

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
April 7, 2022

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 7th day of April 2022, at 5:30 p.m. and notice and agenda of the meeting was posted at 201 West Gray Street, 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ITEM 1, being:

ROLL CALL

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

Tardy: Commissioner Moxley

City Officials

Present: James Briggs, Park Development Manager
Mitchell Richardson, Whittier Recreation Supervisor
Wade Thompson, Parks and Facilities Manager
Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager
Karla Sitton, Admin Tech IV

ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2022, AND MARCH 3, 2022, REGULAR PARK BOARD MINUTES

Commissioner Salmond made the motion and Commissioner Davison seconded to approve the February 10, 2022, and March 3, 2022, Regular Park Board minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

NAY: None

Commissioner Moxley arrived at the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

ITEM 4, being:

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM SANTA FE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Mr. Bryan Jackson, with Santa Fe Family Life Center (SFFLC) gave the annual presentation to the Board. He said SFFLC eagerly awaits the opening of the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) facility in 2023 and is currently working with the City of Norman to transition from the memorandum of understanding to the operating agreement. Mr. Jackson said SFFLC has been participating in bi-weekly facility construction meetings and has been reviewing the policies, procedures and its structure for necessary updates in preparation for the grand opening. He said approximately one year prior to the grand opening, the SFFLC plans to establish the separate legal entity to house the operations of the YFAC, establish the YFAC advisory council, and begin hiring additional staff needed to operate the facility.

Mr. Jackson said SFFLC's Mission Statement is to improve the health of Oklahomans by providing sports and fitness programs for all abilities and does so in three ways: 1) providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and disadvantaged youth to participate in sports and fitness activities; 2) offer fitness opportunities and memberships; and 3) offer youth sports programming. He said the goals for the YFAC include:

- Serving and improving the health of the citizens of Norman;
- Be a 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. Jackson said until the YFAC opens in 2023, SFFLC will not be able to report on the number of participants, fee structure, breakdown of revenues by category and/or revenue beginning and ending fund balance. He submitted a first year YFAC Budget including revenues, maintenance and operating, and capital costs. Mr. Jackson highlighted the current record of officers and board members.

Commissioner Isacksen asked what the line item "Facility Access Income" was on the YFAC budget and Mr. Jackson said those are day fees/passes and guest passes. Commissioner Moxley asked what SFFLC currently runs and Mr. Jackson said the SFFLC originally began as a tennis center and now is a 70,000 square foot facility charitable-based multi-use recreation facility with amenities to include locker rooms, showers, dry sauna and towel service and personal training. Commissioner Moxley asked whether SFFLC will be getting any board members from Norman and Mr. Jackson said he would assume so once the YFAC is closer to being completed. Commissioner Moxley said he would definitely recommend having Norman residents on the SFFLC Board and would like to see equal representation. Commissioner Sallee asked how long the terms are for the board members and Mr. Jackson said he would need to double-check, but either three or five years.

Commissioner Salmond asked what the open date for the YFAC and if marketing was already in process. Mr. Jackson said the YFAC is scheduled to open in March 2023 and yes, marketing for the YFAC is already in process. He said there is currently a camera onsite the top of Embassy Suites to watch daily progress of the construction site and Ms. Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager, said she would forward the link to the Park Board.

The Board acknowledged the presentation.

ITEM 5, being:

CONSIDERATION OF NAMING A PARK IN THE SUMMIT VALLEY/BELLATONA NEIGHBORHOOD IN HONOR OF LIONEL BENTLEY

Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager, said the City of Norman acquired a 7.254 acre tract of land in 2021 to fulfill the neighborhood park land dedication requirements for both Summit Valley and Bellatona Additions. He said those two neighborhoods' preliminary plats were considered and approved for public park land in 2003 by the Norman Board of Park Commissioners and as the neighborhoods were built-out, the street and utility systems finally reached the area in the neighborhood where the park sits. In anticipation of this development, the park land predicted for this area was one of those identified in the 2015 Norman Forward Proposal as a "New Neighborhood Park Development" Project and thus, has funding available for construction of the entire park at once, now that we have final deed work and access to the site. As such, a new park name should be considered.

Mr. Briggs said the Naming and Recognition of Parks and Recreational Facilities Sub-Committee (Kristi Isacksen, Allison May and Kristi Wright) met prior to this meeting to discuss and recommend naming the new park in honor of Mr. Lionel Bentley. He said Staff propose to name the new park *Bentley Park* after Mr. Bentley as he was the former Director of Parks and Recreation for many years and was still very much a part of the Department even after his retirement. Mr. Briggs said Mr. Bentley owned and operated Bentley Turf Farms, with offices in Norman, and when he retired from the turf business a few years ago, decided to make a substantial donation to the Norman Park Foundation to, among other things, fund a renovation of the sand traps at the Westwood Golf Course with any remaining funds from his family's donation to be used "as the department saw fit" to make improvements to the parks system. At that time, Staff began working on a plan to name a park after our former director and long-time friend, as a thank you for his donation and other contributions to the Parks and Recreation Department over the decades. Unfortunately, Mr. Bentley passed away very suddenly on March 12, 2022, and Staff would like to continue with our plan to name the new park after him.

Mr. Briggs said Staff is just starting to survey the neighborhoods for their feedback on what they would like to have in their new park, and from that input; we will produce a park design for consideration at a future Park Board meeting. Once approved, the final design will be bid-out and constructed during the next Fiscal Year. Mr. Briggs said Norman Forward funding and funds from the original donation from Mr. Bentley in life, and those funds pledged in his memory (as requested by his family) will be used to construct the neighborhood park. He said if the name *Bentley Park* is approved, Staff will provide a marker and plaque describing Lionel Bentley and his family's history and contribution to the City of Norman Parks System, as we have done for other parks named for individuals.

Chair Wright asked where the public will enter the park and Staff said from Highway 9 East through the Bellatona Addition. Commissioner Sallee asked if there would be access from the north and Staff said no, not at this time.

Commissioner Moxley made the motion and Commissioner Sallee seconded to approve naming the new neighborhood park in the Summit Valley and Bellatona Neighborhoods in honor of Lionel Bentley. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

ITEM 6, being:

**CONSIDERATION OF PARK LAND REQUIREMENT FOR AVADON TERRACE SPUD
ADDITION**

Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager, said Avadon Terrace SPUD (Special Planned Unit Development) Addition is located north of Robinson Street, just west of Porter Avenue, north of the Masonic Lodge. He said Avadon Terrace SPUD Addition is on a tract of land that will ultimately encompass approximately 4.05 acres with a total of 24 lots. At this density, the addition will generate a parkland dedication requirement of .1572 acres.

Mr. Briggs said the developer would like to pursue a fee-in-lieu of land decision, and apart from that, they have also proposed an area of open space and a clubhouse at the east end of the development. However, the open space is a detention area, and the park dedication ordinance does not count clubhouse structures or swimming pools as park land, so they would not be providing enough land to count as private park, which would be double the public park requirement, or .3144 acre.

Mr. Briggs said this project is located on a parcel of open land that backs-up to the Tull's Park Neighborhood, on Vida Way. Although, this development will not connect its streets to the older neighborhood, the sidewalk frontage on Porter Avenue does connect to the sidewalks that go into that neighborhood to allow access to Tull's Park for the residents of Avadon Terrace SPUD Addition.

Mr. Briggs said based on the park land requirements for this small of an addition, and the proposed design for the HOA open space and clubhouse as it relates to our requirements for "usable park land", Staff recommends a Fee-In-Lieu of land decision for the Avadon Terrace SPUD Addition.

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

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

NAY: None

ITEM 7, being:

NORMAN FORWARD UPDATE

Reaves Park

Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager, said the Medieval Fair was held last weekend at Reaves Park and was a great success, even with all the ongoing construction in the park. All of the construction activity is being coordinated with FLINTCO to maintain all necessary site safety and access both day and night for construction crews in their area and the park users in other areas. The work area will continue to shrink southward as more of the interior parking lots and grading are completed this summer. The next large community event in the park will be the annual 4th of July celebration. Chair Wright asked about the offset intersection south of the Timberdell entrance into the park and Mr. Briggs said a proposal for a redesign of that area is scheduled for future phases. Commissioner Salmond asked if the new loop road within the park will be named and Staff said they were not certain at this time.

Griffin Park

Mr. Wade Thompson, Facilities and Park Manager, said everything has been demolished for Phases 5 and 6, and the grading work has begun and is expected to be completed on April 21, 2022. Phase 5 of Griffin Park is expected to be completed July 15, 2022, allowing for the immediate start of Phase 6, which is in the process of working toward 100% CD's in June and bidding out work at the end of June into July of 2022. Commissioner Salmond asked what the plan is for the bathrooms and Staff said Phase 6, includes the bathroom construction; however, there are temporary bathrooms (porta-potties) until the permanent bathrooms are completed.

Multi-Sport/Indoor Aquatic Facility (YFAC)

Ms. Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager, said additional on-site dirt work continues at the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC). She said she would send the link to the Board of Park Commissioners, which will have the Live Construction Camera for YFAC, which located from the top of Embassy Suites.

Senior Wellness Center

Ms. Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager, said there is not much to update regarding the Senior Wellness Center. She said the Nu N Nuf Thrift Shop building located at the Norman Regional Hospital Porter Campus area, has been demolished. Commissioner Sallee asked if there were plans to keep the tree planted in the median near the (now) demolished building and Staff said they were not sure, but would find out.

ITEM 8, being:

DIVISIONAL UPDATES

Ms. Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager, said Forever Young, an outdoor event hosted by the Norman Senior Center is being held this Saturday, April 9th, from 10 am-1 pm at Andrews Park. She said it will have activities are outdoor games, free food, a live DJ, line dancing, free health and wellness screenings, door prizes, and much more.

The Spring Candy and Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 15th at Andrews Park and will feature face painting, pictures with the bunny and Beanstalk Coffee and Sno. The event will begin at 5:30 pm with the egg hunting beginning at 6:30 pm.

The Earth Day Festival will be at Andrews Park on Sunday, April 24th from 12 pm – 5 pm and have fun activities and great information for all ages about the importance of protecting and celebrating our natural resources.

Ms. Tracy said the Mother/Son Dance is scheduled on May 7th at Embassy Suites and will begin at 6:30 pm. She said the theme is “Welcome to the Jungle” and tickets are on sale now.

The Westwood Family Aquatic Center (WWFAC) has started selling pool passes and classes online and will be on sale in-person beginning May 2nd.

Ms. Tracy said the 12th Avenue Recreation Center is offering a Professional Day Camp when school is out for students on April 29th. She said other activities this month include after-school care at Little Axe Community Center, Junior Jammers Volleyball, a “Home Fire Safety Tips” class at the Senior Center, and a “Paint and Motivate” parents night out at Irving Recreation Center.

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Ms. Tracy said the City is hiring several summer positions at the WWFAC as well as our Recreation Centers. She said if the Board knows of any residents or other professionals who would love to make an impact in their community through Parks and Recreation, please send them our way!

ITEM 9, being:

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:

Ms. Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager, asked the Park Board if they would like to schedule a Park Tour for the May Park Board meeting. The Board discussed and agreed to meet at the new Park Maintenance Facility located at 1320 Da Vinci and have a short meeting before touring the Griffin Park, Young Family Athletic Center, Creekside Bike Park and future Bentley Park.

ITEM 10, being:

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Passed and approved this 5th of May 2022



Kristi Wright, Chair