

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
May 2, 2024

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a Regular Session in the Executive Conference Room of the Norman Municipal Building, on the 2nd day of May 2024 at 5:36 p.m., and notice of the agenda of the meeting were 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.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Davison, Isacksen, Ross, Sallee, Usry, and Wright

Absent: Commissioners Moxley and One Vacancy

City Officials

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

ITEM 1, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF
MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 7, 2024, PARK BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Isacksen made the motion, and Commissioner Davison seconded to approve the Park Board minutes on March 7, 2024. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Davison, Isacksen, Ross, Sallee, Usry, and Wright

NAY: None

ITEM 2, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COUNCIL ACTIONS

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, highlighted the previously approved Council actions pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Department as follows:

- Proclamation P-2324-31 proclaiming April 20, 2024, as the 50th Birthday of the Community After School Program in the City of Norman.
- Contract K-1819-70, Amendment #3, with the Norman Optimist Club to Modify their Payment of Metered Electric Costs at Reaves Park.
- Contract K-2223-140 Final Acceptance with ACS Playground Adventures, Inc., for the Bentley Park Playground Project and Final Payment of \$200,000.
- Contract K-2324-64 Final Acceptance with Precision Construction and Contracting, LLC, for the Bentley Park Tennis and Pickleball Courts Project and Final Payment of \$17,102.20.
- Contract K-2324-71 with the Norman Youth Soccer Association Inc. for the Use and Maintenance of Griffin Community Park for a period of 5 Years.
- Resolution R-2324-141 Authorizing the City Attorney to Retain Certain Outside Counsel to Provide Legal Representation on behalf of the City Regarding Design and/or Construction Issues with the Norman Public Library Central.

ITEM 3, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF LAND
OR FEE IN LIEU OF PARKLAND FOR THE OLD DAIRY FARM ADDITION

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Mr. Briggs, Park Development Manager, said The Old Dairy Farm Addition is located west of Chautauqua Avenue and north of State Highway 9. He said the addition is located across the street from the University of Oklahoma at the Sonia Drive intersection. Mr. Briggs said the plat contains eight (8) units of residential duplex zoning, and when developed, there will be a total required parkland dedication of .0354 acres. He said this development would also yield \$600 in Neighborhood Park Development Fees and the same in Community Park Development Fees once all the building permits have been issued.

Mr. Briggs said that staff does not recommend a public or private parkland decision for this small development. He said this site is adjacent to a large apartment complex that borders one part of Walnut Ridge Park, which has existed for decades and is very popular with those living in the surrounding neighborhoods. He said the eight (8) additional housing units would not put a significant user demand on Walnut Ridge Park. Staff recommends that the Park Board accept a fee-in-lieu of parkland decision for The Old Dairy Farm Addition.

Commissioner Davison made the motion, and Commissioner Sallee seconded to accept a fee-in-lieu of parkland decision for The Old Dairy Farm Addition. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Davison, Isacksen, Ross, Sallee, Usry, and Wright
NAY:	None

ITEM 4 being:

NORMAN FORWARD UPDATE

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave the Board a quick Norman Forward (NF) update and said the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) continues having tournament after tournament, including basketball tournaments and swim meets. He said the Adult Wellness and Education Center (AWE) membership has grown to 2,700, and Healthy Living Norman is planning a celebration when the membership reaches 3,000. Mr. Olsen said the playground area and trails had been completed at Bentley Park, and work continues on the pickleball court, the first stand-alone pickleball court located in a Norman Park. He said the NF Saxon Park Project has a \$2 million budget, and the NF Saxon Park Ad Hoc Committee began meeting last month to discuss and rank priority park amenities. He said the consultant would return a proposed design and budget update later this month. Mr. Olsen said the old Sunrise and Falls-Lakeview Parks playgrounds have been demolished. He said the new playground equipment for both parks has been delivered and will be installed soon.

ITEM 5, being:

DIVISIONAL UPDATES

Mr. Mitchell Richardson, Interim Recreation Manager, highlighted upcoming events to include the Mom Prom at the Noun Hotel on Saturday, May 4, 2024. He said there are three dances: 2 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., with the last dance for 21 and older. He said Kids to Park Day is a national day of outdoor play and will be celebrated on May 18th, 2024, from noon to 2 p.m., at Prairie Creek Park. Mr. Richardson said the event is free and open to the public. He said registration is open for the YFAC Summer Youth Basketball League and will close on May 26, 2024, and a WWFAC summer preview for season pass holders is on May 25th, with the pool opening to everyone on May 26, 2024. Mr. Richardson said the Outdoor Movie Series continues on May 24th at Lions Park, featuring Barbie, a free event open to everyone. He said activities will begin at 7:00 p.m. and the film starts at sunset. Mr. Richardson noted summer camp registration opened recently and, at this time, all three recreation centers are full.

Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager, said crews recently replaced all 18 disc golf baskets at Griffin Park and added nine (9) additional baskets. He said Tee signs have been added to all the 18 disc golf holes at Colonial Commons Park, and staff is working on a project to add a new crossing bridge (to replace the

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old and unsafe bridge) at Northeast Lions Park. Mr. Briggs said staff advertised bids to build a new central restroom building at Reaves Park to replace the old concrete block building demolished last year. He said McKinney Partnership has designed the new building, which will include a men's, women's, and family option with adult changing tables on the women's and family's side and baby changing stations on all three sides. He said the building would resemble the restroom constructed at Rotary Park in 2020. Mr. Briggs said crews are re-surfacing three outdoor tennis courts at Westwood Park Tennis Center. He said the four oldest courts were re-done last year, and these three are the next oldest. Mr. Briggs said staff is also working on a final contract with a design team who will work with us to masterplan the golf and tennis clubhouse and service areas, and once approved, we will begin a process to plan for a central park project to modernize and expand the facilities. He said the City Forester attended training to become a Wildfire Risk Reduction Qualified Arborist, which will be essential to getting Norman's Community Wildfire Protection Plan in place. He said the staff is also working to become a Fire Wise Community through a program with the State of Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry.

Mr. Wade Thompson, Parks Manager, said that after a recent storm, crews helped clear down trees for several days. He said only limbs (not trees) were lost in City parks and at Westwood Golf. Mr. Thompson noted that staff helped the Sutton Urban Wilderness Group during the University of Oklahoma Big Event, specifically hauling off private property they had removed from some regions of Sutton Wilderness Park. He said staff also recently helped prepare Reaves Park for the annual Medieval Fair and the Earth Day Event.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Commissioner Ross thanked staff for all their help in removing the privet at Sutton Wilderness Park by the Sutton Urban Wilderness Group during the recent OU Big Event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sheriff adjourned the meeting at 5:57 p.m.

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2024

Sherrel Sheriff, Chair

PARK TOUR

The Park Board took a park tour beginning with the recently completed Young Family Athletic Facility (YFAC), then continued to the new Bentley Park, which is due to open in the summer of 2024, and Saxon Park.