

Recreation and Open Spaces Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2023

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING - 5:30 PM - Committee

Members Present: Angie Thomas, Greg Gebauer, Robin Harris, Jim Jenkins, Steve Williams, Holly Kross, Kent Wilson

Committee Members Absent: Judy Shelton

City Staff/ Representatives Present: Justine Spease, Chris Brake, Jeff Harris

City Staff/ Representatives Absent: Bob Reeves, Dani Gurley, Rodger Shannon, Brad Harrington

Citizens Present: none

CITIZEN CONCERNS - Angie brought up the need for an adaptive playground and/or playground equipment. Justine shared that a request has been made in the CIP but the CIP will not be approved until later in the year. Holly inquired about a volunteer group like helping hands to help offset the cost of a new playground installation. Staff mentioned the Kaboom grant as a possibility. Staff did receive a small grant from Walmart that they intend to use towards the purchase of an adaptive swing but are hesitant to put it up as all the ground cover to the swing sets are sand and not accessible. Angie brought up the ground cover at the playground for ages 2-5 has accusable ground cover and has two infant swings. Greg questioned the weight capacity of that swing set as it was intended for infant/toddler use. Staff will do additional research on if that would be feasible.

Greg inquired about doing a park clean up. Discussion was held on the history of the program and if they'd like to continue, what day would work for everyone. There was also discussion on the City-Wide Clean-up event that was hosted by Bonner Beautiful this year. It was decided that they will do a park clean up on Saturday, September 9th at 9AM. Meet at South Park to do trash pick up along the trail north to Lions Park. Kerry Roberts Park and Kerry Roberts Park Trail are also adopted spots on the clean up list.

OLD BUSINESS - Minutes from the May meeting will be presented for approval along with the minutes from this meeting in August.

NEW BUSINESS -

Memorial Bench Program - Justine presented the potential memorial bench program. Various costs are associated with a memorial bench including bench style, material, concrete pad, anchoring system, memorial plaque, shipping, installation, and staff labor. Jim Jenkins suggested having the Eagle Scouts build benches. Holly Kross inquired about opening it up to businesses to sponsor a bench, as a memorial bench program may not get us the number of benches we need. Greg Gebauer added that we'd have to be careful about who was allowed to sponsor a bench if it was opened up to businesses. Angie Thomas suggested asking the school district about laser engraving. Holly Kross liked adding a time frame on a memorial bench. Staff will gather more information and present options to the advisory board at the next meeting.

Tree Plantings - Jeff Harris reported that he has requested trees be planted at the cemetery with the grant that the City received in 2021 to plant 200 trees in the City in areas affected by the EAB. The plan would include flowering trees along the entry drive to bring some color and vibrance to the landscaping, a large tree near the gazebo for additional shade, and a request to replace memorial trees that have been removed. If approved by Kim with the Kansas Forestry Department the trees would be planted in the fall. There was agreement from the board that the proposal would be a good addition to the cemetery.

REPORTS -

Recreation Manager Update - Staff reported that the Ribbon Cutting for the Fitness Court at Center Park (120

N Nettleton Ave) will be held at 5:30PM on Thursday, August 10th. 4 teams registered for Adult Softball. The pool will be closing 1hr early (6PM) on Thursdays for the remainder of the summer to allow time for lifeguard in-service training. Many of our lifeguards are only 15 and labor laws prevent them from working over 40hrs a week. Training is paid, required, and must be built into their schedule. Registration for Fall Ball, Soccer, and Youth Volleyball are OPEN! Plans for Senior Trips for 2024 will begin in August with Lenexa. Doggie Poolooza is Friday, August 18th from 5PM-8PM.

Angie asked how pool membership sales were going. Staff to report at next meeting. Holly asked how the Farmers Market Pavilion project was coming along. Staff reported that installation would be after Tiblow Days.

Motion to adjourn at 6:32PM made by Greg, second by Jim. All yes.

DRAFT