



CITY OF NORMAN, OK NORMAN FORWARD SALES TAX CITIZEN FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETING

Adult Wellness and Education Center, 602 N. Findlay, Norman, OK
73069

Friday, November 03, 2023 at 3:30 PM

MINUTES

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ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Board Member Alva Brockus
Board Member Andy Sherrer
Board Member Cindy Rogers
Board Member Linda Price
Board Member Zachary Simpson

ABSENT

Chairman Andy Rieger
Board Member Erik Paulson
Board Member Saidy Orellana
Board Member Misty Grantham

OTHERS

Anthony Francisco, Director of Finance
Jacob Huckabaa, Budget Technician
Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation
Dannielle Risenhoover, Administrative Tech. IV
Dan Schemm, President & CEO of Visit Norman and President of Norman Sports Commission

MINUTES

1. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

Member Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15, 2023 meeting. Member Simpson duly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board Minutes from September 15, 2023.

REPORTS

2. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Anthony Francisco gave the report. The combined Sales and Use Tax were about 2% above the fiscal year projections and about 3.5% below the original projections. "The consensus opinion about what our Sales Taxes have to do with the economy is that we don't know. Where we are "flat," we're "flat" at a high level. As this relates to our ability to do things with Norman Forward or with the City as a whole, we're ok," Francisco stated.

Francisco pointed out expenditures related to the Traffic and Road Improvements project. "We have actually spent more than what has been appropriated so far this fiscal year," Francisco said. "That project has an allocation of \$2.7 million but we had only appropriated \$500,000 so far; so, we will have to ask Council to appropriate some more of that allocated money." At this time, it is not anticipated that this project will cost more than \$2.7 million.

Member Price asked if there was on-going discussion with the State of Oklahoma regarding the lease and purchase of Griffin Park. Francisco replied, "At this point we will continue to do the lease. We have made offers to buy Griffin Park and Sutton Wilderness, but we have not gotten a response from the Department of Mental Health about our offer. There are differing opinions about the appraised value. Our appraised value is based on its continued use as a park and wilderness park. Their appraised value is based on fully developed residential properties and that sort of thing. Obviously that's a pretty wide gap on the appraised value. If we can come to an agreement about the appraised value as a park, we are ready to pay them."

Member Rogers pointed out, "It's zoned in the master plan as a park, so the City kind of holds the key there."

Member Simpson asked, "Their evaluation is contingent on us changing the zoning, right?" Member Rogers, Member, Price, Anthony Francisco and others responded, "Right." Member Price continued, "And we don't have to change the zoning."

Member Sherrer advised the Board that he believed that the Griffin land lease payments should come from the City's General fund rather than the Norman Forward Fund to "not erode Norman Forward funds" and wondered if the Board should make this recommendation to Council. Francisco said, "Remember there was originally \$10 million in Norman Forward to buy the land. We were unable to negotiate the purchase; so, we have this lease agreement and that's what we've been paying on. The difference between the \$2.4 million for lease payments and the \$10 million originally, that \$7.6 million went into this (Adult Wellness and Education Center) facility."

Francisco confirmed that the Griffin land lease payments and the cost of any improvements to Griffin Park or Sutton Wilderness will be deducted from the purchase price of these properties. According to Francisco, this agreement is written into the City of Norman's contract with the State of Oklahoma. Member Sheerer stated, "That's good to know. That makes me feel a little better."

Francisco stated, "This Board has already made a recommendation to Council that where there are over-runs in projects, they'd be made up from the General Fund or Capital Fund. You've already made that recommendation."

There was not a recommendation for Council to appropriate the Griffin land lease payments out of the General Fund rather than the Norman Forward Fund at this time. The Committee would like to have further discussion over this topic at their next meeting.

Member Brockus made a motion to approve the Financial Reports, which was duly seconded by Member Sherrer. The motion passed unanimously.

Items submitted for the record:

Norman Forward Citizens Financial Oversight Board Financial Reports

3. CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COUNCIL ACTIONS

Member Sherrer made a motion to approve the previously approved Council actions, which was duly seconded by Member Price. The motion passed unanimously.

4. AD HOC COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Member Brockus stated that she was at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting for the Young Family Athletic Center. "The Committee met and I don't recall any huge controversy. I know there is a ribbon cutting for Trae Young Boulevard Sunday." The grand opening for the facility could possibly be on February 19.

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Adult Wellness and Education Center had their last meeting. The Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Adult Wellness and Education Center will be Monday, November 13 at 11:00 AM.

5. PROJECT MANAGER REPORTS

Jason Olsen gave the report. He stated that the Trae Young Drive street dedication will occur Sunday, November 5th at 3:00 PM with a 30 minute open-house to follow.

The Young Family Athletic Center is progressing. Construction of the facility has taken longer than expected so the facility is now projected to open in January 2024.

The City is in the process of building a new neighborhood park in the Sonoma and Prairie Creek neighborhoods in southeast Norman. The park is expected to be completed in early 2024. The City is currently taking bids for other playground systems that will be installed across the city.

A) THE PROMOTION OF NORMAN FORWARD PROJECTS - VISIT NORMAN'S DAN SCHEMM & TRENT BROWN

With the passing of the May 9th increase of the Norman hotel/motel guest tax, City of Norman's tourism and promotion ability was impacted in that the Norman Sports Commission was formed.

Dan Schemm, President and CEO of Visit Norman and President of the Norman Sports Commission, updated the Board on Visit Norman's efforts to promote sporting activities within Norman. Schemm stated that Visit Norman will work with Norman sport facility venue operators to learn what dates are available for club or tournament activities to be hosted at their facilities. Their goal is to bring outside revenues to Norman through attracting various sporting events to Norman.

Visit Norman's budget is up for approval by Norman City Council each year.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FUTURE MEETING TIME(S)

The Board determined that the next Norman Forward Sales Tax Citizen Financial Oversight Board Meeting would be December 29, 2023 at 3:30 PM at City Hall, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray St., Norman, OK.

Anthony Francisco presented the Board with pictures of the proposed art work for the James Garner round-a-bout. The art is titled "Revolution" and is inspired by things that go around, such as the wheels turning on James Garner's Firebird from the television series "Rockford Files". The artist is from Oklahoma.

Member Sherrer made a motion to approve the art work "Revolution," which was duly seconded by Member Simpson. The motion passed unanimously.

Items for the Record:
Revolution Art Work Packet

7. TOUR OF ADULT WELLNESS AND EDUCATION CENTER

Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the Board with a guided tour of the Adult Wellness and Education Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Simpson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was duly seconded by Member Brockus. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:45 PM.

Andy Rieger, Chair
Norman Forward Sales Tax Citizen Financial Oversight Board