

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners  
April 2, 2015

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the City Council Chambers on the 2nd day of April, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Street, 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Chappel, Hoover, London, Salmond and Wright

Absent: Commissioners Brockhaus and Perry

City Officials

Present: James Briggs, Park Planner

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ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 5, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Chappel, Hoover, London, Salmond and Wright

NAY: None

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ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

YEAH: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Chappel, Hoover, London, Salmond and Wright

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 and the Parks and Recreation Department for their support. In FY 2014 they had an income of over \$500,000 and just completed their 5<sup>th</sup> successful audit. They had a total of 14,776 participants in a variety of activities.

The Firehouse Art Center has partnerships to provide public art in the Norman community. They are completing their 7<sup>th</sup> year and are now providing art education to 5 schools. They work with approximately 468 children ages 5-13. The Firehouse Art Center offers teen courses through their College Portfolio Program. In 2014 the graduating seniors received \$249,000 in scholarship offers.

The Midsummers Nights' Fair has been moved from mid-July to the end of August to correspond closer to registration for art classes and also to draw from the college community.

Mr. Elder reported that they had a major turnover on their board and he is excited to say that he has some really motivated people who are motivating and pushing the staff. They are currently preparing for a whole new strategic plan.

Chairman Farley asked if they were still raising money for capital improvements. Mr. Elder reported that the new board is talking about it, but for now the capital campaign has been put on hold.

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:

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Troop 3313 Girl Scouts came to the meeting to discuss recycling in public parks. The girls introduced themselves and had a short oral presentation on the importance of putting recycling bins in parks. In addition they volunteered to make signs about the importance of recycling to put in the parks. James Briggs stated we have tried in the past to put out recycling bins, but unfortunately people did not always just recycle in them. He stated that an information campaign would be something that could possibly work and suggested it contain information about putting your garbage here and taking your recyclables home. The board challenged the scouts to come up with a logo and a catchy slogan to encourage citizens to think about recycling. The board applauded the group for seeing a problem and beginning to take steps to correct the problem and not to give up. The board invited them to return when they had additional materials to present.

James Briggs reported the park department has just completed the renovations of the tot lots at Lions and Andrews Park. Tulls Park is next and will include a shade structure.

Earth Day is coming up on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

James reported Bill Ulch has retired and staff is holding interviews for his replacement. He also introduced BJ Brewer as the new Sports and Special Events Coordinator.

The Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a new event – an end of School Luau which will be held May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Andrews Park.

The annual park board tour is next month, board members were asked to e-mail and let us know if they had any special requests on facilities to see. In October the board requested to visit Highland Village Park, Little Axe Ball Fields, Lakeview Park and eating dinner at the Carriage House. They discussed seeing Legacy Park, Saxon Park and Tulls Park. It was mentioned that it is a long trip out to Little Axe and that they might not be able to see everything on this trip. The big consensus was that they do want to definitely go out to see Little Axe and have dinner.

Chairman Farley asked about synthetic grass. She stated she had been hearing about soccer players and goalies having problems with the turf materials causing problems. James reported we have heard nothing regarding the playground material and that the playgrounds are using a sand base, not recycled tire materials.

ITEM 7, being:

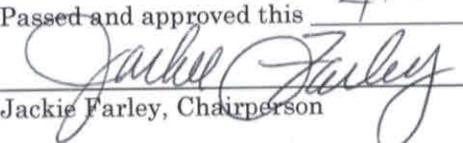
**ADJOURNMENT**

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

YEAH: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Chappel, Hoover, Perry and Stewart

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2015

  
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Jackie Farley, Chairperson