

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
November 5, 2020

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 5th day of November, 2020 at 5:31 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, Favors, Isacksen, May, Ross, Sallee and Salmond

Absent: Commissioners Dolan and Moxley

City Officials

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

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2020 MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners, Favors, Isacksen, May, Ross, Sallee and Salmond

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners, Favors, Isacksen, May, Ross, Sallee and Salmond

NAY: None

ITEM 4, being

NORMAN FORWARD PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave a Norman Forward (NF) Update to the Board.

Andrews Skate Park

Mr. Foster said the contractor, ARC, is finishing up the Andrews Skate Park and a Ribbon Cutting is scheduled on Saturday, November 14, 2020 at noon. He said the LED lighting is complete and the Skate Park is well lit at night. Mr. Foster said the Skate Park will remain open in the evenings until 11:00 p.m. He invited the Board to the Ribbon Cutting.

Ruby Grant Park

Mr. Foster said the all-inclusive playground is nearly complete at Ruby Grant Park. He said asphalt work has been completed on the frontage road; asphalt work has started on Franklin Road; and the contractor is finishing the trail work and clean-up. He said Council approved an amendment to the design contract on November 10, 2020, to do additional design work for the football practice fields, additional parking and a restroom building to be located in the northwest portion of the park. Mr. Foster said a Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting for Ruby Grant Park is scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2020 at noon followed by a public art dedication at 1:00 p.m. and invited the Board to attend both.

Rotary Park

Mr. Foster said the progress continues on the bathroom building at Rotary Park and recently the safety surfacing underneath the playground equipment was completed, as well as the new area under the swings on the playground opened up this week.

Multi-Sport/Indoor Aquatic Facility

Mr. Foster said Contract No. K-2021-65, with the University Town Center, L.L.C., will be on the City Council agenda for Council to consider regarding the purchase of 12 acres of property located in the vicinity of 24th Avenue NW and Rock Creek Road. He said if Council approves the Contract, all related closing documents on behalf of the City of Norman and Norman Tax Increment Finance Authority will be signed and executed and appropriate \$2.7 million from the UNP TIF Fund Balance to the Norman Forward (NF) Multi-Sport and Indoor Aquatic Facility Land Project, specifically \$1.35 million to the Multi-Sport Facility Land Project and \$1.35 million to the Indoor Aquatic Land Project. Mr. Foster said the Design Team's draft proposal for the facility has the Indoor Aquatic on the north side of the building and the Multi-Sports courts on the south side of the building. He said everything will fit on the 14-acre site now; however, if the land purchase is approved the parking can be maximized. and reiterated that no football field lighting will be constructed per the surrounding neighborhood's requests.

Griffin Park

Mr. Foster said City Council approved Contract No. K-2021-46 with United Turf and Tract for the Norman Forward (NF) Griffin Park Phase 4 – Northwest Field Improvement Project on November 10, 2020. He said the improvements include removing the crowned/curved surfaces and re-grading two (2) soccer fields; removing old drainage areas and adding ADA accessibility between the fields; and enhancing the visibility and overall experience for fans and players.

Reaves Park Mr. Foster said Halff Associates will be submitting an amendment to Staff for the Adult Softball Project; and soon thereafter, the amendment will be scheduled as an agenda item for Council consideration.

Senior Wellness Center

Mr. Foster said the NF Senior Wellness Center Ad Hoc Group met on Monday, October 5th and the Design Consultant presented location options on the NRHS Porter Campus to the Group. He said the Ad Hoc group selected the proposed design reflecting the Senior Center to be located on the southeast corner of the NRH Porter Campus. Mr. Foster said City Staff is working with NRH Staff regarding land purchases and land deeds. He said the design team with FSB has completed the conceptual drawings and should be finished with the construction documents within 90 days.

Park Maintenance Facility at the Municipal Maintenance Complex

Mr. Foster said the City broke ground on November 2nd on the new Municipal Maintenance Complex that will provide maintenance capabilities and office space for the Parks Maintenance Division as well as the City's Transit and Fire Departments. He said the facility will be located at the City's North Base; specifically, 1301 Da Vinci Street. The Park Maintenance Facility will be a 15,900 square foot metal building with office space and ten service bays for large Park Maintenance vehicles and will replace the current Park Maintenance Facility at Reaves Park. The vacated building at Reaves Park will be removed to provide space for the youth baseball, youth softball, and adult softball facilities planned in the Norman Forward projects. The \$2.2 million for the Municipal Maintenance Facility is provided through a combination of Norman Forward funds and the City Capital Sales Tax funds. The project is anticipated to be completed and occupied in July, 2021.

ITEM 5, being

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Commissioner Sallee asked if City Council approved the funding for the Senior Wellness Center and Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, said yes. He said Council discussed and approved \$4.8 million of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for the construction supplement for a Senior Wellness Center which will be enough funding to complete the Senior Wellness Center project. Chair Wright asked the process for selecting an operator for the Senior Wellness Center. Mr. Foster said Staff has already received proposals for operators and the next step will be to hold interviews. He said operator interviews for the Multi-Sport and Indoor Aquatic Facility are scheduled on November 19, 2020.

Commissioner Sallee asked if a Christmas Tree Lighting will be scheduled this year and Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, said Staff will have a virtual tree lighting. He said he recently discussed various options with surrounding cities and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many were doing virtual events as well. Mr. Olsen said to kick off the holiday season, Parks and Recreation will host a holiday fireworks display for Norman's Annual Winterfest Celebration at Legacy Park on Friday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. and Staff is advising the public to choose one of many viewing options such as, the park, a restaurant or parking lot in the area or on social media on the Norman Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

Mr. Olsen said another holiday season event will include "Zoom with Santa", a socially distant one-on-one time for children with Santa which will begin on December 7th and run through Christmas Eve. He said appointments with Santa can be scheduled by visiting www.normanparks.com or the Norman Parks Facebook page.

Mr. Olsen said the Norman Christmas Holiday Parade will be held on Saturday, December 12th at Andrews Park. He said the event will be a "drive-thru" parade with the floats being immobile while parade-goers drive around the perimeter of Andrews Park. Commissioner Sallee said she appreciated the all the creativeness that was done in order to have these annual holiday events.

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Commissioner Isacksen asked about recent trash clean-ups, prior to the ice storm, and Mr. Foster said the Storm Water Division has held a couple of events and volunteers helped with the clean-up of Bishop Creek and Saxon Park.

Chair Wright asked when the emergency telephone at Saxon Park will be working and Mr. Wade Thompson, Parks Superintendent, said some damage to the battery was done when the telephone was shipped. He said the battery has been returned and Staff is waiting for the new battery to be shipped so it can be installed. Chair Wright asked if a doggie station can be installed at Saxon Park and Mr. Foster said yes.

Mr. Olsen said the City of Norman Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce a partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Human Services to open Norman Recreation Centers as Community HOPE Centers. The HOPE Centers will provide an alternative support network for children and families to get the resources they need to thrive and to mitigate the negative impacts COVID has had on communities across Oklahoma. The Hope Centers have partnered with Norman Public Schools and Sodexo for the nutrition portion of the grant, with Sodexo supplying each child with dinner every night and two meals every weekend to take home. Norman Regional Health System has also partnered with our HOPE centers to offer therapy to the children and the families to help cope with the long term effects of the COVID pandemic. Mr. Olsen said the 12th Avenue, Irving and Whittier Recreation Centers will open Community HOPE Centers in conjunction with their after-school programs. Each of these HOPE Centers will have virtual learning tools available, such as computers and iPads, meals and snacks, extracurricular programs, enrichment activities, and other resources for those families. This HOPE Center service is free to the program participants and families.

Commissioner Sallee asked if the information is on the City's website and Mr. Olsen said information will be placed on the website after Staff has issued a press release, which is currently being worked on. Commissioner May asked whether children who already attend after-school programs at the recreation centers will have the opportunity to apply for the Community HOPE Centers and Mr. Olsen said yes, they can definitely apply as it will be a first come-first serve basis grant.

ITEM 6, being

ADJOURNMENT

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners, Favors, Isacksen, May, Ross, Sallee and Salmond

NAY: None

Passed and approved this 3rd of December 2020



Kristi Wright, Chairperson