



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 11/06/2025

REQUESTER: Karla Sitton, Administrative Tech IV

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation

ITEM TITLE: RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF TO TOUR THE SOONER THEATRE AFTER ADJOURNING THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MEETING

DISCUSSION:

The Parks and Recreation Staff organizes an annual tour for the Board of Park Commissioners to view new and improved parks and facilities. This year, the Staff would like to take the Commissioners to the Sooner Theatre to see the recent upgrades to the venue.

As it approaches its 100th Anniversary in 2029, the Sooner Theatre, a historic gem in our community, has undergone several renovations over the past 10 years to enhance both its aesthetic appeal and functionality. These improvements include replacing all of the floor and balcony seating, improved sound and lighting systems, total reconstruction of the above stage rigging and stage materials, and refurbishing interiors that honor the theatre's original architecture while providing modern amenities.

The tour will offer the Board of Park Commissioners an opportunity to witness firsthand the transformative changes that have revitalized this beloved establishment. Additionally, it will highlight the collaborative efforts between our Parks and Recreation Department and local stakeholders in preserving cultural landmarks. Also, the visit will highlight many of the challenges this historic space faces as it prepares for its next 100 years, which are set to be addressed in a master plan for the space we will create once an architectural firm is chosen in the coming months. The expansion and upgrade of the Sooner Theatre is expected to be a high-priority project for the future Norman Forward 2 Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Park Commissioners adjourn this meeting to tour the Sooner Theatre to fully appreciate its enhancements and the positive impact on the community.