

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairman Hebekeuser.

Roll call was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

Members Present: Chairman Jerry Hebekeuser, Commissioners Sherri Chavora, Michael Espich, Marsha Ladd, and Jeff Selbig.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Comrie; and Tom Manke, 118 S. Washington St, Serene Bean, and News and Views.

Approve Agenda for April 23, 2012:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Espich and supported by Commissioner Ladd.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes from March 26, 2012 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2012 meeting was made by Commissioner Chavora and supported by Commissioner Espich.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Communications:

1. Staff memorandum
2. March 26, 2012 minutes
3. RESD Letter
4. Splash pad update
5. Smoking Survey
6. Park Rules for 2012

Business:

1. Bentley Park Playscape Community Build – Staff update & volunteer information

Adam Zettel, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development, stated the playscape is ordered. We soon need to review the game plan. People are lined up. Equipment is committed. The city will help if there are any gaps. Everything is on target. They are still working on Home Depot for bushes and pavers. They usually respond in about six weeks so we should hear from them anytime now. Marty Stinson will coordinate individual volunteers for the build.

Commissioner Selbig suggested a labyrinth with the bricks and shrubs with a sign at the entry. This was well received by the commissioners.

Commissioner Ladd mentioned that Cindy Civile said the RESD has someone that wants to run for Mr. Owosso at the Curwood Festival with a goal of purchasing handicap accessible equipment for the

playscape. It was asked what kind of things they were looking for. Mr. Zettel suggested they donate a particular piece of equipment. Some of the items planned for already are for handicapped children. There was discussion of ADA equipment and how wheelchairs may move over the wood chips.

2. Eagle Scout project (tentative)

Mr. Zettel invited Ryan Comrie, an Eagle Scout candidate, to the podium. He talked about an Eagle Scout project proposal at the Collamer Park / Hopkins Lake trails. He has contacted Mr. Dave Shepherd, Kiwanis Club; and Mr. Kennedy, Owosso Fire Department. Mr. Comrie proposes installing 40 – 80 signs at places where the Hopkins Lake trails intersect or turn. There would be a sign at the beginning of the trail with a map. The commissioners received the proposal well with some questions. Commissioner Ladd asked who would purchase the signs. Mr. Comrie proposed that Kiwanis may do half and the city might pay for the other half. The signs were estimated to cost \$10 - \$30 per post. What is the estimate to rescue someone that is lost? Mr. Comrie had stated about four people have had to be rescued in the past from being lost on the trails per Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Zettel will coordinate with Mr. Comrie who will also do further research before going before the Council. Commissioner Ladd volunteered to attend with Mr. Comrie when he goes before the Council. Further suggestions were to collaborate with a group that rides bikes on the trails; and to present two options of sign quality and how long they might last.

Motion by Commissioner Ladd and supported by Commissioner Espich to recommend that Mr. Ryan Comrie's Eagle Scout project for signage at the Hopkins Lake Trail move on to the Owosso City Council.

Ayes: all. Motion carried.

3. Project updates on splash pad and disc golf

Mr. Zettel noted that the Council has approved both the splash pad and disc golf. The splash pad will need permitting through the state. The Council approved conceptually, but will need more information about recirculation and the tank. We need to have a meeting with informed people. The tank may add 40% – 60% of the cost.

Mr. Tom Manke, 118 S. Washington, was on the committee for the splash pad when it was going to be located downtown. Then it was determined to have the first splash pad located at the Bentley Park. Mr. Manke has volunteered to do a fundraiser for the splash pad this year. He is collecting thru Pay Pal with about 12,000 people on line. It is now set up to come to the Serene Bean, but he is willing to have it set up for another account. Mr. Manke wants to be involved, but doesn't want to create any problems for the Parks and Recreation group. He brought in just under \$100 last Saturday night for the splash pad. There was discussion on how money is transferred to the city from his no-profit entities. Chairman Hebekeuser expressed appreciation for Mr. Manke's efforts in raising funds for the projects.

4. Smoking survey and Park Rules for 2012

Mr. Zettel commented that the survey was self-explanatory. Forty percent are not in favor of restrictions, and then some checked off some particular areas that should be prohibited. The responses were wide-ranging. It was suggested that bleachers, dugouts, playfields and playgrounds be designated as non-smoking areas. Polite wording for signs were suggested such as "No smoking please" and "Smoking is discouraged".

Mr. Manke commented that this is a hot topic. People are getting upset about being told where they can smoke. He suggested that the Council should not make a big deal out of it or set a rule.

Mr. Zettel will check with The Argus-Press with their recent poll. One commissioner suggested not

putting anything in the rules, but possibly posting a sign at the playscape. It was decided to postpone any decision and possibly republish the park rules when the splash pad opens up.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Ladd and was supported by Commissioner Chavora. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Ayes: all, motion carried.

Adam Zettel, Secretary