

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners  
February 10, 2022

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 10th day of February 2022 at 5:03 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: Chair Wright and Commissioners, Davison, Favors, Isacksen, May, Moxley, Ross, Sallee, and Salmond

Absent: None

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Wade Thompson, Parks, and Facilities Manager  
Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager  
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

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ITEM 2, being:

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2021, SPECIAL PARK BOARD MINUTES AND  
JANUARY 6, 2022, REGULAR PARK BOARD MINUTES

Commissioner Sallee made the motion, and Commissioner Davison seconded to approve the December 9, 2021, Special Park Board minutes and January 6, 2022, Regular Park Board minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

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ITEM 3, being:

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Salmond made the motion, and Commissioner Moxley 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

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ITEM 4, being:

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS

Chair Wright asked for nominations, and Kristi Wright was nominated as the Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

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ITEM 5, being:

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS

Chair Wright asked for nominations, and Chris Moxely was nominated as the Vice-Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners. The vote was taken with the following results

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

NAY: None

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ITEM 6, being:

CONSIDERATION OF BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS SUB-COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The Board discussed the following sub-committees and appointments:

Naming and Recognition of Parks and Recreational Facilities

Kristi Isacksen

Allison May

Kristi Wright

Advisory Committee for Urban Wilderness Parks

Chris Moxley

Liz Ross

Mary Sallee

Advisory Committee for Parks and Recreation Policy and Procedures

Billy Davison

Sue Favors

Kristi Isacksen

Legacy Park Activity Committee

Jeff Salmond

Noman Forward Griffin Park Ad Hoc Ex-Officio

Billy Davison

Jeff Salmond

Norman Forward Indoor Aquatic/Multi-Sport Facility (YFAC) Ex-officio

Sue Favors

Chris Moxley

Norman Forward Reaves Park Ad Hoc Ex-Officio  
Kristi Isacksen  
Jeff Salmond

Norman Forward Senior Wellness Center Ad Hoc Ex-Officio  
Billy Davison  
Sue Favors  
Liz Ross

Movie in the Park Committee  
Allison May

The motion was made by Commissioner May and seconded by Commissioner Sallee to accept the new sub-committee appointments. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

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ITEM 7, being:

**ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM BALL CLUBS OF NORMAN**

Ms. Devin Osban and Mr. Austin Brister gave the Ball Clubs of Norman (Ball Clubs) annual presentation to the Board. Ms. Osban read the Ball Clubs Mission Statement and highlighted the league numbers for the Spring 2021 and Fall 2021 seasons to include the following:

	<u>Spring 2021</u>	<u>Fall 2021</u>
Age of Participation	4U-14U	4U-14U
Number of Games	12	10
Number of Participants	1,016	631
Number of Teams	120 Baseball and 26 Softball (both seasons combined)	
Financial Aid Provided	51	42

Ms. Osban highlighted the 2022 budget stating that Ball Clubs started with a \$30,000 balance and received approximately \$10,000 in donations. She explained the league revenue wraps in tournament revenue and registrations from both spring and fall leagues, and Ball Clubs had a lot of expenditures that we did not budget for, which put us in the red (financially). Ms. Osban said a couple of big expense was hosting an All-Star Games Day for all 6U and up teams, and Ball Clubs provided shirts for all the kids and coaches and rings for the kids that played in the All-Star Games. She said another expense was hosting a Family Fun Day, which included a dunk tank, bouncy inflatable houses, a slip and slide, and much more that was free for everyone in the league, 4U through prep ball. Ms. Osban said Ball Clubs intend to hold these two events annually. She explained another considerable expense was taking over the concessions, and Ball Clubs had to buy concession equipment.

Commissioner Isacksen asked whether the annual events and concession expenses were factored into the projected \$60,000+ budget, and Ms. Osban said no, they were not. Commissioner Moxley said the cost of goods sold (concession supplies) is listed as zero revenue on the FY20-21. Ms. Osban said she believed the account tied everything together and reflected the goods sold as part of the \$315,000+ for the registration fees. She said she would ask the accountant to separate the two items and get the information to City Staff. Commissioner Moxley said the FY2022 budget reflects a tournament director position and asked

whether Ball Clubs currently had that position filled. Ms. Osban said yes, Cory Nimsey is currently the tournament director. Commissioner Isacksen asked Ball Clubs to highlight/explain the \$8,874.56 "Other Expense – Ask My Accountant," and Ms. Osban said she was unsure but would ask her accountant and forward the information to City Staff.

Chair Wright asked Staff about the ongoing construction at Reaves Park, and Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, highlighted the NF Reaves Park Project, stating all baseball and softball programs will now be played at Reaves Park. He said the contractor had started new infrastructure through the park, and new fields will be constructed where the old Park Maintenance Facility has recently been demolished. Chair Wright asked if the City could share renditions of the project with the public and Mr. Olsen said yes, and he would have them uploaded to the City website. Ms. Osban said she also sent 3,000+ emails to members (coaches, parents, etc.), letting them know all the baseball and softball programs/games will no longer be split between Griffin and Reaves Parks, that they will all be played at Reave Park. Ms. Osban said moving everything to Reaves Park would be wonderful. Ms. Osban said she would continue to work on creating a committee for the Adult Softball program and updating the website for the program. She said she would also continue to build relationships with the Moore Baseball and Softball programs.

The Board acknowledged the presentation.

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ITEM 8, being:

#### ANNUAL PRESENTATION THE DEPOT

Ms. Shari Jackson, Executive Director of The Depot, highlighted the annual presentation to the Board and provided financials to the Board before the meeting. She said the pandemic required The Depot to be very creative to continue to connect with musicians and their audiences, and they invented Depot TV, a live-streaming platform. She said The Depot offered a weekly variety show streaming through their Facebook and YouTube channels, and it has maintained viewership and has been very successful.

Ms. Jackson said the 2020 Summer Breeze concert series at Lions Park was cancelled due to the pandemic. However, she reached out to KGOU and formed a partnership that allowed them to create a radio show broadcasting acts like Mike Hosty, Chanda Graham, Kyle Reid, and more live on-air from The Depot. She said the 2021 concert series started back up in person at Lions Park and thanked City Staff for the partnership.

Ms. Jackson said The Depot has new artists every eight weeks, is free and open to the public, and receptions are held in conjunction with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Walk. She said The Depot offers art clinics, chats, and workshops, and the experiences they provide are unique and impactful. After a year without in-person workshops, The Depot returned in the spring of 2021 with a Brad Price workshop and looked forward to many more. Ms. Jackson said the poetry program has been on hold since the pandemic; however, we have exciting plans for a return in 2022. She said The Depot continues to fulfill its mission to create, curate, and present quality fine arts programs for the enrichment of our community.

Ms. Jackson highlighted the revenue sources, stating rental fees is the most critical revenue stream. She said rentals Sunday through Thursday fees are \$100/hour, and Friday and Saturday rentals are \$125/hour. Ms. Jackson said the Depot offers a membership program with various benefits, including discounts on art and rentals and member-only events. She said Basic memberships are \$60 and Premier memberships are \$180. The Depot undertook new fundraising initiatives, including their largest individual donor campaign ever. In the Summer of 2020, The Depot sent out handwritten letters to every

patron, audience member, former rental customer, or guest asking for support. Mr. Jackson said this resulted in over \$15,000 in individual donations.

The Board acknowledged the presentation.

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ITEM 9, being:

**DISCUSSION REGARDING BEER AND WINE IN CITY PARKS**

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided background to the Board regarding beer and wine in parks. He said in 1987, and City Council passed Resolution R-8687-95, which prohibited the distribution or sale of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages at any City of Norman public park or recreational facility with the exception of the Firehouse Art Station, the Historical Museum, the Sooner Theater, Westwood Park and the Santa Fe Depot. Mr. Olsen said in 2015, City Council approved another Resolution, adding Legacy Park since it was designed to accommodate a variety of outdoor events, some of which now include the distribution of alcoholic beverages. He said in 2020, and City Council approved a Resolution adding Reaves, Andrews, and Lions Park to the list of facilities.

Mr. Olsen said today's discussion centers around further updating this Resolution by adding two (2) additional spaces to the list of facilities, Ruby Grant Park and Westwood Pool. He said Westwood Park is currently on the list, but Staff would like to clarify that further by excluding the pool facility. The pool hosts an after-hours special event for adults, including Dive-In Movies, in which the sale of alcoholic beverages is often requested. Mr. Olsen said Westwood Park is licensed by all applicable agencies to sell and serve alcohol, and the facility is secure and entry-controlled. He said as a business practice, and the Department would like to ensure that alcohol is never sold during regular facility hours, only at certain special events.

Mr. Olsen said now that Ruby Grant Park is fully operational, it is often used to accommodate a variety of outside events where the distribution of alcoholic beverages is requested. He said updating this Resolution would allow permits to be issued for certain areas of the park that can be secured and controlled for this type of use. Park reservation requests that include distribution of intoxicating or alcoholic beverages must obtain all necessary permits issued by the City of Norman and abide by all State and County regulations.

Commissioner Moxley asked whether individuals could bring their beer, wine, and/or seltzers into Ruby Grant Park and Mr. Olsen said yes, but this will allow us to offer/sell to citizens during special events. Commissioner Ross asked whether wine would be served in glass, and Mr. Olsen said no, it would either be sold in cans or plastic. Commissioner Sallee asked whether the City could be held liable if someone fell into the water while and/or after consuming alcohol, and Staff said lifeguards would be on-duty should that ever occur. Staff also said every event organizer must provide insurance in case of an accident or issue.

Commissioner Favors asked whether any special events are scheduled at Ruby Grant Park and Mr. Olsen said the Shamrock Run is scheduled on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, and it does involve beer. He said the City had had a lot of success with runs. He said Staff is being very selective on what parks we choose and feel like this could be a good revenue maker. Commissioner Salmond suggested including the indoor tennis facility, and Commissioner Moxley agreed, stating the entire Westwood Park area should be included. Commissioner Moxley said the City could hire a Police Officer to supply security. Chair Wright asked whether any other cities sold alcohol at their pool, and Mr. Olsen said the City of Norman is unique and that most other cities do not have a golf course next to the swimming pool.

Mr. Olsen said; additionally, the Staff is proposing to remove the playground area at Westwood Park since it is underused and add a pickleball court. Commissioner Isacksen asked whether Westwood Pool could be rented in sections, and Staff said no; however, a company, church, etc., can rent the *entire* park.

Mr. Olsen said the benefits of proposed changes to the current City resolution include improved festivals and events, engagement with local businesses, increased revenue for City, local businesses, and event organizers, and opening the door for possible new events coming to Norman.

Commissioner Sallee made the motion, and Commissioner Isacksen seconded to approve the proposed amendment to the Resolution allowing beer and wine in City parks. The vote was taken with the following results:

The first motion was made by Commissioner Davison and seconded by Commissioner Isacksen to approve the proposed amendment adding Ruby Grant Park to the Resolution allowing beer and wine in City Parks. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

The second motion was made by Commissioner Moxley and seconded by Commissioner May to approve the proposed amendment adding ALL areas of Westwood Park to the Resolution allowing beer and wine in City Parks. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: Commissioner Sallee

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ITEM 10, being:

#### **NORMAN FORWARD PROJECT UPDATE**

Mr. Jason Olsen, Recreation Superintendent, gave a Norman Forward (NF) Update to the Parks Board.

#### **Park Maintenance Facility at the Municipal Maintenance Complex**

Mr. Olsen said the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony is scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. and invited the Park Board to attend. He said Park Maintenance should be moved entirely into the new facility by February. Mr. Olsen said the facility is in a much better location and will provide better efficiency.

#### **Reaves Park**

Mr. Olsen said there is a lot of construction occurring at Reaves Park. He said the contractor is working on installing infrastructure throughout the park. He said the old Park Maintenance Facility would be demolished soon to make way for a new field complex.

#### **Griffin Park**

Mr. Olsen said the City hired a CMaR, and Phase 5 should begin in about a month, including demolishing some structures. He said the silos would be painted in Phase 6. Commissioner Moxley asked if all the parking would be new along Robinson Street, and Mr. Wade Thompson, Park Superintendent, said yes, which should relieve some of the congestion in the area and improve the overall traffic flow

**Multi-Sport/Indoor Aquatic Facility**

Mr. Olsen said the earthwork on the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) is done, and the contractor will begin utility work soon.

**Senior Wellness Center**

Mr. Olsen said the Senior Wellness Center is \$2 million over budget, and Staff kicked back the project to the architect to look at taking out over-designed area and windows. He said sales tax revenues are up and should help.

**Neighborhood Parks**

Mr. Olsen said Staff has been working on getting a new playground area installed at Vinyard Park; however, another fire has recently occurred, so the City is hesitant to install one, mainly since the playground area is located in the back of the park out of view. He said Staff plans to meet with the neighborhood to discuss issues before moving forward with the installation. Mr. Olsen said a new \$200,000 playground area is scheduled to be installed at Cherry Creek Park soon.

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ITEM 11, being:

**PARK DIVISION UPDATES**

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said another scheduled public meeting would begin at 6:30 p.m., and Staff will begin giving monthly Division updates next month.

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ITEM 12, being:

**MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Ross said it would be nice to have a roller hockey location in Norman, and Mr. Olsen said yes, and felt roller hockey could be done now at Westwood Tennis.


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ITEM 13, being:

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Passed and approved this 7th of April 2022

  
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Kristi Wright, Chair