

**City of Eureka
Park Board Minutes
March 9, 2010**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

Park Board Members Present: Chambers, Gianino, Hoskins, Jarvis, Jennemann, Kaiser, Lenzen, Moore, Pearce, Rechtiem and Thurman.

Also in attendance were Parks and Recreation Coordinator Rathmann, Mayor Coffey, Alderman Kee, Alderman Sir and City Administrator Sabo.

Act on Minutes of February 9, 2010:

Moore made a motion that the minutes be accepted as written. Lenzen seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.

Guests: No guests were present.

Mayor Coffey stated that he would be appointing an Advisory Committee to assist in the design of the new Recreation Center. He stated that the board would consist of 3 residents, 3 Aldermen and 3 Park Board members. He added that he would like a Board of Aldermen approved site plan by the end of the year. He stated that the project would be phased in with room to expand.

Chambers asked if the old site plans would be used for the new Recreation Center.

Coffey stated that some rough ideas from the old plans would be used, but that the Recreation Center would need to be designed to fit the topography of the location. He stated that the area would include two parking lots, a lake area and an area for a future City building.

Lenzen asked the dollar amount that would be spent on this project.

Coffey stated that the amount spent would depend on projected incomes, and available financing and funding.

Pearce stated that Jarvis should be on the Advisory Board because of his experience in the recreation field.

Coffey stated that the committee would develop a prioritized list of the components of the center.

Lenzen asked if the membership fees that were discussed with the first Recreation Center project would remain the same for this project.

Jarvis stated that those amounts were no longer relevant since so much time had passed.

Sabo stated that membership fees were another variable in designing the center. He added that if there were too few amenities, people would not want to join.

Jarvis asked the City's philosophy in relation to the finances of the Recreation Center.

Coffey stated that it is acknowledged that the facility will likely operate in the red.

Jarvis stated that development costs would not be recovered, but that the City should try and recover the day-to-day expenses. He asked if the meetings would be on a set schedule or if they could be rotated due to the committee members' schedules. He asked if any public forums were to be scheduled.

Coffey stated that meeting dates could be looked at once the committee was formed. He added that a town hall meeting was scheduled for April 26th.

Jarvis suggested adding signage to the site stating that the parcel was the future site for the Recreation Center.

Hoskins asked if the geotechnical information from the previous owner was available.

Coffey stated that the City had the rough estimates for site preparation, parking lots, drainage, sidewalks and a detention lake.

Rechtien added that the Recreation Center parking would be available for Eureka Days.

Chambers stated that Jarvis, Rechtien, Hoskins, Gianino and Jennemann volunteered to be on the Advisory Committee.

Old Business:

(A) Programs Report

The report was included in the meeting packet (see attachment).

(1) Middle School Volunteers

Moore stated that some of the volunteers who were supposed to work the last Middle School event were not present at the event.

Chambers stated that he would like an e-mail reminder that he signed up to volunteer.

Rathmann stated that the Board would be receiving a master with all of the events for which volunteers are needed.

(B) Events Report

The report was included in the meeting packet (see attachment).

(1) Easter Volunteer Request

Volunteer request sheets were distributed for the Egg Hunts.

(2) Park Beautification Day

Rathmann informed the Board that the Park Beautification Day would be held on May 15th at 8:00 a.m. at Kircher Park. She added that the focus would be the area that houses the St. Louis Live Steamers. Rathmann added that the SLLS containers would be painted and the area would be landscaped. She stated that breakfast would be provided and that volunteers would need to bring their own tools.

(3) Soetebier Park Dedication

Rathmann stated that with the Rockwood School District raising their field reservation rates, many teams have requested practice times at City owned fields. She added that the Board of Aldermen made the decision to only allow baseball/softball and soccer on the athletic fields in Legion and Lions Parks. She stated that Soetebier Park would be a green space that is permitted for practices. She added that holes needed to be filled and the whole area needed to be rolled out. She stated that ongoing maintenance would not be occurring with the

exception of grass cutting and that parking and restroom facilities would be available at Kircher Park.

Rechtien asked if the teams would be charged to use the space.

Rathmann stated that teams would not be charged, but the Board may vote on a proposal in the future to charge the teams.

Rechtien asked the process of teams reserving the park.

Jarvis stated that the same process for Legion and Lions Parks would be followed.

Rathmann stated that any organized team is required to have a permit to practice in any City Park.

Chambers asked if charging teams would be a good idea.

Jarvis stated that over time, it becomes more difficult to start charging for practice times.

Rathmann stated that charging teams was discussed prior to the City taking over the maintenance of the fields. She added that fees were increased on other facilities.

Kaiser stated that the possibility of charging for the space should be discussed at the Park Dedication so that the coaches are not surprised if the City decides to charge for practices.

Moore stated that she has begun the research on charging teams for practice space. She added that charging for practices was discussed after practices had already begun for the year.

Rathmann stated that the City needed to consider the contract with the Eureka Sports Association, when deciding whether to charge or not.

Jarvis stated that the fees could begin on January 1, 2011.

Kee stated that the Park Board can recommend this change to the Board of Aldermen.

Chambers asked that staff complete the research and add this topic to the April agenda.

Jarvis asked for an update on the ESA contract.

Coffey stated that ESA was charged \$15,000.00 this year, which is a 50% discount from 2009. He stated that a previous ESA Board member was charged with embezzlement and that they would be making small payments over the next several years to reimburse the association. He added that the City would be following ESA's finances more closely and that the discount will not be considered for 2011.

Jarvis stated that many other communities are bringing the sports programs in-house. He added that CYC could take over the soccer program and the City could handle the baseball/softball program.

Rechtien asked for the number of participants for baseball/softball.

Rathmann stated that she did not have the numbers with her.

Jarvis stated that the condition of the fields has been much better than in years past and the City has made huge strides in field improvements.

Chambers asked that the participation numbers be provided at the next meeting.

Rathmann stated that professional laser leveling and crowning work has begun on Fields 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8. She added that the sod was currently being removed from Field 4 and placed around the playground at Lions Park. Rathmann stated that Field 1 was pulverized after the Rodeo and that Public

Works has filled the holes in the field and that Schroeder Sod has been hired to regrade and sod this field. She added that Public Works has also added piping and two inlets next to Field one to help with drainage issues.

Gianino stated that the damage from the Rodeo was evident this year.

Rathmann stated that the restrooms are not currently open.

(C) Trails Master Plan Committee Report

Rathmann stated that the next Trails Master Plan Committee meeting was on March 24th.

(1) Legion to Route 66 Trail

Rathmann stated that the City received easements from the Missouri Department of Transportation and the Rockwood School District. She added that she was attempting to obtain an easement from the property owner on Truitt Drive. She stated that some costs of the project may need to be cut.

Chambers asked if there would be a portion of the trail that will connect the north side of I-44 to the new Recreation Center.

Rathmann stated that was not included in the current Trails Master Plan.

Moore asked if the City or Route 66 State Park was responsible for the maintenance of the connection from Kircher Park to Route 66 State Park.

Coffey stated that the City leases that area from the Railroad and is responsible for the maintenance.

New Business:

(1) Drewel Park Playground

Rathmann stated that the designs presented can all be changed if necessary. She added that she wanted to make sure the designs are on the right track.

Wohlschlaeger stated that a bid packet was distributed to some playground companies. He added that the companies received the plan for the park, the budget requirements for the playground and surfacing material and a performance outline. He stated that twelve design ideas were submitted. Wohlschlaeger stated that the first two ideas were chosen due to the inclusive design of the structures, extra wide ramping and a structure that connects from the berm to the ground. These plans were weak in the natural play areas, but that both companies were able to get those pieces from another company. He added that there are two options for the ramps. The extra wide ramps are 54 - 60 inches wide and allow for two children to pass. The standard ramps are 42 inches wide and are accessible but not inclusive. He added that the wide ramps are about 1½ times the cost of the standard ramps.

Moore stated that the extra wide ramps were important in making the playground truly inclusive.

Hoskins asked how much would be spent for the extra wide ramps.

Wohlschlaeger stated that the entire project was \$115,000.00 and that the ramps would be \$16,000.00 - \$20,000.00 of that amount.

Jarvis asked the cost of adding a rock structure to the plans.

Wohlschlaeger stated that the rocks are about \$8,500.00 per piece.

Jarvis stated that he would like to see less of the natural pieces in order to have an inclusive playground. He added that those elements can be added at a later date.

Moore stated that having an inclusive playground would give the City positive exposure.

Wohlschlaeger stated that many playgrounds in the area were inclusive, but not through play. He stated that the third option has many natural play pieces, but the main structure was not inclusive or connected to the berm, but the plan could be changed to allow for those items. He stated that the company has the natural play pieces in their product line, unlike the other two companies who have to obtain those pieces from a separate company. He stated that the plastic roof pieces were not ideal, but there were other options.

Rechtien stated that she was opposed to fabric roofing.

Jarvis asked if the whole playground would have poured in place surfacing material.

Wohlschlaeger stated that the areas beneath the structures would be poured in place but the areas beneath the natural play areas would be wood fibers.

Coffey asked if the restrooms at Drewel Park were accessible.

Moore stated that no park restrooms in the City were accessible.

Rathmann stated that the playground should look finished even if additional phases were to be added in the future.

Hoskins suggested that since Drewel Park is connected to Legion Park that the swings could be removed from Drewel Park since there are swings at Legion Park.

Wohlschlaeger stated that the grant calls for four swings and that the cost of the swing set would be about \$10,000.00.

Moore stated that option three fits the style of the playground that the City wants and that working with only one vendor for the different pieces would be better than working with one company for the structure and a different company for the natural play areas.

Rathmann asked if the Board would like to see the playground connected to the berm.

Rechtien stated that it should be connected to the berm.

Gianino stated that she would like to see less panels and more climbing features.

Rechtien asked what would happen to the old playground equipment and if it could be moved to another park.

Wohlschlaeger stated that the old playground would be recycled.

Hoskins asked for the cost of option three with the change to the play structure.

Wohlschlaeger stated that the design cost was \$112,000.00.

Rathmann stated that she would have a final plan at the April meeting. She stated that she has received a 90 day extension to complete the project.

Rathmann informed the Board that some updates were done to the Community Center.

Financial Report: The revenue for the month was \$3,342.00. The expenditures for the month were \$5,988.90. Rathmann stated that \$4,712.00 of expenditures was instructor payments.

Report on Parks:

Bowlby

It was reported that the park was in acceptable condition. Jennemann stated that there was graffiti on the large slide and a bolt was missing from the car game.

Legion

It was reported that the park was in acceptable condition.

Lions

It was reported that the park was in acceptable condition. Gianino asked as to the status of the tile replacement. Rathmann stated that the issue was being addressed with the company.

Gianino stated that the latch on the inclusive swing was broken.

Jarvis stated that the latches have been redesigned.

Drewel

It was reported that the park was in acceptable condition.

Kircher

It was reported that the park was in acceptable condition.

Hilltop

It was reported that the park was in acceptable condition.

Forby Road Nature Trail

It was reported that the trail was in acceptable condition.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 13, 2010

May 11, 2010

Adjournment:

With no further business to discuss, on a motion by Rechten, seconded by Kaiser and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

(Original with signature on file)

Kristin Christenson
Program Coordinator