



CITY OF NORMAN, OK

AIM NORMAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PARKS & RECREATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Development Center, Room B, 225 N. Webster Ave., Norman, OK 73069
Tuesday, January 09, 2024 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

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All AIM Sub-Committee Meetings are not regular meetings of the AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, but the Steering Committee will be invited to attend, and this notice is being posted in compliance with the Oklahoma Open Meetings Act in the event of a quorum.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Hall and Members Baker, Brigham, Madlock, Nanny, Prince, Sancak, Sheriff and Alternate Pailes

Absent: Alternate Rieger

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
James Briggs, Park Development Manager
Wade Thompson, Parks Manager
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

INTRODUCTIONS

- Lee Hall, Chair, introduced herself and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She requested the Sub-Committee Members to introduce themselves and their interest/relationship to the group to Norman. Chair Hall introduced City Staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and Molly Hanson and Bailey Aldridge with RDG Planning and Design.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Chair Hall said the objective for the AIM Norman Comprehensive Master Plan is to create a collective vision for the City's future to include city planning, land use,

transportation, stormwater management, water infrastructure, wastewater, parks and affordable housing. She said to ensure the infrastructure developments align with the Comprehensive Plan's goals; the related plans are being updated as well.

- Chair Hall said our group, AIM Norman Comprehensive Plan Parks and Recreation Sub-Committee (AIM P&R), will review city parks, trails and open spaces and provide a strategy for improving their connections with neighborhoods and one another. She said the AIM P&R Sub-Committee would report to the AIM Steering Committee, the AIM Steering Committee will report to the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission will report/present to City Council.

REVIEW FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- Ms. Molly Hanson, RDG, highlighted the schedule of meetings and said the meetings will be in the Development Center Building, Conference Room B, located at 225 N. Webster Avenue, from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. She requested the February meeting be changed to February 15th due to a scheduling conflict and said more meetings could be scheduled if needed. The schedule is as follows:
 - February 15, 2024
 - April 9, 2024
 - June 11, 2024

SUMMARY OF INVENTORY ANALYSIS

- Ms. Molly Hanson and Ms. Bailey Aldridge, with RDG, distributed and highlighted a Summary of Parks, Inventory and Analysis to the Sub-Committee and said it includes neighborhood and community parks, greenbelt and trails, and city-owned recreation centers to include the YMCA. Ms. Hanson said to date, RDG staff have visited 55 City parks and inventoried the current amenities they offer, as well as noted beneficial amenities that could be added to them. Ms. Aldridge said they would finish visiting the remaining city parks and provide an updated inventory and analysis at the next meeting. She said most of the parks are walkable, have natural coverage and open space, and many have newer playground equipment. Member Nanny asked whether ADA features will be evaluated and
- Ms. Aldridge said ADA information was noted but not included on the summary. Member Sheriff asked if private parks would be included and Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager, said the private parks are almost always a part of the development and cannot be included. He said the City could not require the private parks add or update any amenities; however, he suggested logging trails that are not included in City parks. Chair Lee requested RDG email the Summary of Inventory and Analysis to the Sub-Committee.

WORK SESSION - REVIEW THE PARK INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

- Ms. Molly Hanson, RDG, said benchmarking is a vital process that allows organizations to compare their assets, programs, policies and other criteria to those of peer

organizations. Such comparisons are used by agencies to evaluate themselves and, ultimately, plan for growth and improvement. She said Peer Benchmark Cities were identified based on geographic location in the Midwest region in addition to having reputable park and recreation systems. The Peer Communities include Broken Arrow, Moore, Edmond, Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Lawton and the Big 12 Cities (Ames, IA; Fort Worth, TX; Lawrence, KS; Lubbock, TX; Manhattan, KS; Morgantown, WV; Stillwater, OK and Waco, TX.). Ms. Hanson said RDG also included three aspirations cities that also belong to the SEC (Athens, GA, Columbia, MO and College Station, TX).

- Ms. Hanson requested the Sub-Committee split into groups of three or four to discuss a series of questions related to issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the AIM Norman Land Use Plan. She said there are no right or wrong answers, only points and views that will be shared with the entire Sub-Committee at the end of the work session.

The Sub-Committee split up into three groups, discussed the following questions and recorded their points and views as follows:

Question #1 - When friends and family visit Norman, what are the top three places you take them?

Group 1:

- Campus, ride scooters, duck pond, Ruby Grant Park, Sutton Wilderness, Lake Thunderbird, Andrews Park and Westwood Pool

Group 2:

- Campus Corner, downtown Norman and Lake Thunderbird

Group 3:

- 2nd Friday Art Walk, Andrews Park (festivals/events/sound trekking) and Ruby Grant Park (open space)

Question #2 - Did you see something really cool on a recent trip(s) and would love to have it in Norman? (include city and state).

Group 1:

- Tulsa's River Park and Gathering Place
- Parks that offer restaurants/snacks/beverages
- Discover Green in Houston, TX Lots of trees and green space, small pond water activities, concerts and ice skating
- Kayaking and paddleboarding, pickleball, waterpark/splash pad, and BIG spaces

Group 2:

- Gathering Place in Tulsa, OK
- High end shopping and restaurants and old town farmers market in Frisco, TX
- Ride horses, paddle boat and camp at lake in Little Elm, TX
- Crystal Bridges, outdoor artwork connections to downtown in Bentonville, AR

Group 3:

- Trails, riverside, connection to parks, connection to a cool bar in Golden, CO
- 26 miles of trail along a creek, great parks system, brewery in Boise, ID
- The Gathering Place in Tulsa, OK
- Scissor Tail Park, cool bridge in Oklahoma City
- Expanded, elevated and lighted trail system in Fayetteville, AR

Member Madlock said Austin, TX is another area that has amazing trails that are well lit.

Question #3 - Who are we and who do we want to be?

- Ms. Hanson said we are unfortunately running short on time. She requested the Sub-Committee think about the question and we will revisit and discuss at the next meeting.

DISCUSS PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

- Chair Hall said there is a lot of educational information on the City's website and www.aimnorman.com about AIM Norman to include explaining the plan and plan elements, a list of the Steering Committee and Sub-Committee members, a schedule of meetings and workshops for the Steering Committee and the various Sub-Committees, and monthly questions to gain public input. She encouraged the members to look over the website, answer the monthly questions and share the link with their family, friends and interest groups. Chair Hall said she would email the link to the Sub-Committee after the meeting.

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS

- Chair Hall said the mission, vision and goals would be discussed at the next meeting scheduled on February 15th at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2024.

Lee Hall, Chair