

Minutes approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
August 20, 2009

Pursuant to the notice as required by law, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Ponca City, Oklahoma convened in open session at 5:00 P.M. on August 20, 2009 at the Wentz Camp and Pool Dining Hall, 2932 L. A. Cann Drive.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bivins, Gregg, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth, Wilson, and Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Cox.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kelly Murphy, 2010 Leadership Ponca City representative; Beverly Bryant, Ponca City News; Jim Sindelar, Director, Parks and Recreation; and Katie Goss, Parks and Recreation staff.

2. City bus tour of park facilities. Meet at Wentz Camp Dining Hall.

Everyone boarded the City bus for a tour of the remaining City parks. The tour began by taking Snake Road below Wentz Camp and traveling around Wentz Cove. During this portion Sindelar reviewed projects which have occurred in the past couple of years for the restoration and improvement of Wentz Camp Pool. As we left Snake Road onto Hubbard Road the tour passed Jaycee Park. Riley suggested ramp access at Jaycee Park for the launching of 2 man boats would be beneficial and Wentroth mentioned grant funds may be available for this type of project.

The tour continued to Briar Ridge Park. This land was acquired in the 80's as a mandatory acquisition for new subdivisions. The contract constructed a tennis court for this neighborhood park; however, the courts were not built to proper specifications and were removed. The area became an open green area in the early 90's. Traveling on to Crown Heights staff described this park as a 3 ½ acre neighborhood park which provided some play equipment and where an above ground water storage towers is located. Donner Park consists of 10 acres of open green space. An underground water storage tank is located in this park. As part of the bid for construction of the storage tank a fenced in tennis court was part of the construction design. Although the neighborhood kids play in this area the City no longer maintains tennis nets on this court.

The tour continued on to Red Bud Park located next to Woodlands School. There is a walking trail which continues from the Marland Mansion through Red Bud Park to Hartford Ave. The Recreation Committee has suggested this park for location of the fitness stations. From Red Bud Park the tour continued to Sherwood Park, 6.47 acre, a neighborhood park which provides some play equipment. At Academy Park, which is a linear park, the improvements to the park were pointed out. The model of the Ponca Military Academy and statue were donated by the Ponca Military Alumni.

Ranchwood Park is another subdivision park. The Subdivision is built around 2 different green areas which total approximately 27 acres. After leaving Ranchwood Park the tour traveled to Prentice Road and drove by the Nature Center and Lake Ponca Campground. The Nature Center is 44 acres in size and the Campground provides 30 Recreational Vehicle electrical hookups as well as primitive camping. The tour continued to Wentz Camp & Pool where board members toured the new bath house at the swimming pool. The tour ended at the Wentz Camp Dining Hall.

1. Call to Order.

Kennedy called the order after reconvening in the Wentz Camp Dining Hall.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

3. Citizen Comments.

None.

4. Consider and vote on the minutes of the July 16, 2009 special meeting.

Minutes were presented for review. There being no discussion a motion was made by Moore and seconded by Young to approve the minutes as presented. The vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Gregg, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth, Wilson, and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

MINI-RETREAT

5. Receive report for Ad Hoc – Smoking Committee and take action as needed.

Riley reported the Ad Hoc committee included Bivins, Young and himself. The committee met and reviewed information researched regarding smoking in city parks. Although this appears to be a big trend on the West Coast few communities have adopted the policy. The communities of Noble, Owasso, and recently Norman have adopted policies which do not allow smoking in city parks. Norman did not include the golf course in their policy. Most communities only addressed smoking and did not include all types of tobacco use.

The committee felt and recommends that we leave things as they are. Implementation and enforcement of policies developed would be difficult. It was felt that now is not the time to set a policy restricting smoking in city parks. The motion was made by Wilson and seconded by Gregg to accept the recommendation of the ad hoc committee. The vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Gregg, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth, Wilson, and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

6. Receive report from Park Committee and take action as needed.

Gregg reported the committee met and decided on the following items:

Short Term Goal:

- a. Create a “Gift Catalog” which would provide suggested community projects or items need for City Parks – staff put together an example of a catalog which the committee liked.
- b. Establish fitness stations along the trail. Have youth/adult/senior levels at each station.

- c. 5th Street Park (Pioneer Park) – the restroom needs to be replaced.
- d. Develop a Park Master Plan in the 2010-11 Budget year.
- e. Update the Trail Master Plan

Long Term Goal:

- a. Gazebo/Pavilion – encourage concerts in the park
- b. Spray Park possibly at AMBUC Pool. A spray park would be low maintenance and no manpower.
- c. Themed playground modules
- d. Dog Park

The committee will continue to work on these goals.

7. Receive report from Recreation Committee and take action as needed.

The following information was presented:

- Evaluate City Parks for their accessibility and capability to accommodate practice fields for soccer and baseball. Parking space should also be evaluated.
 - Develop a plan to layout the new Practice Fields behind Union School into specific baseball and soccer areas.
 - Contact Ponca City Soccer and Little League Baseball associations for liaisons to assist in the development of fields and to disseminate the information to the coaches for scheduling purposes.
 - Short Range Goal. Bill Wentroth

Sindelar reported the city has GIS available which allows staff to print aerial maps of the different parks. The maps are to scale which will assist with planning use of the park.

- Develop a resident survey to find out what sports adult and youth would participate in so that the Park and Recreation Department in conjunction with the new YMCA facility can develop appropriate sporting activities.
 - Short Range Goal. Recreation Committee
- Develop Fitness Stations along the trail system at Red Bud Park to encourage a total fitness activity in conjunction with the walking trail.
 - Short Range Goal. Kimberly Blevins
- Evaluate existing programs offered by the Park and Recreation Department to determine if they are meeting the needs of the residents of Ponca City. In conjunction with the resident survey, develop annual programs/schedules for a wide age group of people.
 - Short Range Goal. Angi Kennedy
- Assess the current tools that the Park and Rec. Department are using to disseminate information about programs to residents. Develop new ways where needed to reach residents to publicize the programs that are available to them.
 - Short Range Goal. Angi Kennedy

- Assess the need for a Spray Park in the community. Determine Spray Park locations that would create the biggest impact to residents in the area through enhancement of City Parks.
 - Determined to be very important, but a Long Range Goal. Jim Sindelar

Wentroth reported the committee will meet next week, August 26, to continue to work on the committee goals.

8. Receive report from Lake Committee and take action as needed.

Riley reported the committee feels Lake Ponca is no longer a water source and should be enhanced as a recreational facility. It was reported the mooring dock will be installed this budget year. The committee would like to look at installation of a ramp at the north end of the lake which would allow the small two man boats to be more easily launched into the lake.

Riley then reviewed the report submitted to the board. Goals were defined as short term (one year or less) or long term (3 to 5 years). Following is the information submitted to the board:

- (1) Improve Fishery (long term)
 - a) Meet with Wildlife Dpt. for ideas and development of overall plan
 - b) Hold discussions with citizens/clubs for suggestions for fish habitat projects
- (2) Install/Upgrade Courtesy Mooring Dock (short term)
 - a) Determine Wildlife dept plan for new mooring dock at west ramp
 - b) Make recommendation to staff for relocation of current mooring dock (west ramp) and signage
- (3) SOP Activity – dock type/construction over lake (short term)
 - a) Hold discussions for various changes /recommendations to current SOP.
 - b) Cabins/docks built out over water
 - c) Use & maintenance of porta potties
 - d) Size of cabins /docks/decks compared to lot size.
 - e) Dock slips and Jet Ski slides as part of overall dock size of 400 sq.ft.
 - f) Double decking of docks
 - g) set back of cabins from road
 - h) Revisit the 22ft. boat maximum length
- (4) Swimming at Lake Ponca (short term)
 - a) Hold meetings and discussions to review current swimming restrictions at lake Ponca
- (5) Facilities upgrade at campground (long term)
 - a) Meet with Staff to determine and assess needs
- (6) Recommendation to annex area around lake for land use (long term)
 - a) Obtain information and path forward from Staff
- (7) Use of dumpsters illegal dumping (short term)
 - a) Request Staff coordinate more city police involvement
 - b) Advertise phone number to call to report violators & distribute to lake users
- (8) Should we encourage a Lake Users Association (short term)
 - a) Discuss possibility with current lake lot lessees

b) At a minimum seek input from current users for ‘burning issues” and things they would like to see accomplished

9. Discuss items for September 2009 agenda.

Receive committee reports.

10. Adjourn.

There being no further business a motion was made by Moore and seconded by Bivins to adjourn.

The vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Gregg, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth, Wilson, and Young.

No – None. Abstention – None.