

Norman Forward  
Saxon Park  
Ad Hoc Advisory Group  
June 14, 2024

The Norman Forward Saxon Park Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building, on the 14th day of June, 2024 at 9:07 a.m. and notice of the agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Street and on the City website at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

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ROLL CALL

Present: Chair McManaman and Members Evans and Schemm and Ex-Officios Rogers, Sallee and Usry

Absent: Member Carson and Queton

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Bethany Grissom, Park Planner  
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

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ITEM 1, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF  
MINUTES FROM THE MAY 17, 2024 NORMAN FORWARD SAXON PARK AD HOC MEETING

Member Evans made the motion, and Member Schemm seconded to approve the June 14, 2024 meeting minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair McManaman and Members Evans and Schemm

NAY: None

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ITEM 2, being:

PROJECT AND BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Robert Richardson, Wallace Design Collective (WDC), said the proposed Norman Forward (NF) Saxon Park Project was \$170,000 over budget and the Ad Hoc Group requested that he review the proposed design to find cost saving options. He highlighted options to reduce cost; reducing the restroom / shelter building size, bidding the artificial turf around the playground as an "add alternate", and decreasing the area of site clearing, earthwork, and rough grading by reducing the project limits. Staff said changing the restroom to four family areas would further reduce the costs, i.e., family restroom areas do not need individual stalls, which are more expensive and require more maintenance. Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, also felt a new proposed "Tree Fund" could be utilized to purchase some of the trees for the proposed landscaping, adding further savings to the project.

Member Schemm said the proposed design shows the only water fountain is to be placed near the shelter area and Mr. Richardson said yes; however, he can look at moving it, but it seemed like the best spot since it was under shade and not on the west side (of the building). Ex-Officio Usry felt people would need additional water access in the event the pavilion was rented out and also asked whether any fire hydrants would be installed in the park. Mr. Richardson said he understands the drinking water concerns; however, most park visitors typically bring their own water/water bottles and they would still be able to access the water fountain in the pavilion without disturbing other users (should the pavilion be rented/reserved).

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Member Schemm said Ruby Grant Park has pet drinking stations and Staff said yes, but they are very expensive. Mr. Olsen said additional water fountains/pet drinking stations can be included as add/alternates and Chair McManaman said he liked that option. Member Schemm asked whether the artificial turf would allow runoff to drain into the ground and Mr. Richardson said yes, the playground surfacing will be poured-in-place rubber and the bid will include drains to be placed underneath it. He said additionally, the sidewalks (near the playground) also have drains underneath for runoff. Chair McManaman encouraged the Ad Hoc Group to increase the playground budget and Mr. Olsen said there might be additional funding options to include the Park Development Fund and/or the ADA Fund. He said Staff will put together a total playground package, companies will submit designs according to the budget, and Staff will bring back three playground options for the Ad Hoc Group's approval.

Mr. Richardson said, per the Ad Hoc Group's request, two additional handicapped spaces were added and Ex-Officio Rogers asked whether they could be moved closer to the restroom building. Mr. Richardson said if the Ad Hoc Group preferred, they could be moved to the "middle" of the parking row, but that would not put them any closer than they currently are to the restroom entrance.

Mr. Richardson highlighted the cost estimate and said the greatest saving(s) was reducing the restroom/shelter building. Member Schemm said the cost would be higher, but he advocates for wider sidewalks. Chair McManaman said bikes are not allowed on the sidewalk/trail; therefore, he felt wider sidewalks are not necessarily needed. Ex-Officio Rogers asked whether bike racks will be installed at the park and Mr. Olsen said yes, Staff usually has them in stock and/or can partner with the Norman Arts Council to place a bike rack as an art piece, similar to what has been done along Main Street.

The Ad Hoc Group discussed and agreed that the restroom/shelter building size should be reduced and that bathrooms should be changed to family bathrooms.

The Ad Hoc accepted the budget and design presented, and WDC will move forward with notice of construction drawings.

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### MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

None

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### ADJOURNMENT

Chair McManaman adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Passed and approved this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

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Tyler McManaman, Chairperson