM SUTTON WILDERNESS COMMITTEE

Roberta Pailes, Co-Chairman of the Sutton Wilderness Advisory Committee presented a slide show to the board. She stated in two months they will be presenting a formal management plan. The management plan has been in development over the past 2 years. The plan reiterates & emphasizes the purpose of the park, establishes goals in terms of enhancement and maintenance of the park and will allow for seeking of external funding to support projects in the park. Ms. Pailes provided a history of the park. In 1979, 160 acres was established as a community park through a 99-year lease from the state. In 2008, 53 acres were added through a purchase by the City of Norman as a buffer. Ms. Pailes spoke about the current projects and future projects to preserve Sutton Urban Wilderness Park as a Norman treasure. The Sierra Club is an Adopt-a-Park participant doing clean-ups in the park. On April 14<sup>th</sup> students from the University of Oklahoma participating in the Big Event and Backwoods will be doing trash pick-up and removal of barbed wire in an effort to clean up the park.

The board acknowledged the report.

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ITEM 7, being:

MISCELLANEOUS

Jud Foster thanked the Sutton Wilderness Committee for the work they have done over the last few years. This will be an exceptional plan and we have worked with them along the way and look forward to the final version.

Mr. Foster updated the board on the Hall Park dam project. He stated the trees were delivered today and they are starting to replant in the area.

Mr. Foster updated the board on the Monroe School Park Site. He stated final approval has been received from school representatives and staff will start next week with a survey of the property to work on drainage and begin ordering playground equipment. The majority of construction will take place over the summer months and be done prior to the start of school in the fall.

Mr. Foster reminded the board the May meeting is typically the Spring Park Tour and stated if anyone has anything in particular they would like to see to please call or e-mail so we can put it on the schedule.

Judith Wilkins, member of the Sutton Wilderness Committee spoke to the board. She stated City Staff is remarkable, they work countless hours and wanted to thank them.

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ITEM 8, being:

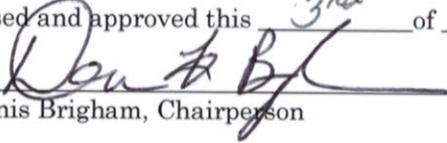
ADJOURNMENT

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

YEAH: Chairman Brigham and Commissioners Chappel, Goth, Hoover,  
London, Perry and Stewart

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2012

  
Dennis Brigham, Chairperson