

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
April 1, 2021

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 1st day of April, 2021 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 and Sallee

Absent: Commissioners Moxley, Ross, and Salmond

City Officials

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

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 4, 2021 MINUTES

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

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners, Dolan, Favors, Isacksen, May and Sallee

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Dolan 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, Favors, Isacksen, May and Sallee

NAY: None

ITEM 4, being

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM NORMAN ADULT SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Bill Mounger, President/Director of Norman Adult Sports Association (NASA), highlighted the 2020 season, stating, like most, tournaments and play were down due to the COVID pandemic. He said there was 84 teams between the Summer and Fall Softball Leagues for the adult men and co-ed teams. Mr. Mounger said currently, there are 35 teams; however, he hopes to get more because it takes 50 teams to break even. He said league play will begin on April 11, 2021, and to date there are 22 tournaments scheduled.

Park Board Special Meeting

Page 2 of 5

April 1, 2021

Chair Wright asked if the tournaments are played at Reaves Park and Mr. Mounger said yes. She asked if most of the teams were from the Norman area and Mr. Mounger said the teams are from the Moore, Oklahoma City and Tulsa areas.

Mr. Mounger submitted Profit and Loss YTD Comparison Reports for 2019 and 2020.

The Board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 5, being

PRESENTATION FROM THE SELECTED SENIOR WELLNESS OPERATOR – HEALTHY LIVING

Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, introduced Ms. Clair Dowers-Nichols, Healthy Living, and said Healthy Living will be the Operator for the Norman Senior Wellness Center.

Ms. Dowers-Nichols, said their mission is to promote health and well-being of adults age 50 and older by providing opportunities for physical activity, social engagement, and lifelong learning. She said the proposed hours of operation will be Monday-Thursday, from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; but said the hours of operation could be expanded if the need arises. Ms. Dowers-Nichols, said the Senior Wellness Center can be rented/reserved on Sundays since it will not be opened. The proposed membership fees: \$30 for individuals, \$50 for couples, would accept insurance programs, i.e., Silver Sneakers, Well on Target, etc., and will be based on a sliding scale based on Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Mr. Jud Foster, Parks and Recreation Director, said a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Healthy Living is currently being reviewed and will be scheduled as a City Council agenda item in the near future.

Ms. Dowers-Nichols said the Norman Senior Wellness will offer 60 group fitness classes; 22 art classes; 20 interest group meetings; 4 community partners presentations and 3 support groups. She said the programming will be member driven and based on the six dimensions of wellness to include: Vocational, Emotional, Intellectual, Physical, Social, and Spiritual. Ms. Dowers-Nichols highlighted the programming as follows:

- Physical Fitness Classes will be both land and water, include fitness equipment for a variety of users and offer personal training for an additional fee;
- Social Wellness will include interest groups, support groups, organized social activities and lifelong learning;
- Art Programs will include painting, pottery, textiles, creative writing and performing arts;
- Wellness Activities will include cooking demonstrations, health education presentations, health screenings, support groups and caregiver programs;
- Special Event (examples) include Wellness Expos, Art & Craft Festivals, Outdoor Concerts, Car Shows, and Trivia Night.

Ms. Dowers-Nichols said the Norman Senior Wellness Center will offer volunteer opportunities to include social ambassadors, serve as group leaders or instructors, help with special events and/or community projects. She felt the key to success is member input and Healthy Living will conduct surveys, focus groups, have a suggestion box and a member advisory council.

Chair Wright said she cannot wait to join the Norman Senior Wellness Center!

The Board acknowledged the presentation.

ITEM 6, being

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM FIREHOUSE ART CENTER

Mr. Douglas Elder, Executive Director, highlighted the Norman Firehouse Art Center's (FAC)'s mission statement and goals stating FAC enriches our community by offering the highest quality visual arts education, experiences, and exhibition.

Mr. Elder highlighted the class fee structures for children and adult classes, as well as the scholarship program. He said 92 scholarships were awarded to adults, teens, and children. Mr. Elder said in recent years, FAC offers 30-40 classes in each of four sessions throughout the year, with more than 700 adults, 50 teens, and 300 youth enrollments annually. He said the 2020 was a difficult year due to the COVID pandemic; however, FAC Staff did their best to adapt new ways to remain open and start having activities again, such as developing a new visual arts curriculum for ages 5-14, which is now available. Mr. Elder highlighted the Goals for 2020-21 goals to include long-term, operations and organizational development, financial, and education.

Mr. Elder said the FAC partnered with local organizations last year to provide visual arts experiences at community event for over 5,000 individuals and families. He said the FAC Veterans Program received national recognition for its innovative approach to providing tailored visual arts experiences for veterans in long-term care facility and partnership between organizations to better provide for participants. Mr. Elder said all 302 Lincoln Elementary School students directly received the benefit of 372 hours of art instruction last year through the FAC Kids Art is Smart Program.

A 2020 organization annual report was received prior to the meeting. Commissioner Isacksen asked whether FAC's PPP loan was forgiven due to the COVID pandemic and Mr. Elder said yes, it will be as he was looking to a tax credit. Commissioner Isacksen asked if the 2nd round of PPP loans has begun and Mr. Elder said yes and FAC has already applied for the loan.

The Board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 7, being

DISCUSS PLANS FOR 2021 PARK TOUR

Mr. Jud Foster, Director of Parks and Recreation, said generally Staff plans a Park Tour for the Park Board at the May Park Board meeting. He said due to COVID restrictions and concerns, driving the Board around City parks in the City van may not be a good idea at this time. Mr. Foster recommended a couple of options to the Board: the Board and Staff can drive separately and meet at Ruby Grant Park and tour it or the Park Tour can be rescheduled to the Fall.

Member Sallee asked the Board if any would feel unsafe meeting in person for a May Park Tour and Member Dolan felt it might be a good idea to postpone until October; however, he would do what the majority would like to do. Member Sallee suggested meeting at Ruby Grant Park in May to tour the park and also have a Park Tour in October to tour other City parks. Member May agreed and said she would like to meet at Ruby Grant Park in May as well as try to have another Park Tour in October.

The Board discussed and agreed to meet at Ruby Grant Park, driving separately, on May 6th at 5:30 p.m., to have a tour of the park. If possible, Staff will schedule a Park Tour in October, to tour other City parks.

ITEM 8, being

NORMAN FORWARD PROJECT UPDATE

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

Senior Wellness Center

Mr. Foster showed a rendering of the Norman Senior Wellness Center to the Board and said the facility will be approximately 30,000 square feet. Chair Wright asked if the pool would be a chlorine or salt water pool and Mr. Foster said it has not been decided yet. Member Sallee asked what the three rooms off the administrative area would be for and Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, said the rooms can be used as multi-health areas such as for massages, physicals, vaccinations, etc. Member Sallee asked if a piano can be placed at the Senior Wellness Center and Staff said absolutely. Mr. Olsen reminded the Board that the ground breaking is scheduled for September/October 2021 and will take one year to construct with scheduled opening in 2022.

Multi-Sport/Indoor Aquatic Facility

Mr. Foster said the official name of the Multi-Sport/Indoor Aquatic Facility will be the Young Family Athletic Center and the facility will put Norman on the map as one of the finest facilities in the country. He said GE Johnson has been selected as the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR).

Ruby Grant Park

Mr. Foster said the additional design work is under way for the youth football practice fields, additional parking and a restroom building to be located in the northwest portion of the park. He said the all-inclusive playground was closed for repairs to the safety surface but will re-open tomorrow. He said the work will be completed under warranty with Cunningham Recreation.

Griffin Park

Mr. Foster said work continues on the fields at Griffin Park stating the fields will be sprigged in May and will be completely ready for next Spring. Commissioner Dolan asked whether there will be automatic irrigation on the fields and Mr. Foster said yes.

Reaves Park

Council approved a contract on February 9, 2021, with Halff Associates to complete additional design service for work at Reaves Park and the construction drawings are ready to bid. Construction will incorporate improvements to the existing softball fields to accommodate the Adult Softball Program as well as improvements to the rest of the park to be the home for all the youth baseball and softball teams. Commissioner Dolan asked when construction would be completed and Mr. Foster said construction will need to wait until the current Park Maintenance Facility is vacated and those operations are moved to the new Municipal Maintenance Complex which is under construction and due to be completed by the end of the year plan.

Rotary Park

Mr. Foster said the new restroom building at Rotary Park is nearing completion and will open soon. He said several benches and trash cans will be replaced in the park as well.

Chair Wright said it is exciting to see all the progress.

Park Board Special Meeting

Page 5 of 5

April 1, 2021

ITEM 9, being

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Chair Wright said everyone has probably heard that Mr. Jud Foster will be retiring in May after 42 years of service to the City of Norman. She said simply saying thank you is not adequate for all he has done for the City, specifically the Parks Department. The Board agreed and echoed her sentiments. Mr. Foster said it has been a great ride and he has been blessed to work on some great projects. He said Kidspace and the Veterans Memorial at Reaves Park were two of his most favorite projects over the years.

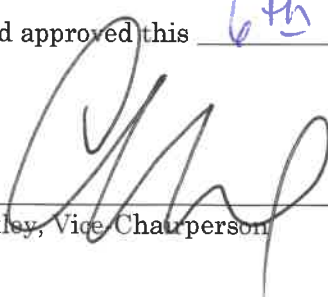
Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, said an Easter Egg Hunt will be held tomorrow, Friday, April 2nd at Reaves Park, with the event starting at 6:00 p.m. There will be two different Egg and Candy Hunts; the hunt for ages 4 & under will take place at 6:00 p.m., the hunt for ages 5-8 will be at 6:30 p.m., with inclusive hunts available at both of those times for children with disabilities. Families that feel more comfortable doing the egg hunt at home can choose to pick up the eggs and candy through a drive-thru from 4:00-5:30 p.m., at the Reaves Center located at SW corner of Reaves Park.

ITEM 10, being

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

Passed and approved this 6th of May 2021



Chris Moxley, Vice Chairperson