

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission
Council Chambers, City Hall
January 23, 2012 – 6 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chairperson Hebekeuser.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Chairperson Jerry Hebekeuser, Vice Chairperson Marsha Ladd, Commissioners Michael Espich, and Jeff Selbig.

Members Absent: Commissioner Sherri Chavora.

Others Present: Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Councilmember Burton Fox; Dave Acton with the Splash Pad group.

Approve Agenda for January 23, 2012:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by Commissioner Espich and supported by Vice-Chairperson Ladd.

Ayes: all, motion carried.

Approve Minutes from November 28, 2011 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2011 meeting was made by Commissioner Espich and supported by Commissioner Selbig, with the correction of the arrival time of the Mayor. It should be 6:40.

Ayes: all, motion carried.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Espich said the Splash Pad group met last Tuesday and the discussion led them to look outside of the downtown area with Bentley Park the most favored. A splash pad can be accomplished for \$5,000 – \$10,000.

Mr. Espich introduced Mr. Dave Acton. Mr. Acton said this project started as an Owosso Main Street project, but because it is moving out of that area, it no longer has that designation. The same volunteers that started would like to stay with the project. This is a high value, low cost project. We can have about 16 heads for about \$5,000 and use the next \$5,000 for cement and maintenance. The size can be added to at another time with more funds.

Chairman Hebekeuser stated this group could be a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission, especially with two commissioners, Espich and Selbig already participating. He asked Mr. Acton if an ice skating rink could be integrated with the splash pad into one project. They would need to check with the contractor about that idea. Commissioner Espich said it's definitely doable. Chairman Hebekeuser had seen the same application elsewhere.

Mr. Acton said it had been suggested they have a kick off event with parents and children. Maybe a service club could donate substantially to start also. Vice Chairperson Ladd likes the idea of putting more splash pads around town as the money allows.

Mr. Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, stated the Parks and Recreation Commission is to make recommendations to the City Council.

Commissioner Espich asked if the possible regionalization might affect this project. Mr. Zettel stated it could, but it is quite a way into the future.

Mr. Acton said if we have great instructions, it could be installed within a couple days. Chairman Hebekeuser mentioned that when we involve the citizens, they will become the “Neighborhood Watch” to prevent vandalism.

Vice Chairperson Ladd asked for an estimate on the annual maintenance. Mr. Acton replied it would be approximately \$150 to winterize; \$150 to open it in the spring; \$50 for the chlorinator – maybe \$500 for the year.

Commissioner Espich noted that Mr. Acton has done all the footwork on this project and the board applauded his efforts.

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. November 28, 2011 minutes
3. Fundraising report

Business:

1. Disc Golf – Dorcey Crank

Mr. Crank was unable to attend the meeting. Commissioner Espich noted that he and the Mayor had a discussion, and Mr. Crank joined them. Mr. Crank was under the impression that the city was not proceeding with the project.

On the contrary, this commission is interested. Mr. Zettel thought someone was going to approach the cemetery board and have a meeting. Maybe something like a year-to-year easement – there are many ways to handle trail access.

Chairman Hebekeuser suggested that the land needs to be walked and see what will fit. Mike White is the cemetery spokesperson to be approached at Oak Hill Cemetery. Mr. Hebekeuser asked Commissioner Selbig to contact his neighbor, Dorcey Crank. Mr. Hebekeuser will check with Commissioner Chavora and see if she ever spoke with Mr. White.

Mr. Zettel commented that the Mayor is in favor of the disc golf and may be interested in possible supporting funds. Commissioner Selbig said the total cost may be around \$5,000. Discs are \$20 each and the rest is free for the public participation.

Commissioner Espich mentioned that parking might be a concern. Discussion followed about parking around Rosevear Park during soccer season.

2. Bentley Park / Playscape Updates

Mr. Zettel noted that next Monday (January 30) the mayor is going to have a meeting at 6:30 p.m. to figure out the in-kind service contributions one hour before the council meeting. Mr. Zettel also mentioned that Mr. Dave Tooley will be here for the February meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Prior to that meeting, Mr. Zettel and Mr. Tooley plan on walking the park. Hopefully final plans can culminate in March – and we’ll know the site plans. The build date may be in late summer.

Mr. Zettel noted that the mayor is advocating the council delegate money for the playscape. Chairman Hebekeuser said the city was a tremendous help with the concession stand at the ball park and helped with trenching, etc.

Chairman Hebekeuser asked about an ice skating rink. Mr. Zettel said that plans are made; we just need some sustained cold weather.

Mr. Zettel stated he would have a park department budget and some figures for the Phase I and II funds from the Council at the next meeting.

Vice-Chairperson Ladd asked about a regional park system meeting. Mr. Zettel replied that at the 5th Monday of January Council meeting they would like to get some public feedback. It would be good for this commission to attend.

Public Comments: None

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Espich and was supported by Vice Chairperson Ladd. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Ayes: all, motion carried.

Adam Zettel, Secretary