

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
April 4, 2024

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 4th day of April 2024 at 5:30 p.m., and notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at 201 West Gray Street - 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Davison, Moxley, Sallee, Usry, and Wright

Absent: Commissioners Isacksen and Ross and One Vacancy

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
James Briggs, Park Development Manager
Rick Parish, Westwood Golf Professional
Paul Krout, Westwood Golf Maintenance Superintendent
Mitchell Richardson, Interim Recreation Manager
Wade Thompson, Parks Manager
Mitchell Richardson, Recreation Supervisor
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 1, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 1, 2024, PARK BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Davison made the motion, and Commissioner Usry seconded to approve the Park Board minutes on February 1, 2024. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Davison, Moxley, Sallee, Usry, and Wright

NAY: None

ITEM 2, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE RECOGNITION OF NADEZDA (NADA) ALVAREZ SAVIC, A DEDICATED COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER TARGETING LITTER REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Chair Sheriff said a special guest and her family were at the meeting and introduced Nadezda (Nada) Alvarez Savic to the Board. She said she was an amazing environmentalist and highlighted her achievements.

- At 6 years old, Nada started the Norman Nature Club in February 2023. Over the last year, her club has removed 17 trash bags and seven recycling bags from parks, lakes, and streams.
- She had a booth at the 2023 Norman Earth Day Festival, where she taught others about recycling and recruited additional volunteers.
- In December 2023, she raised \$150 for WildCare Oklahoma by selling lip balm that she made herself.
- In 2022, she participated in an art show and raised \$220 that she donated to The Nature Conservancy.
- She has always had an intense interest in nature and a desire to make a difference in the world.

Chair Sheriff presented Nada with a Recognition Plaque, and the Board thanked her for her service and passion for conserving the environment.

ITEM 3, 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:

- Contract K-1920-91 with Freese and Nichols in the amount of \$152,345 for the design of Jenkins Avenue Widening Project – Imhoff Rd to Lindsey St – for the 2019 Bond Project.
 - Contract K-2324-125 with Happy Playgrounds LLC is in the amount of \$220,000 for the Sunrise Park Playground Project.
 - Contract K-2324-126 with Happy Playgrounds LLC is in the amount of \$135,000 for the Falls Lakeview Park Playground Project.
 - Ordinance O-2324-45 amending Article 20-XXX Special Events of the City Code to include a film or television production event as a type of special event, establish a film permit and associated fee, allow complete street closures for limited durations, make corrections to grammar, section references and formatting.
 - Proclamation P-2324-25 proclaiming Sunday, April 21, 2024, as Arbor Day in the City of Norman.
-

ITEM 4 being:

ANNUAL REPORT FROM WESTWOOD GOLF

Westwood Golf Maintenance: Mr. Paul Krout, Golf Maintenance Superintendent, gave the annual Westwood Golf Maintenance presentation to the Board. He said the greens are in good shape, and the addition of a Toro Hydroject aerification subsurface injection machine will be helpful in the quest for quality greens. Mr. Krout said that the staff continues to make biweekly topdressing applications, which improves the quality of the green with firmness and the target surface organic matter of 4%.

Mr. Krout said staff continues to work on drainage projects, including cleaning out a seasonal waterway behind #11 green because of sediment buildup and also replacing a 6" pipe with 12" and 8" pipes between holes 1 and 2, which catches basins from #7 greenside pond to south of #1 fairway bunker to tie into the drainage pipe that originates from the swimming pool and parking lots. He said the third drainage issue resolved is the #14 cart path drain to remove the ponding and excess water.

Mr. Krout highlighted and showed pictures depicting the most recent bunker renovations for #4 green, #1 fairway and a practice bunker at the chipping green. He said the material excavated from these bunkers was used to build an extension to the back of the #1 tee. He said staff will continue to work on bunker renovations as time allows.

Mr. Krout said the driving range is being closely evaluated for improvements, and the goal is to work on upgrades progressively to prepare for sod in the fall.

Westwood Golf: Mr. Rick Parish, Westwood Golf Professional, gave the annual Westwood Golf report to the Board. He said the pro shop and grill changed software (Club Prophet) in February 2024, which worked great. He highlighted current programs at Westwood Golf, beginning with the Men's Golf Association, and said the WMGA Saturday League started March 9 and ended with the Club Championship in August. The Thursday League began March 21 and finishes the last Thursday before Daylight Savings. Mr. Parish said the Westwood ladies will begin playing on Thursday mornings in May, and Senior Play Days will start in April and end in October. He said the total rounds in FY23 were 37,257, and the Pro Shop sales for calendar year 2023 were \$175,281.68 with a profit of \$62,456.90.

Park Board Meeting

Page 3 of 4

April 4, 2024

The 49th Invitational is scheduled for July 5, 6, and 7, and the tournament had 138 players in 2023. Mr. Parish highlighted 2024 programs, including First Tee (for kids) and the US Kids tournament. He said the South Central Section, PGA, Jr. Tour is scheduled for June 4, 2024; the Westwood Free Jr. Clinic is scheduled for June 11 and 12, 2024; the Westwood Jr. Academy begins June 18, finishing with the Academy Championship on July 17, 2024.

Mr. Parish said WW Golf continues to host Norman High on Mondays, Norman North on Tuesdays, Norman Middle Schools (Alcott, Irving, Whittier, and Longfellow) on Wednesdays, and Southmoore and CCS Monday through Thursday. He said the 6A Girls – Sabercat JV 9-hole tournament was on March 6, 2024; the 6A Lady Sabercat Varsity Invitational was held on March 25, 2024, and the 6A Boys Sabercat Varsity Invitational was on March 26, 2024. Mr. Parish said the Robert O. Smith Spring Break Junior Invitational, a new tournament introduced by Greg Grost, was held on March 20, 2024, with 26 participants.

The Board acknowledged the reports.

ITEM 5, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF WESTWOOD GOLF AND POOL PRICE INCREASE

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, highlighted the proposed Westwood Golf and Pool price increase to the Board. He said Westwood Golf fees were streamlined a few years ago, and Westwood Pool fees have not increased since the re-opening in 2020.

Mr. Olsen showed price comparisons for several area golf courses, including Early Wine, Lincoln, Lake Hefner, Trospen, John Conrad, and Kickingbird. He highlighted the proposed 2024 Westwood Golf fees, stating the proposed rates include tax, and if the Board approves, they will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

Mr. Olsen highlighted the proposed 2024 Westwood Family Aquatic Center (WWFAC) fees. He said if the Board approves the proposed fee increase; the proposed rates for general admission will go into effect upon approval. In contrast, the Season Passes, Programs, and Rentals will go into effect on July 1, 2024.

Chair Sheriff asked how many people had to be in a group in order to get the group rate, and staff said ten or more. She wondered how many lessons were in the swim lessons, and the staff said one per week for six weeks. Mr. Olsen said staff might need to request another fee increase if the WWFAC wages have a 4% increase to be competitive with other cities.

Commissioner Moxley suggested a Westwood Golf Club House Project be included and funded if a Norman Forward 2 initiative is proposed and passed. Mr. Olsen said staff is currently working on conceptual designs for a new Westwood Golf Club House; however, a separate bond issue/funding may be used before (a possible) Norman Forward 2 funding is available.

Commissioner Moxley made the motion, and Commissioner Wright recommended that the Parks and Recreation Director move forward with the proposed Westwood Golf and WWFAC fee increases. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Davison, Moxley, Sallee, Usry, and Wright

NAY: None

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said that the Adult Wellness and Education Center (AWE) has 2600 members. He said the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) data tracking indicated the YFAC received 60,000 visitors in February and 70,000 visitors in March, each being an average of 120 minutes long. Mr. Olsen said the data tracking also indicated many YFAC visitors frequented the area restaurants afterward. He said there was a shoe branding with Puma at a basketball tournament last weekend, and a Nike and Adidas basketball tournament is scheduled soon. Mr. Olsen said all 12 courts were used during a large volleyball tournament last month, and the adult basketball league and swim classes have started.

Mr. Olsen said a ribbon cutting is scheduled for Bentley Park at the end of Spring or early Summer. He said the Sierra Club is working with staff on the natural areas located in the park.

Mr. Olsen said Veronica Tracy resigned last month and was hired as Rocklin, California's Parks and Recreation Director. He introduced Mitchell Richardson to the Board and said he is the Interim Recreation Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sheriff adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2024

Sherrel Sheriff, Chair