

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
August 3, 2023

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met on the 3rd day of August 2023 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 Wright and Commissioners Isacksen, Moxley, Ross and Sallee

Absent: Commissioners Salmond and Usry

Tardy: Commissioner Davison and Sheriff

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
James Briggs, Park Development Manager
Bethany Grissom, Park Planner
Josh Holman, Recreation Supervisor
Kellen McCoy, YFAC Athletic Operations Supervisor
Mitchell Richardson, Recreation Supervisor
Wade Thompson, Facility and Park Manager
Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 1, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDED AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 6, 2023, PARK BOARD MEETING

Commissioner Isacksen made the motion, and Commissioner Moxley seconded to approve the April 6, 2023, Park Board minutes. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Chair Wright and Commissioners Isacksen, Moxley, Ross and Sallee

NAY: None

Commissioner Davison arrived at the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

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.

Commissioner Sheriff arrived at the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

The previously approved Council actions are as follows:

- Contract K-2324-41, with the Firehouse Art Center, Inc., for \$120,000 to assist with the operation of the center;
- Contract K-2324-23, between the City and the Norman Visitors and Convention Bureau for the purpose of encouraging, promoting, and fostering convention and tourism development in the City;
- Contract K-2324-26, between the City and Tyler Fuqua Creations for \$62,000 for the design and creation of a sculpture to be placed at Reaves Park funded through the Norman Forward Public Arts Fund;
- Contract K-2324-24, between the City and PROJECT1ONE LLC dba One Studio for \$89,000 for the design and creation of a sculpture to be placed at Griffin Park funded through the Norman Forward Public Arts Fund;

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- Contract K-2324-25, between the City and Skunk Control for \$100,000 for the design and creation of a sculpture to be placed at Norman Senior Wellness Center funded through the Norman Forward Public Arts Fund; and
 - Resolution R-2324-14, appropriating \$32,778 from the Westwood Fund Balance for a leak repair at the Westwood Family Aquatic Center.
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ITEM 3, being:

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM FIREHOUSE ART CENTER

Mr. Andy Couch, Firehouse Art Center (FAC) Director, introduced Mr. Fred Schmidt, FAC Board President. Mr. Schmidt gave the annual presentation and provided financials to the Board prior to the meeting. He highlighted the FAC Staff and gave an overview of the activities to include art education and community outreach programming. New programs at FAC include Art Forces, which is free to veterans and service members and Healing Outreach, for adults with varying degrees of cognitive, physical, and learning disabilities. He highlighted the fees for children and adult classes stating 749 participants attended classes in FYE 2021-22. The Ceramics Studio reopened recently and FAC will be mixing the clay in-house to save money. Chair Wright asked whether FAC used local (red) dirt to make the clay and Commissioner Ross asked where they stored the clay and materials. Mr. Couch said FAC could use a red dirt method, but instead is using a gray clay recipe that is water based and similar to what has been purchased in the past. He said the materials are stored in what he calls the "kiln yard" which he hopes to restore in the future with grant opportunities. Commissioner Sheriff asked if the Duck Project was over and Staff said the Norman Arts Council has that project. Commissioner Isacksen asked if the Transportation item on the expenditure report was new and Mr. Couch said yes, the \$6,500 was his moving expenses (from Wyoming) and various exhibitions and meetings he attended across the state.

Mr. Couch said he has been working with Parks & Recreation Staff on a mural concept that will depict a young Huichol boy. He said the mural will be painted on an exterior wall of the FAC building in September and FAC already has sponsorship for the cost of the paint. Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation said the Board could recommend City Council to allow the mural project if they so desired. The Board discussed and agreed the mural project would be a great addition to FAC and to the Norman community.

Commissioner Moxley made the motion, and Commissioner Sallee seconded to recommend City Council allow the mural project at the Firehouse Art Center. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

ITEM 4, being:

ANNUAL PRESENTATION FROM CLEVELAND COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Ms. Amy Pence, Moore-Lindsay Historical House Museum, (MLHHM) gave an annual presentation and provided financials to the Board prior to the meeting. She said MLHHM was able to hire Savannah Miller as a part-time Assistant Manager and she started in November 2022. Ms. Pence said MLHHM received two grants last year; an Operational Support Grant from the Norman Arts Council in the amount of \$6,306 and another from ARPA from the National Endowment for the Arts in the amount of \$8,457. She said the funds purchased new tables and chairs, storage cabinets and shelves, mannequins, and archival storage materials. The grant funds also allowed the museum to hire five local artists to assist with various programs throughout the year, increasing advertising and establish an educational traveling trunk for local teachers. Ms. Pence highlighted the exhibits, events, camps and educational workshops at MLHHM and said the museum welcomed 2,100 visitors last year, the highest attendance for the museum yet! She highlighted the programs offered as well as the fees and said in MLHHM began charging admission in May 2023 for visitors over the age of 12; however, staff may reduce or waive admission.

Ms. Pence said the first of three pieces of carpenters lace is being installed at the MLHHM and Chair Wright asked if the project is being done by a local company. Ms. Pence said a local club, the Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association, has recreated the original pieces and is donating their labor. Commissioner Moxley asked if the

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MLHHM keeps a historical repository on the old(er) buildings in Norman, whether still standing or demolished. Ms. Pence said not at this time; however, one of her goals is to organize old photos at the museum which include pictures of old(er) buildings.

The Board acknowledged the report.

ITEM 5, being:

OPERATOR UPDATE ON YOUNG FAMILY ATHLETIC CENTER

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said in May 2023, the City ceased contract negotiations with Santa Fe Family Life Center to become the Young Family Athletic Center (YFAC) operator after it became apparent that the risks associated with operations would be best facilitated by the Parks and Recreation Department. He said the Parks Department contacted the stakeholder groups involved with the YFAC and is working with these groups on leases, leagues and has a clear vision of using the YFAC for the best interest of the residents of Norman. Mr. Olsen highlighted the YFAC budget, revenue projections, fee schedule and booking policy. He said construction continues on the building, parking lot, including Trae Young Drive and the YFAC should be completed and open in January, 2024, just in time for the winter league. A February ribbon cutting will be scheduled to accommodate Trae Young's schedule.

Mr. Olsen introduced Mr. Kellen McCoy and said he will be the Athletics Operations Supervisor at the YFAC. He said Mr. Josh Holman is the supervisor at the Westwood Family Aquatic Facility (WWFAC). He said Mr. Holman will operate both the WWFAC pool(s) as well as the YFAC pool(s) and will work at the WWFAC in the summer months and the YFAC in the fall and winter months.

Mr. Olsen said City Council will consider the YFAC Facility Policy on August 8, 2023. Commissioner Sallee asked about insurance on the YFAC facility and Mr. Olsen said the City is self-insured, but any accidents will fall under the Tort Claim. Commissioner Sheriff asked about the Norman Regional Hospital sponsorship and Mr. Olsen said NRH paid construction costs for their space at the YFAC. He said the City will not get any fees from NRH and they will pay their own utilities. Commissioner Sheriff asked what will happen to the current recreation centers when the YFAC opens and Mr. Olsen said Irving Recreation and Whittier Recreation will primarily offer child care and 12th Avenue Recreation will continue to offer programming and child care.

Commissioner Davison made the motion, and Commissioner Isacksen seconded to recommend City Council accept the proposed YFAC Policy and that the City of Norman Parks and Recreation be the operator for the YFAC. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

ITEM 6, being:

CONSIDERATION OF LAND OR FEE IN LIEU OF PARK LAND FOR THE ARMSTRONG BANK CONSOLIDATION PROJECT PUD ADDITON

Mr. James Briggs, Planning Development Manager, said the Armstrong Bank Consolidation Project PUD Addition is located on west side of 24th Avenue SE, south of Cedar Lane Road. This large development is mostly comprised of a mix of commercial properties and a new Armstrong Bank building, with one block of residential development for long-term senior living units and one block of apartments. There are 400 total units of RM-6 type development in the PUD, requiring 1.77 acres of park land. Mr. Briggs said this development will yield \$30,000 in Neighborhood Park Development Fees and the same amount in Community Park Development Fees once all building permits have been issued. He said the developer has requested a Fee-in-Lieu of land decision for this project and Staff agree with their proposal; with the fees collected for this addition being assigned to the Links Park development account. This park is located across the street from the development and will be fully developed in the coming few years, as part of the Norman Forward New Neighborhood Parks Project. Mr. Briggs said the developer have stated there are no firm

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commitments from other developers in this preliminary site development plan and if there is a change in use for the land, then a new preliminary plat will be developed and brought back to the Park Board.

Mr. Briggs said Staff recommends that the Park Board accept the Fee-in-Lieu of park land decision for the Armstrong Bank Consolidation Project PUD Addition.

Commissioner Moxley motioned, and Commissioner Davison seconded to accept the Fee-in-Lieu of Parkland decision for the Armstrong Bank Consolidation Project PUD Addition. The vote was taken with the following results:

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

NAY: None

ITEM 7, being:

NORMAN FORWARD UPDATE

Mr. Jason Olsen gave an update on the Norman Forward Projects.

Griffin Park

Mr. Olsen said work continues at Griffin Park, to include drainage, restroom building. Work also continues on the new park road at High Meadows and 12th Avenue NW, which is being completed by the Public Works Department. Mr. Olsen said a ribbon cutting for the project is scheduled for September 16, 2023.

Mr. Olsen said Norman is currently hosting the National Beep Ball Association's World Series at Griffin Park and the games began August 1 and will run through August 5, 2023. He said Beep Ball is an adaptive version of baseball designed for individuals who are blind or visually impaired and said more information could be found at nbba.org.

Adult Wellness and Education Center

Mr. Olsen said work continued at the Adult Wellness and Education Center to include flooring and placing new furniture and showed pictures depicting progress at the facility. He said the project should be substantially complete by late summer. Staff will work with the operator for approximately 30 days to get the facility up and running. A ribbon cutting is expected in late October to early November.

Bentley Park

Mr. Olsen said new trees were recently planted at Bentley Park and the new playground equipment is expected to arrive in November or December. He said a pre-bid meeting was recently held for the construction of the planned tennis court and pickle ball court. Mr. Olsen said the new park will also include a large picnic pavilion, basketball half-court, walking trail and native plant reservations.

ITEM 7, being:

DIVISIONAL UPDATES

Ms. Veronica Tracy, Recreation Manager, highlighted the Recreation activities to include the Hotter 'N Hell Golf Tournament scheduled on Friday, August 11 at Westwood Golf and said the tournament supports the United Way of Norman. Ms. Tracy said a Westwood Family Aquatic Center (WWFAC) Dive-In Movie Night is scheduled on August 12 at 8:30 pm with the showing of Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania. Admission is free for season passholders and \$5.00 for others. She said beginning August 7, the pool will going to our back to school schedule and open swim only be available on weekends; however, weekday morning activities will continue. Ms. Tracy said the After School Programs are open for enrollment and is only \$40 per week per child.

Mr. James Briggs, Park Development Manager, said new scoreboards are being installed at the Reaves Park t-ball quad. He said the boards are being supplied free-of-charge from a group that will sell advertising on the boards; and split this revenue with the City of Norman. Other projects will continue at Reaves to improve the fencing at the older baseball and softball fields, construct a small maintenance shop and material yard for the park, and replace the old restroom building near the playgrounds in the park.

Mr. Briggs said a contract will be awarded soon for the Sutton Urban Wilderness Project to complete a project to expand the parking lot and improve the southern trail spur in this park that connects to the trail in Griffin Park.

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Work will proceed through the summer; and be completed this fall. The project is being partly funded via a Recreational Trails Grant, awarded by the State of Oklahoma Department of Tourism & Recreation. The Norman Forward Saxon Park Ad-Hoc Committee has been formed, and meetings will begin soon. Mr. Briggs said Mr. Colin Zink, City Forester, is working with Davey Resource Group for professional services to complete an urban tree inventory, tree ordinance review, and work on an Urban Forest Master Plan for Norman. He said Staff will begin the Andrews Park Master Plan Project soon and will have several public input sessions to gain input. Mr. Briggs said a final master plan will be design work only and is not yet funded, but will help guide budget and work planning for Norman's original park. He said a "Walk in the Forest" event is on September 23, 2023 at Ruby Grant Park. He said the Parks and Recreation Department is collaborating with the Oklahoma State Forestry Division on this free family- friendly event.

MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Evan Dunn, concerned citizen, suggested the City address the homeless issue by allowing garden-type caretaking in City Parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wright adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2023

Kristi D. Wright, Chair