

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
July 2, 2020

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 2nd day of July, 2020 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.

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, May, Moxley, Ross and Sallee

Absent: Commissioners Salmond

Tardy: Commissioner Favors

City Officials

Present: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent
Jennifer Heavner Baker, Executive Director

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 4, 2020 MINUTES

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, Isacksen, Moxley, Ross and Sallee

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

NAY: None

Commissioner Favors joined the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

ITEM 4, being

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM THE SOONER THEATRE

Ms. Jennifer Baker, Executive Director, Sooner Theatre, presented the annual report to the Board and submitted financial reports prior to the meeting. Ms. Baker said the Sooner Theatre programs serve quality of life needs in the areas of culture, education, theatre and music for an increasing number of citizens. Ms. Baker said the Sooner Theatre hosts professional artists to first-timers and fosters performers from 3 years old on up. She said the presentations reflect our mission, our image and ultimately determine the Sooner Theatre's survival. Ms. Baker said nearly 15,000 walked through the doors last year and the Sooner Theatre was able to track ticket sales to 135 Oklahoma zip codes and 58 out of state zip codes.

Ms. Baker highlighted the programming portfolio to include: 1) The Main Event Series (theatre's concert series); 2) Sooner Stage Presents (theatre's self-produced theatrical series); 3) The Studio of the Sooner Theatre (theatre's performing arts academy) which includes education programs such as Beyond the Stage, Scholarships, Special Needs Classes, and Trauma Drama for children ages 3-18. This program began in 2003 with 30 children and total enrollment now exceeds 960 from across the metro area; 4) Special Events to include the annual Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser and The Voice of the Heartland; 5) Rental Activities; 6) Sooner Cinema (theatre's film and video offerings); and 7) Outreach and Development to include partnering with United Way's Celebrity Sing, Citizen's Advisory Council, Norman Convention and Visitors Bureau, Norman Public Schools Gifted Council and the Norman Arts Council.

Ms. Baker said the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the Sooner Theatre but luckily they were able to move things around to keep going. She said the production summer camps had to be delayed and one was done virtual. Ms. Baker said 150 children sent in audition videos so she knew there was a hunger for the camps, she just needed to find out how to do them safely.

Ms. Baker said she wanted to thank the City of Norman as well the Park Board for all they do to support the programs, productions, concerts, and events at the Sooner Theatre. She said she is very fortunate to live in a community that understands the value and the impact of the arts on its citizens and they could not do it without you.

Commissioner Moxley said he appreciates everything the Sooner Theatre is doing. Ms. Baker said thank you and said the theatre will keep going unless they are told different.

Commissioner Isacksen asked what comprised the \$90,000 prepaid expenses on the June 30, 2019 balance sheet of the financials and Ms. Baker said she would need to get a detailed report but felt some of it was for royalties that the theatre pays in advance for show(s) to be done in the next season and administration fees that have to be pre-paid. Ms. Baker said she can get itemized statements for the Board if they would like her to do so.

Chair Wright said she appreciated the Sooner Theatre and all they have done for the community.

The Board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 5, being

NORMAN FORWARD PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation gave a Norman Forward Update to the Board. He said Council approved Ordinance O-1920-52, at the June 9, 2020 City Council meeting, calling for a General Obligation (GO) Bond Election on August 25, 2020. The voters of Norman will determine whether or not Norman Forward Projects that have a shortfall, will be funded with a GO Bond, along with three (3) more propositions. Mr. Foster said City Staff will be working with the Chamber of Commerce to schedule several public meetings that will provide information on all the propositions.

Some of the projects that are under design include Reaves Park, Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport, Senior Wellness Center, Adult Softball and Football, and Ruby Grant Park. Mr. Foster said Staff has met with the five different design teams for those projects and have discussed how they would move forward in the next phase of designs that have recently been approved.

Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport Facility

Mr. Foster highlighted the Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport Facility which would include a 50 meter pool as well as 25 yard warm-up pool on one side of the facility, eight (8) basketball courts on the other side of the facility, and an athletic clinic that will likely be located in the center of the facility. He said Staff has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ray Young, who is the father of Trae Young, that will be an agenda item for Council consideration at the City Council meeting on July 28, 2020. The MOU states Trae Young will donate \$4 million towards the Indoor Aquatic and Multi-Sport Facility Project assuming the GO Bond Election is successful in August.

Senior Wellness Center and Adult Softball/Youth Football Complex

Mr. Foster showed the latest design plans for the Senior Wellness Center which has been proposed to be located at the Norman Regional Health Porter Campus. He then showed the latest conceptual design plans for the Adult Softball and Football Complex to be located at 12th Avenue NE and Franklin Road and includes five (5) softball fields around a centered concession/restroom building, seven (7) youth football fields, and entrances and parking areas off of 12th Avenue NE as well as Franklin Road.

Mr. Foster highlighted the Norman Forward projects currently under construction.

Ruby Grant

Great progress continues at the park with ongoing work being done on the trails, parking areas, restrooms, and pavilions. Park amenities, playground and disc golf equipment have been ordered. The estimated completion is October or November, 2020. Mr. Foster said if the GO Bond Election is successful on August 25th, the completion date may be extended due to the extra work that can be added to the project. He showed the Board current pictures taken of the Ruby Grant Memorial Pavilion.

Andrews Skate Park

American Ramp Company (ARC) is on site and a lot of construction is being done to include working on the concrete bowls. Mr. Foster showed pictures of the current construction.

Griffin Park

Field grading and irrigation & sprigging was completed on the southwest fields and should be ready to play on in September.

Rotary Park

Construction is moving along nicely at Rotary Park and the new playground equipment is almost completely installed. Crews are working on the safety surfacing underneath the playground. Construction documents for the new restroom were completed and a bid item will be on the July 14th Council agenda for Council consideration.

Commissioner Dolan asked Staff who is designing Ruby Grant Park and Mr. Foster said Joe Howell with Howell & Vancuren, a landscape architecture firm out of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Commissioner Moxley asked whether bicycles will be allowed on the trails at Ruby Grant Park. Mr. Foster said yes and felt like some of the trails will be designated for bicycles while others are not. Before the park is finished, the rules and regulations will be discussed.

Commission Favors asked about the fundraising efforts for the all-inclusive playground at Ruby Grant Park and Mr. Foster said some fundraising is still going on. He said approximately \$50,000 has been raised since the campaign started but then the COVID-19 pandemic occurred slowing down the efforts. Mr. Foster said since that time, Staff had to order all of the equipment if it was to be installed. Staff requested and Council appropriated \$150,000 out of the Park Development Funds that were available for Community Park Development with the understanding the fundraising would continue and be paid back to the Park Development Funds.

Commissioner Moxley asked whether pickle ball will be included at the Senior Wellness Center and Mr. Foster said there is a small gymnasium in the floor plan that will accommodate pickle ball.

ITEM 6, being

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Commissioner Sallee asked Staff if they knew of other places/cities that were going to shoot off fireworks since the City of Norman was not going to be able to do so and Mr. Foster said the City of Moore will be having a 4th of July event, including fireworks. Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, said Thunderbird Casino at Little Axe was having fireworks. Mr. Foster said Staff is planning a Labor Day Event to do fireworks.

Mr. Olsen reminded the Board that July is Parks and Recreation Month and Staff has started a scavenger hunt through Goosechase. He said the information is on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. Mr. Olsen said the Adopt-A-Park Campaign will be launched this month and Commissioner Sallee asked whether information will be in the newspaper. He said Staff will send out a press release in a couple of weeks that will provide the information.

Mr. Foster said a lifeguard at Westwood Family Aquatic Center (WWFAC) tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday (July 1st) and out of an abundance of caution the pool was closed today and tomorrow (July 2nd and 3rd). He said all the lifeguards and pool staff will be getting testing in the morning. Mr. Foster said the City of Norman is working with Norman Regional Hospital as well as the Cleveland County Health Department and hopefully WWFAC will re-open on Saturday, July 4th. Chair Wright said she appreciated Staff taking those precautions.

Commissioner May said her daughter is a lifeguard at WWFAC, but she does not know the name of the lifeguard that tested positive. She asked what the protocol is with the regards of sharing COVID-19 information that will behoove and/or help determine whether my daughter, (or other lifeguards) has been in contact with the person without violating their privacy. Mr. Foster said Staff cannot share the information due to HIPAA regulations but felt like the information will filter

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through the different lifeguards and it will be figured out who it is. Mr. Olsen said in instances such as this, the Health Department will step in and assist. He and Staff are working closely with the Regional Director at the Health Department and they give straight-forward information. Mr. Olson said if there was any danger and/or a risk of anyone getting the virus, or if a lifeguard tests positive for COVID-19, the Health Department will contact the lifeguard(s) directly and Staff cannot. Mr. Foster said the Health Department has a list of criteria to consider, one being whether the lifeguard was within six-feet of anyone for 10 minutes or more. In working with the Health Department and talking with the other lifeguards, it was determined that the answer was no. Mr. Olsen said additional masks and gators have been passed out to the WWFAC staff and lifeguards will be wearing them around coworkers and patrons at the pool.

ITEM 7, being

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 3 of September 2020

~~Kristi Wright, Chairperson~~

Chris Moxley, Vice Chair