

Park Board Meeting - 1/10/05

Meeting Chair: Park Board Member Barry Thierer called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

In Attendance:

Ron Crow, Park Board Member
Jay Garvin, Director of Parks and Recreation
Doug Dailey, Vice President of Park Board (arrived at 6:48 p.m.)
Greg Johnson, City Administrator
Cheri Reichenberger, Park Board Member
Nancy Cook, Treasurer of Park Board
Barry Thierer, Park Board Member
Kim Gordanier, Planning Coordinator
Bill Maasen, Johnson County Parks and Recreation

Not in Attendance:

Mike Nolan, President of Park Board
Doug Pickert, Park Board Member

Approval of Minutes

Board members noted that the minutes did not reflect that Mike Nolan was in attendance.

Reichenberger motioned to accept the meeting minutes as corrected; motion seconded by Thierer. MOTION CARRIED.

Treasurer's Report

City Administrator Greg Johnson discussed that the Tree City USA improvements, tennis court parking lot improvements and Kaw Sand special use permit funds have been moved from the general fund to the parks fund. Cook updated that Board on the projects for 2005.

Reichenberger said that the board will be coordinating a Tree City USA poster contest this March for area elementary school children. This is a statewide competition with prizes for the winners.

Old Business

1) Beautification of Entrances

Jay Garvin presented some revisions to the board from Doug Pickert's latest renditions. Cheri Reichenberger suggested that the monuments be capped on the sides to better frame up the display area. A more detailed estimate will follow specific to associated costs to upgrade them at the current location. Doug Dailey mentioned that there should be some additional consideration to location of the monuments if the cost estimates come in low.

2) Future Park Site

General discussion occurred specific to the future park site to be located off of Lexington Avenue and Commerce Drive. A representative from the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department responsible for land acquisition presented future plans for the Johnson County Streamway project. The Park board discussed some alternative options for playground equipment, and location and number of restrooms and shelters at the location. The team also thought that the majority of parking should be angled parking along Commerce Drive. Additional thoughts about required lighting also were discussed.

3) Neighborhood Park – West Side.

Some discussions regarding Brook West subdivision. Doug Pickert mentioned an area south of 87th street between pasture and north of soccer field for the high school as a potential site for a local neighborhood park.

City staff walked this area and provided some initial feedback that was not completely favorable for this area. This item is still open for discussion.

New Business

1) Johnson County Stream Way Project

Bill Maasen, Planning and Development Manager of Johnson County Parks and Recreation, discussed the proposed alignment from the Kill Creek Streamway trail to the City's sidewalk on Lexington Ave. There is difficulty with the topography and clean up required for the property previously proposed for the trailhead extension. Maasen stated that it was preferable to run the trail alongside the railroad tracks south of the DeMeadows subdivision, and link it with the sidewalk at Commerce Dr. and Lexington Ave. Since the City is planning to do drainage improvements in that area this summer, the two projects could be tied together with one contractor.

The Board voiced their agreement with the proposed alignment; this provides good connectivity to the schools and the future city park at the location. The Board and Maasen discussed protecting pedestrians from the railroad spur with fencing. Responding to questions from the Board members, Maasen stated that the County parkland west of De Soto will be master planned the end of this year, and will actively involve City staff and the public.

2) Arbor Ridge Park Space

City Administrator Greg Johnson stated that the City Council decided to accept fees in lieu of parkland for the Arbor Ridge subdivision. The Council discouraged the neighborhood park concept in favor of providing community parks for the public at large. The Council asked to hold a workshop with the Board in February to discuss this and other issues.

3) Park Fee Discussion

The board was presented information from Greg Johnson specific to existing park fees across neighboring townships. DeSoto's fee schedule was substantially lower than others. The board recommended that the city park fee structure produce revenues that will fund between 25 and 33% percent. The board recommended that this amount of increase should be dependant fluctuations in other fee structures for other areas of city development and maintenance.

The focus area for parks and recreation will be directed at developing existing parks and already acquired park land. The near term direction for parkland is not for new parkland acquisition. There are significant efforts currently planned by the Johnson County park district and the park board will be looking to support those initiatives and start mapping a master plan for park land.

Member Comments

None Recorded.

Closing of the January Meeting

Motion by Nancy Cook to close out the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cheri Reichenberger. MOTION CARRIED and meeting ended.

Consent Agenda for February

Arbor Ridge Park Space	Greg Johnson	Update provided.
Pool House Discussion	Greg Johnson	Provide Cost-Benefit Analysis for improve versus new restroom.
Tree City USA	Mike Nolan	Inventory and Kill Creek Road Project Update.
		11/08 Waiting on Update from Mike.
		01/13 Waiting on Update from Mike.
City Council – Parks Team Workshop	Greg Johnson	1. Scheduled for 2/17 @ 5:00 PM 2. Discuss Park Survey Results 3. Discuss Future Park projects
Community Center Usage	Greg Johnson	Changes were shared. Preparing for City Council.
Beautification - North and South Entrances	Doug Pickert	Discussion to continue and also waiting on more detail cost estimates.
Future Park Site	Doug Pickert	Continue to develop site plan.