

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
June 3, 2021

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 3rd day of June, 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.

There was not a quorum; no voting took place as this was an informational meeting only.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Wright and Commissioner Favors

Absent: Commissioners Dolan, Isacksen, May, Moxley, Ross, Sallee, and Salmond

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Parks and Recreation Director
James Briggs, Park Planner
Wade Thompson, Parks Superintendent
Tim Vermillion, City Forester
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 6, 2021 MINUTES

No quorum. No action taken.

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

No quorum. No action taken.

ITEM 4, being

NORMAN PUBLIC ARTS BOARD PRESENTATION REGARDING INSTALLATION OF
PUBLIC ART AT RUBY GRANT PARK

Mr. Douglas Elder, Firehouse Art Center, and Ms. Liz Barfield, Vice President, Public Arts Board, highlighted the public art that will be placed at Ruby Grant Park. Mr. Elder said there already is public art located at Ruby Grant Park, specifically, near the north west area off a concrete trail, i.e., mosaic eggs representing teacher and students and this "new" public art will be placed at the Southwest Pavilion located on NW 36th Avenue near the all-inclusive playground area.

Mr. Elder said three park locations were discussed, but ultimately it was determined to place the public art at Ruby Grant Park because the park already has electricity; the pavilion is very high/tall

which helps with security issues, i.e., people would not be able to touch and/or remove the individual pieces; and the art will be able to be seen from the parking lot and playground area.

He said the art consists of 25 Fireflies that will be placed under the roof of the pavilion. Mr. Elder showed pictures depicting the fireflies. He said LED lights will be installed in the clear (body) parts of the fireflies which will light up in the evenings/night.

Mr. Elder said the Public Arts Board invested \$10,000 in this public art project, OGE donated \$7,500 towards the project. He said the Norman Arts Council will need to approve and finalize a contract for the project before the art work is set.

Chairperson Wright asked if all the fireflies will light up at night and Mr. Elder said yes. He showed images of the fireflies recently cast by The Crucible, LLC, and have not been cleaned up or patina(ed) and/or welded together yet. He said they are 10 inches long and some will have legs while others will have wings. Mr. Elder said the LED lights will be placed in the tail which is several inches long and clear acrylic. He said the lights can be changed to a different color to coincide with holidays and/or events. Mr. Elder said OGE and Firehouse Art Center will have children's activities at the unveiling of the Fireflies public art that will include Stem to Steam, nature, butterflies, etc.

Commission Favors asked if the art would be placed at the pavilion by the playground and Mr. Elder said yes, stating the kids playing on the playground will be so excited about the art. Chairperson Wright said she was very impressed with the Fireflies public art.

Mr. Elder also mentioned that three (3) new ducks have come in and they will be promoting those soon.

ITEM 5, being

PRESENTATION FROM THE CITY FORESTER

Mr. Tim Vermillion, City Forester, provided an annual update to the Park Board. He said he handles a lot of inter-departmental tree issues that include roadway projects to include tree plantings on Main Street and Lindsey Street; sidewalk-tree issues, screening projects, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects, (i.e., remove ice storm damage east of Porter Avenue), City property tree issues to include Fire Stations, Recreation Centers, etc., and Storm Water creek maintenance.

Mr. Vermillion said he also works with the utility companies to include OGE and OEC. He said he visits with the resident(s) and their Utility Company to assist with trees located in ROW that need to be trimmed and/or removed. Mr. Vermillion said he educates residents about placing the "right" size tree in the "right" place, (i.e., no large trees under electric lines, etc).

Mr. Vermillion said he attends monthly Tree Board meetings. He said he assists the Tree Board with updates to the current Tree Ordinance as well as overseeing the ordinance to include: tree cutting, historic tree nominations, and hazard tree abatement letters. Mr. Vermillion said only three (3) residents have contacted him regarding cutting and/or tree removal since he started in September 2019. He said several historic tree nominations have been brought and approved before the Tree Board. Regarding hazardous tree complaints on private property, letters are sent to the property owners and have been taken care of quickly.

Mr. Vermillion said he provides tree inventory, tree plantings (with the assistance of co-workers), volunteer round-ups, and maintaining trees in City Parks.

Mr. Vermillion said he makes many resident house calls to assist with the health of their trees to include: whether their tree will live after the winter freeze/storm; discussions regarding pruning ice damaged trees; finding property owners when an absentee owner cannot be located to take care of a tree issue; calls regarding City-owned trees in parks etc., that may be dead or dying; and neighbor disputes, (i.e., my neighbor will not cut their dead tree and I am afraid it is going to all on my house, what can I do?)

Mr. Vermillion said has tree growing projects to include: Survivor Elm seedling project and seed collecting and prep for Trident Maple, Korean Evodia, Bur Oak, and Frio River Bald Cypress.

Chairperson Wright asked whether Staff has a greenhouse for the tree growing projects and Mr. Vermillion said, no not at this time. He said the 20 five-gallon survivor elm trees are being kept at Park Maintenance.

ITEM 6, being

CONSIDERATION OF PARK LAND DEDICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PINE CREEK PUD ADDITION

No Quorum. No action taken. Rescheduled this item to be presented at a Special Park Board meeting on June 10, 2021.

ITEM 7, being

INTRODUCTION OF SANTA FE FAMILY LIFE CENTER – OPERATOR FOR YOUNG FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER

Mr. James Timberlake, Executive Director, Santa Fe Life Center (SFFLC), presented the SFFLC programs and goals to the Board. He said their goals include: serving and improving the health of the citizens of Norman; premier national destination for basketball, volleyball and swimming competition; attract participants from a four-hour or greater drive time; collaborate with high-tech training, sports medicine and physical therapy programs; participants will be able to access the facility regardless of their ability to pay; and create a significant economic impact in the City of Norman.

Mr. Timberlake said the SSFLC Organization consists of the following: Board of Directors -a combination of current SFFLC board members and Norman community leaders; Advisory Council -to ensure the needs of Norman are met; Key Staff – includes James Timberlake and Gary Vick; and Partner Organizations. Mr. Timberlake highlighted the SFFLC staffing and management and said SFFLC is off and running with marketing the YFAC using social media, online marketing, Google AdGrants, preparing a Grand Opening Event and working towards community grassroots efforts.

Mr. Timberlake said the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) will offer opportunities for all ages and abilities to participate in; will offer community health and wellness improvements; and further the development of the economy and prestige of Norman. He said SFFLC's focus is sports and health for youth sports, adult sports, adaptive sports and wellness.

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Mr. Timberlake said the YFAC will offer high level competition in aquatics, basketball, volleyball, pickleball and futsal. He said the YFAC will also offer community wellness, i.e., community assessment and partner organizations; access for citizens of Norman; social programming; and charitable programs.

Mr. Timberlake said SFFCL is excited to be a part such an amazing project and looks forward to see the impact that the YFAC will have on the City of Norman.

Commissioner Favors asked about the pool size at the YFAC and Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said two pools will be constructed, a 25m x 25y pool (competition pool) and a 4-lane 25y pool (warm up pool). Commissioner Favors thought one of the pools were to be a 50-meter pool and Mr. Olsen said there was not enough money in the budget at this time; however, the layout of the YFAC will allow a 50-meter pool to be constructed in the future.

Commissioner Favors asked whether the Norman Optimist Club will be participating in the YFAC and Staff said yes.

Mr. Olsen said the YFAC will be a nationally knows sports center facility and will draw national basketball and volleyball tournaments, as well as state aquatic tournaments.

ITEM 8, being

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director, Parks and Recreation Director, provided a Norman Forward Update.

Rotary Park

The new restroom building has been completed and is now open to the public. The building has an automated open/lock system which opens at 7 a.m. and closes at 9 p.m. daily.

Ruby Grant Park

Bids were opened Mid-May for the work to build the parking lot addition at the southeast corner of the park and will be managed by our on-site Construction Manager (Crossland Construction) while they also work in the northwest part of the park to build additional parking, walking trails, restrooms and football practice fields as phase two of this popular community park project. An agenda item will be prepared to approve an amendment to Crossland's contract to add the southeast parking lot to the schedule, and to start work immediately. The additional parking has been needed since the park opened to better serve the disc golfers and dog park patrons, who are often found parking along the I-35 service road shoulder when the original parking lot in that area is fully occupied, which typically happens most weekends. The NW Parking lot extension, trails extension will be completed by summer. Also, a private donor has given money to build shade and benches at the dog park, extend SE Parking lot by dog park and disc golf and is scheduled to be done by the fall.

Commissioner Favors requested Staff place more trash receptacles at the park, stating there is only one outside the playground area or outside of the gate near the fence. Mr. Wade Thompson, Parks Superintendent, said trash receptacles were recently added along the trails and disc golf; however, he will try to add more near the playground area.

Chairperson Wright asked about the trees that were recently removed near the dog park. She said some were left pretty sharp and she was concerned that a dog may get injured. Mr. Thompson said some trees were cut and/or removed while working on the trails recently; however, he will have Staff

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cut all the limbs back and make certain they are not left sharp. Mr. Thompson said recent heavy rains have also indicated areas within the park that are washing out and Mr. Olsen said options are being discussed to correct the grading so the washouts will not keep occurring.

Park Maintenance Facility

The new Municipal Maintenance Complex construction continues. The facility was originally scheduled to be completed by October, 2021; however, due to wet weather, it should be completed by November 2021.

Senior Wellness Center

Mr. Olsen said drawings were received yesterday for the Norman Senior Wellness and at the recent Ad Hoc Group meeting, the Committee really liked the Art Deco look of the building. The construction costs were \$2 million over budget and in order to bring it back into budget the building height was taken down 6 feet; exterior steel panels were removed and replaced with stucco; 1,700 sq ft was removed by making hallways smaller (approximately 2 ft); however, they are still 10-12 feet wide, and some rooms were made a little smaller. When all removed from plans/drawings – \$2.7 million was saved which can possibly be used to add more in fitness area. A November, 2021, groundbreaking is scheduled for the Norman Senior Wellness Center with a late 2022 opening.

Commissioner Favors asked about reducing the size of the hallways and Mr. Olsen said the hallways will still be wide enough to set up tables and chairs in some of the hallways throughout the facility for game use and/or socializing.

Young Family Athletic Center

Mr. Olsen said the Young Family Athletic Center is \$5 million over budget and the Ad Hoc Group requested Staff to seek additional funding within Hotel/Motel, NF Savings, and/or Private funding. He said he is confident additional funding will be found; however,, if not, then some of the basketball courts will need to be removed. Staff showed the YFAC logo Young Family Athletic Center is scheduled for a July groundbreaking and a March 2023 opening. He said this facility will be unlike any other in the state and will be the crown jewel of Norman and the Parks Facilities.

Chairperson Wright asked why the Andrews Park bathrooms have been closed during the day and Mr. Olsen said there have been some vandalism at both Andrews Park and Lions Park bathrooms which closed the bathroom for repairs, i.e., sink ripped off the wall, people putting clothing down the toilet, etc. He said the bathrooms are no longer open 24/7; however, Staff opens them at 7 a.m., and locks them at 9 p.m., daily. Mr. Olsen said funding options are being looked at to renovate the bathrooms to ADA standards and automated lock systems may be added at the same time.

Mr. Olsen said the Andrews Skate Park has been getting a lot of use. He said ideas have been tossed around about getting a speaker system to play music and if so could be installed next fiscal year.

Chairperson asked about the Westwood Family Aquatic Center season passes and Mr. Olsen said the season passes are down from last year, but that is probably due to the weather being cooler and wetter than normal.

Mr. Olsen said he was excited to announce that the Fourth of July event will resume this year at Reaves Park and the City will double the amount of fireworks that will be displayed. He said it will be a fantastic evening with food trucks, games, and live performances from the 395th Army Band, followed by the Jason Young Band. Mr. Olsen said the fireworks will begin approximately 9:45 p.m.

Mr. Olsen said there have been many events recently to include the Trout Derby, Movies in the Park, Juneteenth, and @Legacy Events. He said it is great to start having events in the parks once again.

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Mr. Olsen said Mr. Paul Krout was hired as the new Golf Maintenance Superintendent and began working on May 11, 2021. He said there is an open job announcement for Recreation Manager (his old position, renamed from Recreation Superintendent), and interviews will be scheduled soon.

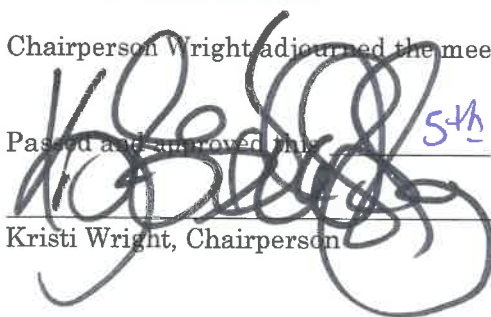
Mr. Olsen reminded the Board that there will not be a July meeting.

ITEM 9, being

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Wright adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Passed and approved this 5th of August 2021



Kristi Wright, Chairperson