



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 06/24/2025

REQUESTER: City of Norman

PRESENTER: James Briggs, Park Development Manager

ITEM TITLE: CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF RESOLUTION R-2425-107: A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA ADOPTING THE AIM NORMAN PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL MASTER PLAN.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Norman released a Request for Proposal (RFP-2223-29) in September of 2022, seeking proposals from qualified consultants for professional services to prepare the following documents for the City of Norman:

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan;
- Housing Strategy Plan;
- Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update;
- Stormwater Master Plan Update;
- Water Hydraulic Modeling Update;
- Wastewater Master Plan; and
- Sanitation Master Plan.

The citywide proposal was to develop an all-encompassing vision for the community that can be supported by all. To facilitate this objective, the City of Norman sought to update its Comprehensive Transportation Plan, Stormwater Master Plan, Water Hydraulic Modeling, and develop Wastewater and Sanitation Master Plans to ensure improvements to the City's infrastructure align with the vision and policies of the new Comprehensive Plan..

As set forth in the RFP, Public Engagement was designed to address three key tasks:

Task 1 – Norman Today – Where are we now?

This process was designed to consist of a review of background documents, economic and development trends, hazard mitigation and environmental constraints, land use inventory and urban design, transportation, public facilities and infrastructure, and housing and neighborhoods.

Task 2 – Norman Tomorrow – Where do we want to go?

This process was designed to review the vision and future land use opportunities, or constraints and develop goals and principles based on community engagement and understanding where we are today.

Task 3 – Norman Tomorrow – How do we get there?

This process was designed to develop Plan Elements for the various included master plans, utilizing the overarching goals and principles to define the program and design of the city and outline the specific plan elements and systems that guide the City’s future, thus creating a cohesive strategy across the city and departments, and for all of the included individual masterplans.

Through the RFP process, a team consisting of seven City Staff members and two citizen members selected RDG Planning & Design, Inc. Contract K-2324-46 with RDG was approved by City Council on July 25, 2023. The final scope included all of the proposed individual master plans except that it was determined that the City did not require a Sanitation Master Plan update at this time. Thereafter, and on September 26, 2023, K-2324-46 was amended to include services for the creation of a Parks Recreation and Trails Master Plan, again bringing the total number of included master plans to seven.

An Ad Hoc Steering Committee to work with the City and its consultants in creating the “Area and Infrastructure Master Plan” (“AIM Norman”) was originally appointed by Resolution R-2324-52 on August 22, 2023, and its membership and procedures finalized by Amendment 1 to R-2324-52 on November 14, 2023. The Steering Committee, and its appointed individual Sub-Committees for Housing, Stormwater, Water/Wastewater, Transportation, and Parks, have worked tirelessly to offer input and guidance on the creation of the seven AIM Norman master plans now submitted for the Planning Commission’s review and consideration.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Norman selected the RDG Planning and Design (headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska) (RDG) team to develop all of the Master Plans or Master Plan updates. Molly Hanson, with RDG, led the discussion of the Parks Sub-Committee for this portion of the work. An AIM Steering Committee was established by the Mayor and City Council to guide the planning process. Ms. Lee Hall was chair of the sub-committee formed to specifically guide the development of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

Between January 2024 and December 2024, the AIM Parks Sub-Committee had several meetings, including open houses to gain public input, to discuss five plan objectives as follows:

- 1) Maintain, Update & Improve the Norman Park System;
- 2) Support & Elevate the Organizations that Contribute to Arts and Culture in Norman;
- 3) Update & Modernize Policies;
- 4) Opportunities for Connection & Growth; and
- 5) Protect Natural Resources

After months of study and public input, the AIM Park Sub-Committee presented a draft AIM Parks, Recreation & Cultural Master Plan to the Board of Park Commissioners at a meeting on September 10, 2024 and to the Council at a City Council Study Session on January 7, 2025. The AIM Parks Sub-Committee submitted recommendations for consideration, including specific

updates and improvements to Norman's park system, protection of natural resources and elevating the community's arts and cultural organizations.

On April 3, 2025, the Norman Board of Park Commissioners voted unanimously to approve and recommended the City Council adopt the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

All of the plan updates, including the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan were approved for presentation to the Planning Commission and the Norman City Council by the AIM Steering Committee. This unanimous vote was part of the March 12 Steering Committee Meeting.

Staff recommends the approval R-2425-107, the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan, to the Norman City Council.

PLANNING COMMISSION RESULTS: At their meeting of May 8, 2025, the Planning Commission recommended approval of Resolution R-2425-107 by a vote of 8-0.