

Norman Forward
Reaves Park
Ad Hoc Advisory Group
February 13, 2020

The Norman Forward Reaves Park Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Conference Room on the 13th day of February, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Street, 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman Armstrong and Members Eckart, Murray, Parker, and Wells, and Ex-Officio Reiger

Absent: Ex-Officio Salmond

City Officials

Present: James Briggs, Park Planner
Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent
Wade Thompson, Park Superintendent
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Member Parker made the motion and Member Wells seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Armstrong and Members Eckart, Murray, Parker, and Wells

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Member Eckart made the motion and Member Parker seconded to approve the minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Armstrong and Members Eckart, Murray, Parker, and Wells

NAY: None

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ITEM 4, being:

PROJECT AND BUDGET UPDATE

Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, highlighted the purpose of today's meeting stating all the Norman Forward Ad Hoc Groups have met or will be meeting to look at the overall master plan for their specific Norman Forward project. He said the intent is to determine if or how fully funded projects can be completed and if each Ad Hoc Group wants to request City Council to seek additional funding for their particular Norman Forward project, whether that be an extension to the current Norman Forward tax or a General Obligation (GO) Bond.

Mr. James Hazzard, Halff Associates, distributed 100% review construction documents to the Group and said a full project build out is approximately \$13.5 million. Member Eckart asked if the shade structures have been added back to the project and Mr. Hazzard said yes, they are listed as item number one on the add/alternates list. Member Wells felt adding an additional \$1 million to the project in order to get all the items on the add/alternates list would be worth it in the long run. Member Eckart agreed and said the City should build a first class facility. Chairman Armstrong asked whether the Ad Hoc Group should ask for additional funding for the *entire* Reaves Park Master Plan and Mr. James Briggs, Park Planner, said the entire Reaves Park Master Plan is \$30 million.

Ex-Officio Reiger asked if the new Senior Center will be located in Reaves Park or at Norman Regional Hospital Porter Campus. Mr. Foster said the Senior Wellness Ad Hoc Group will meet on February 19th to review the project, but there is support to move the Senior Center to the Porter Campus. He said if that happens, the existing building at Reaves Park will be renovated in order to become more usable.

Chairman Armstrong said if Council approves the additional funding, when would the vote go before the people. Mr. Foster said it could be as early as June, 2020 or August, 2020. Member Eckart asked how the bond would be funded and Mr. Foster said either by a GO Bond (property tax bond) or either raise or extend the current Norman Forward tax; however, the comments to date seem to support a GO Bond.

Mr. Foster said a Council Conference is scheduled on February 25, 2020 and all Norman Forward Groups are invited to attend. He said Staff and ADG will give a short presentation and discuss whether Council could authorize an election to support additional funding. Chairman Armstrong asked whether the request for additional funding would delay the current work and/or the project at Reaves Park and Mr. Foster said no, work will continue. Member Wells asked if each project would have their own GO Bond and Mr. Foster said there would be one GO Bond for all the Norman Forward Projects and may include other City projects in a separate question.

Ex-Officio Reiger asked if the Norman Forward Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sports Facility Project is the driver for the additional funding request and Mr. Foster said most of the remaining Norman Forward Projects are underfunded; however, the Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sports Facility has the largest delta. Ex-Officio Reiger said he agrees the Norman Forward facilities need to be useable, but he is concerned that the community will push back in regards to an election for additional funding. Mr. Foster said four Norman Forward projects have been completed, i.e., Westwood Family Aquatic Center, Central Library, East Side Library and the Indoor Tennis Facility and all were done within budget except for the Tennis Facility. Member Wells asked if the budgets for each Norman Forward Project was estimated for the initial Norman Forward Tax initiative and Mr. Foster said yes; however, construction costs have increased and project scope has increased for some of the projects.

Mr. Hazzard said the current Park Maintenance Facility has not been relocated but some of the work will begin on the southeast fields. He said some of the roads and parking will be done; however, there be will

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a logical stopping point so that money is not spent on something that will be torn up or demolished at a later date. Mr. Foster said a meeting will be scheduled with Flincto Construction next week to discuss what needs to be done and not done this spring. Member Murray said he does not want to get the cart before the horse if a GO Bond is not approved and Chairman Armstrong felt certain elements of the project can be done regardless of the GO Bond vote.

Chairman Armstrong asked whether \$15 million will be enough funding to complete the Norman Forward Reaves Park Facility and Mr. Hazzard felt \$15 million will get all the fields, Maintenance Facility, and storage building completed; however, more money may be needed in order to get the add/alternates done. Chairman Armstrong felt the additional funding requested needed to cover the add/alternates list and Mr. Foster said costs will be nailed down before the February 25th Council Conference.

Member Eckart asked about an additional restroom building at the facility and Mr. Jeremy Belitz, Halff Associates, said the restrooms on the proposed plans should be sufficient. The Ad Hoc Group discussed shade structures over bleachers, bull pens, irrigation on fields, and score boards. Mr. Belitz said all fields will be irrigated; however, the perimeter grass between the fields will not be irrigated. Member Murray asked if the shade structures/sails are fabric and Mr. Belitz said yes. Member Murray asked who would replace the shades when new ones are needed and Mr. Foster said the City would replace them as part of operating costs.

Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, said the Switzer Foundation has contacted Staff about providing score boards. Mr. Belitz asked if score tables are needed and Member Wells said no. Chairman Armstrong said screens for fencing were discussed at previous meetings and he felt having windscreens will prevent vehicle lights from disrupting games as well as give an isolated/secure feel to the park.

Mr. Hazzard asked which was the preferred turf variety and Mr. Belitz said Tahoma is a new variety that would work well because it grows shorter and thicker. Member Wells asked if Tahoma is more costly and Mr. Belitz said it is not a significant amount. Mr. Belitz asked if there was a desire to have field identifiers and wayfinding signage and the Ad Hoc Group said yes.

Chairman Armstrong asked who is operating the fields and Mr. Foster said Ball Clubs of Norman.

Member Murray made the motion for Council to seek funding to complete all construction of 14 ballfields and amenities associated with the project approved in the Reaves Park Master Plan and Member Parker seconded to approve the motion. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Armstrong and Members Eckart, Murray, Parker, and Wells

NAY: None

ITEM 5: being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Debby Williams who was present. He said she is with the Norman Arts Council and will be working on the Norman Forward art for Reaves Park.

Mr. Foster invited the Reaves Park Ad Hoc Group to attend the February 25, 2020, Council Conference.

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ITEM 6, being:

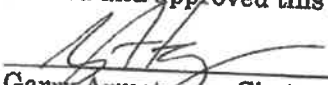
ADJOURNMENT

Member Murray made the motion and Member Parker seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Armstrong and Members Eckart, Murray, Parker, and Wells

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 29 of September 2020


Garry Armstrong, Chairperson

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