



CITY OF NORMAN, OK
CITY COUNCIL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069
Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

The City Council Oversight Committee of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room on the 13th day of October 2022, at 4:00 p.m. and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Municipal Building at 201 West Gray and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lynn called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Councilmember Ward 3 Kelly Lynn, (Chair)
Councilmember Ward 1 Brandi Studley
Councilmember Ward 2 Lauren Schueler
Councilmember Ward 4 Helen Grant
Councilmember Ward 7 Stephen Holman

ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ms. Heather Poole, Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Beth Muckala, Assistant City Attorney
Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning & Community Development Director
Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
Ms. Bethany Grissom, Park Planner
Ms. Sara Sancak, Cleveland County TSET Healthy Living Program
Ms. Sara Bloom, Cleveland County TSET Healthy Living Program
Ms. Lisa Webb, Admin Tech III

AGENDA ITEMS

Chairman Lynn said they will move item number 2 to the beginning of the meeting to handle first.

ITEM 2: DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE SMOKING ORDINANCE

Ms. Sara Sancak and Ms. Sara Bloom, with the Cleveland County TSET Healthy Living Program, presented information on the Tobacco Free City Owned Property Policy and the benefits of establishing Tobacco-Free properties.

The TSET Healthy Living Program serving Cleveland County works with local community partners to help prevent cancer and cardiovascular disease by reducing tobacco use.

Tobacco use is the number one preventable cause of Death in the United States, with more than 7,500 Oklahomans dying every year. Tobacco smoke contains 250 harmful chemicals and at least 69 known carcinogens, causing cancer, heart disease and respiratory illness.

The following information was compiled to show the environment of Norman without a current tobacco free City Owned Property Ordinance in place. Norman Tobacco-Free City Owned Property Policy currently prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products and/or vapor products on all indoor/outdoor city owned/operated property except the below.

1. Westwood Golf Course
2. Parking Lots of Playgrounds

Going Tobacco-Free will demonstrate Norman cares about the health of its citizens and employees and it will give everyone the opportunity to demonstrate by example that tobacco use is not the norm and is unhealthy. Secondhand smoke is responsible for nearly 50,000 deaths among adult nonsmokers each year in the United States.

More than 81 percent of Oklahomans want cities and towns to adopt smoke-free policies for all workplaces. At least 52 Oklahoma communities have passed tobacco-free ordinances. In 2012 American poison control centers received more than 8,600 reports of poisonings from the ingestion of cigarettes, cigarette butts and other tobacco products, with nearly 85 percent of these poisonings in children ages five and younger.

Passing a tobacco free policy will contribute to a reduction in exposure to second-hand smoke, educate the community on the dangers of smoking, support current smokers' efforts to quit, and promote healthy lifestyle choices, as well as becoming eligible for TSET grants up to \$100,000 to fund park improvements.

The City of Norman is eligible for \$100,000 and the FY23 Grant application period is open November 1, through November 30. TSET Grant Funding is based upon the city adopting a comprehensive ordinance that prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products and/or vapor products on all indoor/outdoor city owned/operated property, the strength of the policy and the municipalities practices in support of the policy.

TSET staff has been working with the City of Norman since 2015/2016 and received positive feedback from the Oversight Committee in June 2022, but asked that the policy get the support

from Westwood Golf Course. Unanimous support from the Board of Park Commissioners to move forward was received in September 2022 and sent this back to the Oversight Committee for review before going to full Council.

The next steps are to present City Council with the information on a proposed policy for all city-owned properties to be Tobacco-Free, write and approve a model policy, and apply for the Healthy Incentive Grants on behalf of City of Norman based on the updated policy.

Councilmember Studley said the lack of survey results was previously a concern and wanted to know if TSET staff was able to get more information from Westwood Golf Course patrons and staff, and asked Mr. Olson for his opinion about this policy.

Mr. Olson said they do not believe there will be any overall effects on revenue, nor has the policy caused someone to go to another place to golf. The Golf Pro spoke with golfers and the feedback received was all positive on implementing a No-Smoking policy at the Golf Course.

Chairman Lynn said he has a bunch of questions regarding a smoking ban at Westwood Golf Course and needs more feedback from Westwood Golf Course staff and patrons. He asked how big of a problem is smoking on the golf course, private golf courses allow smoking so why would we prohibit it at Westwood. Are we doing this just to get a grant?

Ms. Sancak, with TSET said the Smoke Free designation is to protect the health of everyone; the vulnerable at risk people, including our children. Ms. Sancak asked what is the problem with making the golf course Smoke Free. Chairman Lynn said they would be limiting freedoms of adults and he will not support passing this item on to council and is proceeding to agenda item number one, Zoning for City Parks.

Committee members Schuler, Grant, Studley and Holman stressed that discussion on this item continue so it can be moved on to the full council for consideration. Chairman Lynn said he would recognize Councilmember Grant to speak as she had her hand up prior to him closing discussion on the No-Smoking Policy.

Councilmember Grant said she was present for the June meeting and TSET did follow up with golfers and asked if teen golfers were included in the survey. Mr. Olson said mostly adults were asked. Public versus private, private allows smoking on their property for it is for a select group, public is open to everyone, including children.

Councilmember Schuler supports moving forward. She thanked TSET for additional survey results and recognizes that many other entities have passed Smoke Free Policies and let them know that their work is valued. She also said it is significant to be eligible for TSET \$100,000 grant money to do additional park projects and to maximize City funds whenever possible.

Councilmember Schuler asked Mr. Olson what would be done with the funds if the grant is received. Mr. Olson said it would be opened to public input for discussion on how and where to use the money within the park system for eligible projects

Councilmember Studley and Councilmember Holman both said they support moving the Smoke Free Policy forward, along with Grant and Schuler, so the whole council can review it and make the final determination on the Policy.

Chairman Lynn said as chair, he does not want this to move forward to the council. Councilmember Studley asked Assistant City Attorney Beth Muckala to explain duties to the Chairman and members so those that are new understand how things are supposed to work.

After being recognized by Chairman Lynn, Assistant City Attorney Muckala said the procedure, has a chair that controls the flow of the conversation. The committee members are there to communicate views on agenda items before making a recommendation to the full council. She is unaware of a policy that has to have chair direction to move items forward, but she can get more definitive information if needed. Councilmember Studley asked Assistant City Attorney Muckala to please research the information for the committee.

Chairman Lynn closed the discussion on Agenda Item Two and moved the meeting back to Item One.

ITEM 1: DISCUSSION REGARDING ZONING FOR CITY PARKS

Mr. Jason Olson presented information for zoning of the City Parks to the committee. He said, during the process of opening a new park, Bentley Park, staff recognized that there were over 30 parks not properly zoned.

City codes need to properly define and expand the definition of park land. Proper designation of the land affects appraisals and need to make sure the zoning is accurate for future development so that it will not improperly affect values. We also need to make sure we preserve green spaces, recreational and cultural areas by designation.

Everything would be rezoned as Parkland under the expanded code definitions, with designations for Green Spaces, Recreational areas, (YFAC, Westwood), Cultural Areas, (Depot, Sooner Theatre), and Parks. Adjacent property owners would have to be notified of the zoning change and the Public Hearings.

Ms. Jane Hudson, Planning and Community Development Director said that Park Land located in a PUD will not be readdressed.

Leased parks will not be rezoned because the City does not own the property, i.e.; Griffin Park, Sutton Wilderness, Monroe Park, etc.

Councilmember Schuler asked how long the rezoning process would take. Mr. Jason Olson, Parks and Recreation Director said it could take 12 – 18 months. Each park will be an individual item on the agenda with individual ordinance numbers and will have to go through the entire rezoning process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor