

Minutes approved by Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

January 17, 2008

Pursuant to 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 P.M. on January 17, 2008 in the B. S. Barnes Room, City Hall, 516 E. Grand Avenue.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ball, Kennedy, Moore, Wentroth, Whipple, Young, Riley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bishop and Schieber

OTHERS PRESENT: Dan Crummett, Stillwater; Jessica Irons, 310 Lora, Ponca City; Matthew Grudowski, Ponca City Alternative Sports Association; Traci Thorpe, Leadership Ponca City; Beverly Bryant, Ponca City News; Jim Sindelar, Director of Park and Recreation; Terri Sherbon, Recreation Superintendent.

1. Call to Order

Wentroth called the meeting to order.

2. Introduce new board member- Robin Riley.

Wentroth introduced new board member Robin Riley and asked board members to introduce themselves. Riley provided a little background about himself.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

3. Citizen Comments.

(Taken out of order) Grudowski provided an update on the status of the BMX Track at Dan Moran Park. The opening and first race will be February 10, weather permitting. A mailing of 76,000 postcards went out regarding the opening of the track. Posters and flyers have been prepared for distribution. Two grants in the amount of \$3,000 each have been received from ConocoPhillips. There have been various articles in the local newspaper and The Daily Oklahoma. Two national magazine publications will be doing articles regarding the Ponca City BMX Track.

Whipple inquired about the status of the new leisure center. Staff reported the architect is finishing up the bid specifications and plans to go out for bid in February. Whipple also asked if newcomers to town are provided information regarding activities and services in the community. The Chamber of Commerce and Newcomers Club both provide this information.

4. Consider and vote on minutes of October 18, 2007 meeting.

Wentroth suggested on page 2, Item 8 regarding Eliminate rental of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of house should read "Eliminate rental of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Cann House without the patio". Motion was made by Young to accept the minutes as amended. Ball seconded the motion. Vote was as follows: Yes - Ball, Kennedy, Moore, Wentroth, Whipple, Young, Riley. No – None. Abstention – None.

5. Comments from Chairman and board members.

Ball had questions regarding the trail system opened up on West side of Lake Ponca along the fence line, between Prospect and Hartford. Ball has noticed it appears vehicles have been driving on the trail and he asked if there is

any money in the budget where we could put up posts or some type of barrier. Staff said we had some large rocks we can place on the drive itself and install a sign which states "No Vehicles Beyond This Point". Ball also asked if something could be placed on the agenda regarding expansion of the lake trail north to Hubbard Road as one phase and then possibly work on the East side next.

Ball feels a lot of people are using the trail and suggested taking photos and placing an article in the newspaper to let the public know this is a bicycling, hiking and equestrian trail. Wentroth commented a trail around Dan Moran Park was mentioned at the previous board meeting and the board felt trails should be a priority capital request for the next budget.

Riley mentioned he is a big user of the walking trail by the Tennis Courts and several people have mentioned possibly installing some type of low light system. Staff reported they are currently working with the light department trying to extend lighting around the trail. Ball stated that the trails around Hutchins and the Mansion were actual part of the first phases of the city trails. Staff will bring back a list of suggested areas for trail expansion. If the City can receive some TEA money that would help with funding additional trails.

Ball stated if you did not go to the skatepark dedication you missed out. Of the things accomplished the skatepark is going to be a major use of the Park System. Staffs reported about sixty kids were at the dedication.

#### 6. Directors Report

Staff reported that Senior Center programming is expanding. December attendance was over 1100. Staff has been working to coordinate new programs at the center. Attendance last month was over 1100. A review of different activities was presented. Staff had a conference call with the National Recreation and Park Association regarding a program which would be funded through them to improve the health of seniors. NODA will be here for a roundtable discussion February 4. The Senior Center currently has 1 full-time and 2 part-time employee. Ball asked if part of the senior programs will transfer to the new recreation facility. Staff explained we are doing programs City wide not just at the facility so some of the programs would transfer to the new facility.

Staff is working on a walking program which will be City wide. Wentroth asked if there will be a trail going to the new Recreation Center. Staff explained there will be a trail which goes around the circumference of the Center and we want to tie to that trail from Dan Moran Park.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### 7. None.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### 8. Receive report from Ad Hoc Committee regarding Wentz Caretaker House and take action as needed.

Staff reported the Historic Preservation Board will review the Wentz Caretaker House at their first meeting in February. They will advise us on what to do with the house and how it ties in with the rest of the facility.

#### 9. Receive report from Lake Committee.

Young reviewed the different issues discussed regarding patrol of the lake area, dumping and problems of personal watercraft mixing with power boats. The committee did request signs and increase of fines for dumping. Young stated it would be next to impossible to separate the two types of watercraft. Separating the two would be good but no one knows how we would do that. No decisions were made.

Staff asked the Lake Patrolman was asked to prepare a report which includes all the problems areas – what they are, where they are, when they occur, what days of the week are busiest, what months do most of the problems occur. The report is ready and staff would like the Lake Committee to meet next week and probably one other time prior to the next Park Board meeting. There are some items in the report to be discussed which are budget related. Young said he feels a lot of people would like to help at the lake and perhaps some type of a lake watch could be formed.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

10. Consider and take action as needed on request to hold NBRA National Championship (Long Course) race sanction on East Lake Ponca.

Dan Crummett, Oklahoma Boat Racing Association, explained what hydroplane and runabout watercraft are and how they operate. In 2004 a three day race was held on Lake Ponca and the approximately 58 racers enjoyed the location. The racers were polled and surveyed about their stay in Ponca City. From this survey it was estimated approximately \$30,000 was spent by the racers staying in Ponca City. A one day race was held July 2007 and sponsored by The Boat House in lieu of having their annual open house. There was no spectator admission fee to the 2007 hydroplane races.

The National Boat Racing Association met November 2007 and an opportunity was there for a three day race to be held in Ponca City in 2008. The Boat House was very pleased with the race last year and decided they want to sponsor a three day race. Sponsorship of the races by The Boat House will replace their annual open house. The 2008 race will be national point's race and will bring in racers from all over the country. Crummett has already made arrangements for a block of rooms at the EconoLodge.

If approved by the City, the races will be held August 15-16-17, which is the same dates as the 101 Rodeo. This will not be a conflict because the races are held during the day from 10:00 AM until about 4:30 PM. Ponca City Tourism has agreed to pay for the Ambulance and Police services needed.

The race will be a three day race with elimination races held on Friday. East Lake Ponca will be closed at noon on Thursday to allow the race course to be set. No fencing will be used at the bridge. There is an entry fee for the racers. The Oklahoma Boat Racing Association has purchased pontoon boat to replace the rescue boat used in 2007.

Staff will prepare a contract for consideration of the City Commission if the Park Board recommends approval of the request to hold the races. There is very little City staff involvement. Crummett and The Boat House will be sure the race area has been cleaned up after the races end.

Young made a motion to recommend the City Commission approve the request for Hydroplane Races to be held August 15-17 on East Lake Ponca. Motion was seconded by Ball. Vote was as follows: Yes - Ball, Kennedy, Moore, Wentroth, Whipple, Young, Riley. No – None. Abstention – None.

11. Consider and take action as needed regarding Special Event fees for services.

Staff explained we have been asked to look at everything the department does and the services provided. We are to evaluate grounds maintenance, building maintenance and community event services. What is the feasibility of charging a fee for items or services provided the different community events? Wentroth asked if we could determine the top two locations used for events and steer all events to those two locations to eliminate multiple event locations. Staff reported we are trying to locate permanent electricity and water in the area we currently use

at Lake Ponca for events. Ball suggested a committee look at the issues and bring a recommendation back to the City. The City ultimately benefits from the different events. Ball, Riley, Moore and Wentroth agreed to meet as a committee to evaluate and make a recommendation regarding providing services for community events. A report will be presented at the next Park Board Meeting.

12. Discuss items for February agenda.

Progress report on BMX track

Wentz Caretaker House report from Historic Preservation Board

Lake Committee report

Special Event fees for services committee report.

13. Adjourn

A motion was made by Ball and seconded by Whipple to adjourn the meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.