

Minutes approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
MINUTES - REGULAR MEETING
November 20, 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 November 20, 2008 in the B. S. Barnes room, City Hall, 516 E. Grand Ave.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bivin, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth and Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ball and Gregg. Schieber resigned.

OTHERS PRESENT: Matthew Grudowski, 1317 N. Pine; Beverly Bryant, Ponca City News; Jessica Irons, 310 Lora; Frost Nix, 3216 Kingston; Ron Frick, 2808 Homestead; John and Deborah Hron, 2807 Homestead; Robert Barker and Tammy Barker, 2806 Homestead; Tom Henley, 2512 Oriole; Bryan Drake, 2105 E. Hartford; Ron Folks, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife; Terri Sherbon, Recreation Supt.; Jim Sindelar, Director of Park and Recreation.

1. Kennedy called the Park and Recreation Advisory Board meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

2. Citizen Comments
None.
3. Consider and vote on the minutes of the August 21, 2008, meeting.
Minutes of the August 21, 2008 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Wentroth and seconded by Moore to approve the minutes as written. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivin, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.
4. Comments from the Chairman and/or board members.
None.
5. Directors report.
No report.

PUBLIC HEARING

6. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. None.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Discuss Bow Hunting within City Limits and take action as needed.
Sindelar reported this item was presented to the City Commission by Mr. Drake regarding hunting on his property. Information regarding hunting in surrounding communities was distributed. Mr. Drake stated he gathered the Animal Control report regarding deer inside the City Limits. The packet included information regarding bow hunting and safety; Enid Municipal Code; letter from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding a recommendation regarding bow hunting within the City of Rochester; Oklahoma State

Question No. 742, recently passed November 8, 2008; photos of the land in question; an article about Urban Archery in Bismarck, South Dakota. Drake would like the current ordinance amended to allow Bow Hunting and set the boundaries with reasonable boundaries such as 150 yards of adjacent property and acreage of sufficient size. Sindelar asked if Drake was talking about city property. Drake stated he is concerned with privately owned property and restoring his rights to enjoy his property.

Riley asked staff if they had a copy of the current City ordinance. Drake stated the ordinance basically makes it unlawful to be in possession of a bow, or a crossbow. Kennedy stated the City Commission originally heard the request at their Work Session and they referred it to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board to investigate and discuss the item. The primary concern was the Commission could not grant an individual an exemption from the Ordinance. They referred the question back the Park and Recreation for a recommendation. The Board will not make a decision this evening but receive comments from those in attendance this evening. Kennedy said that she did talk to representatives of Lake Arcadia regarding their hunting guidelines.

Moore asked for clarification of the area being discussed. Kennedy stated that in order to do what the City has requested the board consider an individual exemption is not an option. A recommendation of changing the City Ordinance, whether it to allow bow hunting on private property, or controlled hunts in accordance with the Department of Wildlife on City property during the set hunting season.

Kennedy went on to explain the area Drake is particularly interested in is property he owns at Hartford and Pecan; and across from the Baptist Church on Pecan. Drake said it is the area from Hartford to Prospect, East to Lake Ponca. Drake said initially the Commission referred the request to the Planning Commission. Robert Barker asked if it was possible to mark the map in order to see the area. Barker stated a lot of people are concerned about what kind of buffer zone Drake has in mind. A lot of the existing ordinances state at least a 100 yards or more. There is a hay meadow as a buffer zone. Tom Henley read a short paragraph about the safety of bow hunting at Quantico.

Matthew Grudowski asked if the request to change the ordinance is for the love of hunting or as a means of wildlife control. Drake stated he wanted to restore his rights to hunt on his property; he loves hunting and wants to control the wildlife.

Kennedy asked if Department of Wildlife has ever done a "spotlight" count inside the City limits. Wentroth introduced Ron Folks, Department of Wildlife who would be better able to address the wildlife questions. Folks said he was not aware of anyone ever asking for a count. Folks said he was hesitant to say whether one or two hunting would control the number of the herd. Sindelar asked if deer is the only thing we are talking about or are we talking about turkey and other wildlife.

Drake wanted to restate that the Ordinance was enacted not because of any accident but because of individual requests. Sindelar stated we want to be sure all of the available expertise from the Department of Wildlife and Animal Control is considered. Sindelar recommended the information gathered be taken to committee for consideration and to develop a recommendation. Sindelar reported there is no "Agricultural" land in Ponca City at t his time. The request needs to be considered based upon needs and what will be gained. Jessica Irons asked if this would be opened up to everyone. Boundaries would have to be considered. Frost Nix stated he helped establish the bow hunting organization, no one is allowed to hunt the area they lease from the City. He recommends that Bow Safety be required if a change in the Ordinance is made.

Staff asked what a controlled hunt is. Folks said a certain number of people are allowed to hunt at specified time and place.

Ron Frick, who resides on Homestead, said he visited with three or four neighbors who were not able to attend the meeting. They as well as he are all opposed to this request. Drake asked why they were opposed. John Hron commented in response to Drakes remark about losing the rights to use your own property, the property in question was set up for residential progress and the initial housing concept that was put forward was the little pod type of housing. There was suppose to be three or four more of those unit, set up as residential property and voluntarily placed within the City limits. Hron continued that the statement could not be made that “rights were taken away” because the property was voluntarily placed inside the City limits making it subject to the Ordinances of the City of Ponca City that would govern the use of the property. Hron stated his property backs up to the area, and he sees people out there all the time riding four wheelers and kids out there playing. Hron’s property is fairly close to the trees being discussed and does not see that there is place within the City limits for the discharge of firearms, fireworks or bow hunting. Hron suggested the City consider very hard how to handle this issue.

Moore suggested the request go to committee for further discussion. Henley suggested the board consider some type of hunt is considered. Riley seconded the motion. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivin, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

The committee will meet in the next couple of weeks. The committee will bring a recommendation back to the Park Board.

9. Discuss maintenance of BMX Track and request for track lighting and take action as needed.

Grudowski presented an update of activities this past year. Currently most of the races are only one day each. An average race is \$10 per entry and they keep \$1.76 with the remainder going for advertising and trophies. The group had a meeting to determine which direction they need to go. Fence is no longer a priority since security has been updated. They have been approved through the Kay County Court System for Community Service for juveniles. Lights are the biggest need at the moment. Sindelar asked what the needs of the facility are in order to use the track at night. Does the BMX have a standard for night lighting? Sindelar said some type of standard needs to be established. Area light has been installed to improve the lighting for the area itself not specifically the track or the skate park.

Sindelar said the group needs to provide the City with some type of standard for lighting. Riley said we do not want to spend money and not meet the needs. The group needs to work with the City and the lights are not to be on at all times and not all night. 400 AMP service was put in at the time of construction of the track. Temporary lighting has also been discussed. Sindelar has talked to Travis Megee and had not reminded Irons and Grudowski that contact by the group is to come to the Park Department first and not City administration. Sindelar reminded that if we know the needs perhaps grant funds can be located to meet the needs if budget is not available.

Moore asked what direction the board needs to go. Sindelar said he will work with the group to determine a Path Forward regarding needs. The requirements of the American Bicycle Association need to be considered.

10. Receive update on Recreation Complex project.

Sindelar said the City is still working on the project. Value engineering meetings are being held on a regular basis to develop a new budget plan.

11. Consider and take action as needed on report from Lake Committee.

No update at this time.

12. Discuss items for January 2009 agenda.

Bow Hunting (Committee: Riley, Moore, Wentroth, Young, and Kennedy)

Lake Committee

Budget FY 2009-10

13. Adjourn

There being no further business Moore made a motion to adjourn and Riley seconded the motion. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivin, Kennedy, Moore, Riley, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.