

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
October 1, 2020

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 1st day of October, 2020 at 5:34 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.

This Park Board Meeting was a virtual meeting with Park Commissioners appearing via video conference.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Wright and Commissioners Dolan, Favors, Isacksen, Moxley, and Ross

Absent: Commissioners May, Sallee, and Salmond

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent
Wade Thompson, Parks Superintendent
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners Dolan, Favors, Isacksen, Moxley, and Ross

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners Dolan, Favors, Isacksen, Moxley, and Ross

NAY: None

ITEM 4, being

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM THE NORMAN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Ms. Christy Fuentes, President of the Norman Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) presented the annual report to the Board and submitted financial reports prior to the meeting. She said NYSA's Mission Statement is "To encourage, promote, and stimulate interest and participation in the game of soccer by organizing recreational and competitive soccer teams; developing our players, coaches and referees; promoting sportsmanship; maintaining proper playing facilities; and operating in a financially responsible manner."

Ms. Fuentes said NYSA offers three youth soccer leagues which currently have about 3,000 participants. He highlighted the soccer leagues at NYSA to include:

- Recreational: offered to boys and girls ages four to eighteen years old; consists of a fall season that will begin on September 7th and a spring season that will begin in March 2020;
- Academy: developmental league offered to U7 to U10 boys and girls; players train with professional coaches and compete against Academy teams in other soccer organizations;
- Competitive: offered to U11 to U19 boys and girls; annual tryouts are held in late Spring/early Summer each year; train with professional coaches and compete against Competitive teams in other soccer organizations;

Ms. Fuentes, said NYSA offers an Adult recreational league as a fundraising project. She said this league has about 100 players and the league games began in September. Ms. Fuentes said NYSA also offers a "Tops" program for players with special needs and is run with volunteers from NYSA players and parents. The league offers a fall and spring season on Saturday or Sunday afternoons.

Ms. Fuentes said NYSA operates several tournaments as fundraising projects; however, they also provide our teams the opportunity to compete in a local venue as well as have an estimated \$1.5 million economic impact to the City of Norman. She highlighted the tournaments to include: Norman Regional Hospital Soccerfest; a recreational invitational tournament scheduled for October 31 – November 1, with entry registration is \$150 to \$375 per team; First Fidelity Bank Classic Cup: a competitive invitational tournament scheduled for November 13-15, 2020 with an entry fee of \$25 to \$650 per team and last year this tournament hosted 187 teams; OSC Celtic Cup an academy tournament scheduled for March 5-7, 2021 with an entry fee of \$225 to \$650 per team and this tournament hosted 160 teams last year.

Ms. Fuentes highlighted the camps offered at NYSA and said only one recreational camp was hosted in the Summer of 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. She went over the league fee structures stating the recreational registration is between \$75 and \$90 per player per season depending on the age group. Academy registration is \$180 per player per year and academy coaching fees are \$85 per month for a 10-month period. Competitive field training fees are \$1,000 per team per year, adult recreational registration is \$90 per player per season, ECNL is a program offered for the highest level of player and the registration is \$195 per player per year.

Commissioner Isacksen said she received the budget; however, there was no real numbers from the actual budget. Ms. Fuentes said she will request that report from the NYSA treasurer and submit it to the Board. She said the numbers will not be as good as they have been in the past due to the COVID-19 pandemic and refunds given back.

Park Board Special Meeting

Page 3 of 6

October 1, 2020

Chair Wright asked if NYSA had any challenges beside COVID-19 and Ms. Fuentes said no, and wanted to brag on the scholarship programs stating they are still a success and make it easy for kids to play.

Ms. Fuentes said the complex looks great and invited the Board to the Ribbon Cutting for Griffin Park Phase III which is scheduled Saturday, October 3rd at 8:15 a.m.

The Board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 5, being

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM THE LITTLE AXE YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Ms. Courtney Earhart, Little Axe Youth Sports (LAYS), highlighted the presented the annual report to the Board and submitted financial reports prior to the meeting. She said the Spring, 2020 league was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and refunds were given to those who requested it; however, some were interested in having their league fees rolled to the Fall 2020 and/or Spring 2021 leagues. Ms. Earhart said in effort to salvage any part of the baseball and softball season, LAYS joined the EOC All Sports League and worked closely with the partnering complexes to plan and prepare for a Fall League. She said, as of current, LAYS was able to gather three (3) teams interested in playing Fall League.

Ms. Earhart said LAYS is solely revenue dependent on League and Tournaments and was able to partner with Big Show Productions for field use to host overflow from their various tournaments across the metro area. She said this partnership has been the primary source of income for LAYS 2020 calendar year.

Ms. Earhart highlighted the League and Tournament Fee structure stating the league fee is \$25 per child and age of participants range from 4 years old to 12 years old. She said each team averages 12 games during the fall league.

Commissioner Isacksen thanked Ms. Earhart for the Profit and Loss Report and requested a Balance Sheet be submitted. Chair Wright thanked Ms. Earhart for all of her hard work.

The board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 6, being

NORMAN FORWARD UPDATE

Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, gave a Norman Forward (NF) Update to the Board. He said the NF Ad Hoc Groups, except for the NF Senior Wellness Center, have met to discuss the next steps for their specific Park/Projects since the G.O. Bond Election, Proposition 1 failed.

Mr. Olsen highlighted the NF Projects currently under construction to include Andrews Park, Ruby Grant Park, Rotary Park, the Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport Facility, Griffin Park, the proposal for Adult Softball and Youth Football fields, in conjunction with Reaves and Ruby Grant Parks, and the Senior Wellness Center.

Ruby Grant Park

Mr. Olsen said the lighting at Ruby Grant Park Memorial is being done, the surfacing at the all-inclusive playground is nearly finished, and work continues on the construction of the walking and running trails, as well as the parking lots. He said Staff is hoping for a ribbon cutting – opening for November or December, weather pending.

Andrews Skate Park

Mr. Olsen said the Skate Park looks great and LED lighting will be completed next month. He said the triple-bowl feature is complete and work has been done on the specialty sloped surfaces in the lower street course plaza area south of the bowls. Pending weather, a ribbon cutting event is scheduled for mid-November.

Rotary Park

Mr. Olsen said the bathroom building construction continues at Rotary Park, safety surfacing underneath the playground equipment has been completed, and the new area under the swings on the playground opened up this week.

Adult Softball and Youth Football Project

Mr. Olsen said the NF Adult Softball and Youth Football Ad Hoc Group met and discussed their proposed project. Since voters did not approve Proposition 1 – they discussed the project budget and recommended not moving forward with the facility until more funding was available. They recommended moving the youth football/practice fields to Ruby Grant Park and the adult softball fields could be enhanced at Reaves Park which would still get what was obligated to the voters in the initial NF Bond. The NF funding for the Adult Softball portion of the project could be used for the enhancements at Reaves Park to include expanded parking and build flex fields. Mr. Olsen said NASA and Ball Clubs of Norman have discussed and support the enhancements and will continue to work together to maintain the fields and scheduling together. He said NF funding for the Youth Football can be utilized at Ruby Grant Park and said practice fields, additional parking, and a restroom complex can be constructed and reiterated that no football field lighting will be constructed per the surrounding neighborhood's requests.

Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport Facility

Mr. Olsen said the Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport Facility Ad Hoc Group met to discuss next steps and said Staff had several follow-up conversations with basketball stakeholders, swim/pool stakeholders, representatives from Norman Regional Hospital, and from the Young Family. He said FSB has come up with a concept design within the budget that will include a 25-yard pool with eight (8) lanes, a 25-yard warmup pool, eight (8) high school basketball courts with two (2) college/ National Basketball Association (NBA) overlaid, and a Sports Wellness Clinic. Commissioner Dolan asked about the Optimist Club hanger/building, specifically if it will be demolished and Mr. Olsen felt the Optimist Club will continue to use the hanger for practice as well as games. Commissioner Ross asked whether Embassy Suites will be putting funds into the shared parking lot and Mr. Olsen said no, since the current parking lot belongs to Embassy Suite, the City will benefit from its use; therefore, the City will not request funding to connect the parking (current and future). Commissioner Ross said Embassy Suites has a lot of conferences and many times their parking lot(s) are packed. She requested Staff keep that in mind when considering the parking needed for athletes and spectators at the Indoor Aquatic as well as the Multi-Sports Facility. Mr. Olsen said most the swim events will not be scheduled as the same time as the basketball/volleyball events are scheduled. Chair Wright asked whether future parking can be added and Mr. Olsen said future parking can be added, stating there is property to the north of the proposed complex that the City will have first right of refusal on. Commissioner Moxley asked about the egress to get from court to court and Mr. Olsen said there is a main entrance to the Multi-Sport

Park Board Special Meeting

Page 5 of 6

October 1, 2020

(courts) to gain access to the courts – then a walk thru area to gain access to courts on the north end. Commissioner Moxley asked whether the Wellness Clinic would be open all the time in case an athlete gets hurt. Mr. Olsen said the Wellness Clinic will be run similar to a doctor's office and include a training aspect. Commissioner Moxley asked whether NRH will pay the City to rent/lease the space and Mr. Olsen said no, NRH is funding their portion of the space being constructed in the facility as well as planning to operate the clinic. Commissioner Ross asked whether NRH will pay their own utilities in the wellness center and Mr. Olsen said yes.

Senior Wellness Center

Mr. Olsen said the NF Senior Wellness Center Ad Hoc Group will meet on Monday, October 5th and the Design Consultant will present location options on the NRHS Porter Campus to the Group. He said Staff requested comments and recommendations from the Group. Commissioner Isacksen asked whether the Senior Wellness Center proposal would include a pool and Mr. Olsen said yes. He said the Ad Hoc Group may discuss options to request additional funding from Council in order to finish the project.

Commissioner Dolan made the motion and Commissioner Favors seconded to support the Norman Forward Ad Hoc Committees with their recommendations to include the NF Indoor Aquatic/Multi Sports Facility, Griffin Park Project, Reaves Park Project, Ruby Grant Park Project and the proposal for Adult Softball and Youth Football fields, in conjunction with Reaves and Ruby Grant Parks. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Chair Wright and Commissioners Dolan, Favors, Isacksen, Moxley, and Ross
NAY:	None

ITEM 7, being

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, invited the Board to several upcoming events to include the Ribbon Cutting for Griffin Park Phase III on Saturday, October 3rd at 8:15 a.m.; Cheers and Beers at Legacy Park on October 18th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., which will feature Mike Hosty; and the United Way Golf Tournament at Westwood Golf on October 25th.

Mr. Olsen provided an Adopt-A-Park Update to the Board as follows:

- Andrews – Cleveland County Family YMCA
- Brookhaven – Brookhaven Garden Club
- Colonial Commons – Red Dirt Collective
- Highland Village – Lancaster Family
- Kevin Gottshall – Mission Community Church
- Lions Park – Momleta of Norman
- McGeorge – ABLE
- Pebble Brook – Pebble Brook HOA
- Reaves Park – JCPenny Leadership Program and OU Women in Business
- Saxon Park – Saxon Wildguard

Chair Wright reported some graffiti at Reaves Park and Staff said they would request it to be cleaned up as soon as possible. She also wondered why there are so many old mattresses being dumped at Reaves Park and Staff said they were not sure; however, it has been an issue.

Park Board Special Meeting
Page 6 of 6
October 1, 2020

Commissioner Ross reported seeing some old mattresses being dumped at Sutton Wilderness and Staff said they would get mattresses removed at both Reaves Park and Saxon Wilderness.

Mr. Olsen said the Parks and Recreation Department are planning a "Coffee Hike, Social" at John H. Saxon Park on October 17th. He said citizens can come the park hike between 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. and get some fresh handcrafted coffee provided by Beanstalk Coffee and Sno.

Commissioner Ross thanked Staff for the extra doggie station at Sutton Place.

ITEM 8, being

ADJOURNMENT

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners Dolan, Favors, Isacksen, Moxley, and Ross

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 1st of November 2020



Kristi Wright, Chairperson