

Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes – Regular Meeting  
March 17, 2016

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 5:30 pm., March 17, 2016, in the B. S. Barnes Room, City Hall, 516 E. Grand Ave.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Moore, Riley, Sacket, Reynolds, Troutman, Wentroth, and Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bivins, Throop

OTHERS PRESENT: Beverly Bryant, Team Radio; Steve Dye, Ponca City News; Jim Sindelar, Director; Katrina Warrior, staff.

1. Call to Order

Wentroth called the meeting to order.

2. Consider and vote on the minutes of the February 18, 2016, regular meeting.

A motion to accept the minutes of the February 18, 2016, regular meeting as presented was made by Moore and seconded by Young. Vote was as follows: Yes – Moore, Sacket, Reynolds, Troutman and Young. No – None. Abstention – None. Motion carried.

3. Director's Report.

Courtesy dock – Wentroth has not heard anything yet. Last he heard the updates will give dock a 20 yr lifespan and be ready to install by May.

Deep Water Ramp – Sindelar has drawings and will get with Wentroth. It's a capital item with a \$50,000 budget.

**Public Hearings – None**

**Old Business**

4. Discuss and take action necessary regarding life jacket requirements for youth in swimming area at Lake Ponca and various alternatives for making life jackets accessible or available with inexhaustible inventory.

Young stated Lake Committee does not want to deal with lifejackets and wants to update signs at swim beach to include rules and regulations in Spanish. Sindelar stated the Park Dept would put new signage that would state: Suggested 12 years and under wear life jackets, no lifeguard on duty. And make it in Spanish also. Young stated it would be a maintenance nightmare to take on a project like that. Sindelar also stated the Park Dept would have to have someone on duty all the time due to the fact that it's for the swim beach and the lifejackets would have to be sanitized, which would be a nightmare to find a way to accomplish it.

A motion was made to update signs to educate families and list in Spanish by Sacket and seconded by Reynolds. Vote was as follows: Yes – Moore, Sacket, Reynolds, Troutman, and Young; No – None; Abstention – None. Motion carried.

5. Discuss and take action necessary regarding closing of Snake Road for the safety and protection of trail users.

Young stated the Lake Committee discussed placing gates at both ends of the area. After discussing where to place the gates and the pros and cons of having the gates, a motion was made by Sacket and seconded by Moore to proceed with those gates in their originally proposed positions. It was decided the gates would keep the users of the trail and the fisherman safe from thru traffic and protect all the work done and investment that has been made in the area. The vote was unanimous to bring the closing of Snake Rd to the board. Moore had brought up some good points about closing certain areas of the lake to the public, in that it would set a precedent. It was decided that each situation would be taken on as a case-by-case situation.

Wentroth asked where exactly the gates were to be placed. Sindelar showed him a map of the lake. Moore said he has a book on all the lakes in Oklahoma and Lake Ponca has 2 fish attractors in the cove.

Wentroth stated he was opposed to the closing of Snake Rd. He wonders how many mountain bikers are using the trail compared to the anglers. Sindelar stated the only areas the anglers can use are the coves. Wentroth also stated they were wrong where the attractors are. They are located in the split-cove that is being gated off. And the other cove is Wentz Cove and it's a highly fished area. It sounds like we are denying access to walk in anglers. Sindelar stated walk-in is open; you just can't park down there. There will be parking by the gates for walk-ins. Wentroth stated the west bank has several locators put there specially for bank fishing and to him where you put a gate up you're denying access and he can't be in favor of that due to impacting more people than bike riders. To him bikes and cars have encounters every day and it's not a safety issue in town. In town, people stop and observe traffic laws. When out on the trails bikers won't be surprised by traffic, you can hear it coming down the road. When the trails enter or cross the road you shouldn't have any issue with hearing or seeing a vehicle; you should give right of way like you would in town. He doesn't really understand an issue with that; speeding may be an issue. When you cross a road you look. Now, if there was a race going on or a timed event you could block the road off for a certain amount of time. He doesn't have a problem with that. The major issue is that we're denying access to a majority of people. Riley said including dumpers, and people that would tear the place up and on and on and on. Wentroth stated that's all the way around the lake and all cities deal with that. Riley stated he disagrees with Wentroth's numbers on fisherman. He thinks there will be a lot more bikers than he thinks there is. Wentroth stated they could search the database for exact numbers of fisherman. Riley also asked if he thought about how nice the area has cleaned up and how accessible the area has become. Will that be destroyed if the road is kept open? Wentroth stated he couldn't predict the future.

Moore brought up the issue that he's been a dock owner on the west side of the lake since 1980 and they've had the exact same things go on over there because of dumping. They have to deal with vandalism too. Wentroth stated these are just problems that happen all over the state. You just have to maintain them. Sindelar pointed out that the road is locked up from November to March. Wentroth stated they did talk about that and decided that the angling public would not use the road during that time either. Reynolds stated he helped Pemberton get the project started and the thing with the project is that they are doing everything themselves along with their own money and time. It's hard to keep the morale going when you're doing something good and people aren't helping to protect it, not that it's the city's responsibility to protect other peoples hobbies. But when it's a public place like that that everyone is getting the benefit from it, it's hard from that perspective to

see how the benefit outweighs the cost of constantly fighting dumpers. Troutman stated it doesn't matter where you're at, people will dump where ever they want. Sacket stated the disc golf has a guy working out there every day and it does get better. People will eventually stop dumping.

Reynolds did bring up the fact that the gates do open and close if it doesn't go as planned.

Riley asked what the bike club would think if the board voted it down? Would they stop cleaning up the area? Reynolds stated they wouldn't stop cleaning right now. Riley stated he was asking because of the BMX track. They said they would take care of the track and the track is no longer there but it was because the kids grew up and parents lost interest. Reynolds stated there are people from out of town and it's such a small group of people maintaining it and improving public land and the governing body isn't providing the means to make it easier to maintain. Sacket asked if it pertained to dumping. Reynolds stated it pertained to dumping and drunk driving.

Wentroth stated after looking at it logically, looking at the safety point of view, precedence, how the impact on users, and maintenance. He doesn't see the benefit of the total community it would be more of a negative towards the public.

Sindelar asked what if they moved the gates. Wentroth was under the impression the gates and trails were around Wentz Cove. Sindelar stated they can move the gates to open up the area Wentroth was talking about. Riley asked if that would appease the bike people and would the fisherman be able to access certain fishing areas? Wentroth said he thinks that would help because the Wildlife Dept has put a lot of effort into building a habitat for the anglers. Troutman asked what about doing a trial program with the gates for a year or so? Moore stated the issue is the bike club is spending a ton of money to put these gates in place. Riley asked from a fisherman's perspective if you moved the south gates around the bridge on up would it satisfy the fisherman? Wentroth stated he doesn't think they are on the same page with the north gate either. Sindelar stated after driving past where that gate is proposed it can be reached by walking only. Riley asked if the attractor is located by the bridge. Wentroth stated the attractor is located along the rip rap for bank anglers and in the cove for boat access. Lake Ponca is a multi-purpose reservoir and the Wildlife Dept tries to enhance the coves for anglers.

Sindelar stated he did mention to the bike club that when they first came to the board there was never any mention of blocking off the road. The intention was to build along the shoreline and not impact the roadway. Reynolds stated the bike club did say they would cross the road at various points.

Sindelar stated if it needs to be sent back to committee they can do that and Troutman was in agreement. Sacket stated the committee had gone into great discussion over the matter already. Troutman stated there needs to be alternate choices. Sacket asked if the proposed gates are going in where the gates are already in place. Sindelar stated no the gates are way before the parking lot to the trails. The current gates cannot be opened by the public. The gates are not permanently locked for emergency purposes. Wentroth also stated the issue of a drowning in one of the coves was a concern for him and how they would get the gates open. Reynolds stated the proposed gates would have the same locks as the current gates do now so emergency vehicles could access the area if need be. Riley asked if a decision could be reached or is it a philosophical question of locking a road up or not. Wentroth stated it's not just a fishing deal, the "it's a safety thing" doesn't wash with him, and he doesn't like setting a precedence for one club around the lake and it looks to him like you would impact more users negatively than positively. Riley asked if there were that many bank fisherman and Wentroth stated yes.

Moore said what really bothers him is not the safety issue but the fact that they are letting a group have a portion of the lake. He's a dock owner and would like to have gates at both ends of the road to the docks. Vandalism is a problem and people drive like crazy down that road. Sindelar stated it is two different things. The gates in question will be locked permanently and they couldn't do that on the dock side of the lake. Moore stated the club did do a lot of work but they didn't say they wanted to block the road. Sindelar stated they didn't lease the land; they only have permission to improve the land. Wentroth stated if they had leased the land then he could understand them asking to block off the road. Sindelar stated the club never made the presentation with intent to come back to the board with the road closing. Riley asked if it would make a difference if they had the gates open and closed at certain times of the day. Sindelar stated that was not a feasible option.

A motion was made to accept the recommendation made by the Lake Committee to establish permanent gates at said location for the safety and protection of trail users by Young and seconded by Reynolds. Vote was as followed: Yes – Reynolds, Riley, and Young. No – Wentroth, Troutman, Sacket. Abstention – Moore. Motion denied.

6. Discuss and take action necessary regarding request to provide a special concession at Lake Ponca Recreation Area for summer season.

A person wants permission to set up a rental station for paddleboards at Lake Ponca. He wants to set up by ski docks and staff suggested set up in marina area. A motion was made to send to Lake Committee. Vote was as follows: Yes – Moore, Riley, Reynolds, Troutman, and Young; No – None; Abstention – None. Motioned carried.

7. Discuss and take action necessary regarding Crow's Nest.

Sindelar is still waiting to hear from group on exactly what their plans are for Lake Ponca Park and the Crow's Nest. A motion was made to move to table by Riley and seconded by Young. Vote was as follows: Yes – Moore, Riley, Reynolds, Troutman, and Young; No – None; Abstention – None. Motion carried.

8. Discuss and take action necessary regarding clean-up at Lake Ponca.

Sindelar does not have information yet regarding clean-up at Lake Ponca. A suggestion was made to possible do a controlled burn around the lake. A motion was made to move to table by Moore and seconded by Troutman. Vote was as follows: Yes – Moore, Riley, Reynolds, Troutman, and Young; No – None; Abstention – None. Motioned carried.

### **New Business**

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

12. Comments from chairperson or board members.

Wentroth asked when the time period is for re-upping. Sindelar stated reappointment is in May.

Reynolds asked when committees would be rebuilt. Sindelar stated after re-appointments are made.

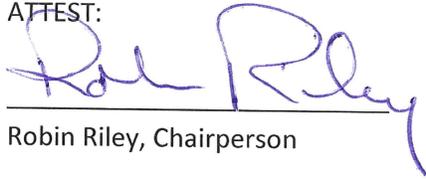
13. Discuss April agenda

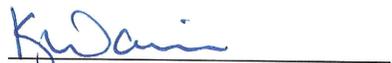
14. Citizen Comments - None

15. Adjourn

There being no other business a motion was made by Moore and seconded by Troutman. Vote was as follows: Yes - Moore, Riley, Troutman, Reynolds, and Young. No - None. Abstention - None. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

  
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Robin Riley, Chairperson

  
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Minutes prepared by staff