

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners  
September 4, 2014

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the City Council Chambers on the 4th day of September, 2014 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, Brockhaus, Chappel, Hoover and Wright

Absent: Commissioners London, Perry and Stewart

City Officials

Present: Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation

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ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 7th, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Brockhaus, Chappel, Hoover and Wright

NAY: None

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ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Commissioner Brockhaus made the motion and Commissioner Hoover seconded to approve the agenda and switch items 4 and 5. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Brockhaus, Chappel, Hoover and Wright

NAY: None

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ITEM 4, being:

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT FROM NORMAN YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Christy Fuentes, President of the Norman Youth Soccer Association presented to the board. The program has approximately 2,250 registered youth participants in three leagues; Recreational, Academy and Competitive. This is an increase of about 20% over the last 2 years. In addition they continue to operate an adult league with about 180 players. They offer a TOPS program for children with disabilities. They have drills, practice and small sided games on Sunday afternoons. Norman Youth Soccer provided approximately \$15,000 in recreational scholarships and \$30,000 in competitive scholarships to children participating in the free and reduced lunch program.

Ms. Fuentes thanked the City for the new lights that were added to 3 fields. They are also excited about the Norman Forward initiative.

A written report including financial information was submitted prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Farley asked if they had an AED at the field. Ms. Fuentes stated no. Commissioner Farley asked what they were doing to address head injuries. Ms. Fuentes stated the coaches receive training on how to recognize concussions. There is no league policy. It was suggested they look into having a written policy. Commissioner Wright asked if they had an emergency preparedness plan. Ms. Fuentes stated there are sirens at the field and when they sound the fields are cleared.

The board complimented the Association on the great job they have done and acknowledged the report.

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ITEM 5, being:

PRESENTATION OF NORMAN FORWARD BY MIKE FOWLER

Mike Fowler, representing the Norman Forward initiative presented a power point showing the proposal of Norman Forward. The concept includes baseball and softball facilities, a senior citizens center, an aquatic facility, a multi-purpose facility and other sports and wellness concepts and a new central and east side library. The group stated they had met with all the community stakeholders and gathered input as to what the groups would like to have considered. A study has been done and the Norman Forward group is proposing a temporary ½% sales tax increase for a period of 15 years. The plan also would include \$30,000,000 towards the Parks Master Plan to improve the current park facilities and help with completion of Saxon Park and the phase one plan at Ruby Grant Park. The whole plan would take place in 3 phases over a 6 year period. They anticipate it to be a \$171,500,000 project. There are currently 1,000 signatures on a petition that supports the concept. They are hoping for a vote in April 2015. A proposed site is about 160 acres on the North Base Campus.

Commissioner Farley stated one of the things found when doing the Master Plan was the population growth has been going S.E. and it concerns her that this is putting another facility on the north side. She asked if this was part of the whole land swap issue with Reaves Park. Mr. Fowler stated it is. She stated this takes away a park from the south side of the City and this is a concern for her. She likes the idea, but it appears to be centered on competitive sports and not passive sports which is an obvious change from what was created in the Master Plan. She also said another concern is about the pool. While she fully supported the Pisces project, the City has an aging outdoor pool that has not been addressed. Mr. Fowler addressed the location. He stated this is a preferred site because of its access to the interstate and doesn't bring all the traffic into Norman. He said based on the study, the City of Norman is under pooled and feels that even if the aquatic facility was built it still would not address the shortage of pools. Jud Foster stated that the \$30,000,000 programmed for Master Plan improvements would be divided into two phases and that he would suggest that rebuilding Westwood Pool would be in the first phase. Commissioner Hoover asked who was going to do the maintenance. Mr. Fowler replied the feasibility study done will show all the information about how they work and how the facilities are maintained. This report will be presented to the council once completed. The sports portion is an economic engine and there is a lot of revenue that would be coming in. The group suggests that a trust be formed and all of the revenue and oversight would go through the trust. With the revenue, you could hire a director to run each facility, or you could have the organizations run them. Commissioner Brigham asked how Reaves Park fit in the equation. Mr. Fowler said you have the kids play area, the Veterans Memorial and the ball fields. This new facility replaces the ball fields. What has to be decided is what to do with the other. Mr. Fowler stated the University has said they are receptive to enter into dialogue for a land swap. The community is going to have to decide if they are willing to give up most of Reaves Park. Commissioner Brigham stated he liked the idea and proposed location, but not too willing to give up Reaves Park. Commissioner Wright also expressed concern regarding the loss of a park on the south side.

The board acknowledged the presentation

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ITEM 6, being:

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Jud Foster suggested the park board put together a small group and go out and visit with senior citizens about what type of components they would like to see in a senior facility. Commissioner Farley, Commissioner Brigham, Commissioner Wright and Commissioner London agreed to serve on this sub-committee.

Jud Foster updated the board on the status of Legacy Park. The facility is still on target for mid to late October. The landscaping of the trees will not be done because it is too hot to dig them. The trees will be installed late November into December. Staff did receive several lawn maintenance bids and will be sending a contract to council later this month. Staff is still looking at the restroom maintenance portion.

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ITEM 7, being:


ADJOURNMENT

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

YEAH: Chairman Farley and Commissioners Brigham, Brockhaus, Chappel,  
Hoover and Wright

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2014

  
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Jackie Farley, Chairperson