

Minutes approved by Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2007

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Ponca City, Oklahoma convened in open session at 5:30 p.m. on March 15, 2007, in the B. S. Barnes Room, City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ball, Bishop, Kennedy, Wentroth, Whipple, Young, D. Powell and J. Powell.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Leonard, Rager and Schieber

OTHERS PRESENT: Matthew Grudowski, Ponca City Alternative Sports Association; Dr. Quint Whitefield, 13 Woodcrest.

Notice of the meeting was posted conspicuously in the City Hall Building and the Public Safety Center and was given to the members of the Park and Recreation Board. Availability of the Agenda was communicated in the advance notice of this meeting to the Park and Recreation Board. All proceedings hereinafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. Further, except as otherwise noted, all subjects included in said proceedings were contained in the Agenda for said meeting, which was kept continuously current and available for public inspection at the Office of the City Clerk.

1. Call to Order
Chairperson Bishop called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

2. CITIZENS' COMMENTS (Open for Ponca City citizens to be heard on items not included on this Agenda. As provided by law, the Park and Recreation Advisory Board shall make no decisions or consideration of action of citizens' comments, except to refer the matter to the Advisory Board for consideration at a later date.)
None at this time.
3. Consider and vote on minutes of February 15, 2007 meeting.
There being no changes or corrections a motion was made by Ball and seconded by Wentroth to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2007 meeting as presented. Vote was as follows: Yes - Ball, Bishop, Kennedy, Wentroth, Whipple, Young, D. Powell and J. Powell. No – None. Abstention – None.
4. Comments from Chairman and board members.
Ball shared a comment received from a citizen from Bartlesville, who used to live in Ponca, the citizen complemented the Park and Recreation crews on the work they do maintaining City parks and facilities. Ball also complemented the Park Department on the work done on the trail at Lake Ponca and he has been riding the natural trail. He said that the trail location

is very noticeable. Ball has sent e-mails to bike club members making them aware of the trail. Ball did report that he has noticed some car tracks on the trail. Staff will be placing signs to make the public aware this is a trail and not a roadway, placing the signs at the cut away roads. Wentroth asked if a trailhead has been established. Staff said the trailhead would be located off Hartford.

Bishop acknowledged Sindelar for recently receiving the Main Street Hero Award for all of the support provided Main Street and the entire community.

5. Directors Report
 - a) Sindelar reported the City received notification of recertification as a "Tree City U.S.A." for 2006. Ball asked if the City has to apply for this designation each year and Sindelar explained the City has to apply and meet certain criteria annually.
 - b) Sindelar reported the Festival of Angels is considering not continuing the annual lighted Christmas displays. Their volunteer base no longer exists. The group is considering the following options:
 - 1) Have an auction and sell everything.
 - 2) Contract to have the displays manned and maintained.
 - 3) Have another organization take over the festival.
 - 4) City takes over the festival.
 - c) Some of the historical street lighting, like in Garfield Park, is scheduled to be replaced with "period" lighting.
 - d) A forty-nine ton rock for the Eastman National Bank Centennial monument was installed in Pioneer Park today.
 - e) Sindelar gave an update of requests received for community events which included:
 - 1) Planning has started for the annual Freedom Festival.
 - 2) Chili Cook-off scheduled for Sept 21-22, 2007.
 - 3) "Singing in the Park", sponsored by New Hope Christian Fellowship. Locations for these will be Dan Moran Park, Pioneer Park, Sunset Park and Garfield Park.
 - 4) March of Dimes Annual Walk-a-thon, Hutchins Trail.
 - 5) Birth Choice Walk-a-thon, Hutchins Trail.
 - 6) Corvette Club annual car show, Lake Ponca Checkstand Area.
 - 7) Youth Fishing Derby, May 19, 2007, Lake Ponca Park, partnering with Quality Deer Management (formerly Buckmasters).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. Discuss downtown landscaping needs and take action as needed. Staff originally brought this item to the board for discussion. Community Development will be repairing sidewalks and certain areas downtown. Some of the areas include empty tree wells.

Staff requested this item be tabled until a later date. There are different size trees and locations of trees are not good. It was originally thought the board should discuss redesign of the downtown planting areas including tree

planting. The City has decided to repair the sidewalks and fill in the empty tree wells. Once a design has been determined, new tree wells can be established. The City recommendation is not to put plant trees as they redo the sidewalks at this time.

Bishop explained the tree plantings located in the middle of the block cause problems to property owners. Trees may block store signs and birds roost in the trees. Bishop suggested considering planting trees on the corners. Main Street does not oppose the City recommendation at this time. Sindelar said the main direction right now is to clean up downtown and repair sidewalks at this time. Eck explained trees would do better planted in raised beds downtown. The current locations and tree wells are too small for tree growth. Ponca City was one of the first towns to do downtown planting beds. Ball asked if this should be tabled to committee. Another suggestion is to replace trees with shrubs or place more emphasis on corner plantings.

No action will be taken on this item until more information is received from Chris Henderson, Community Development Director. We will work with Community Development and Main Street.

A motion was made by Ball and seconded by Young to table discussion of the downtown landscaping to the Park Committee for consideration. Yes - Ball, Bishop, Kennedy, Wentroth, Whipple, Young, D. Powell and J. Powell. No – None. Abstention – None.

(Note: Quint Whitefield, citizen, arrived. Had questions and concerns about the road around the lake. Bishop asked him to wait until we finished the last agenda item.)

NEW BUSINESS

8. Discuss operating budget and capital requests submitted for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.

A list of capital requests was included in the board packets for member review. Staff explained the main direction of capital expenditures for the next fiscal year is toward facilities and maintenance items. One of the capital items requested is repair of public docks, which includes replacement of Styrofoam floatation on at least 10 docks per year. Public Dock rental has been increased to help offset cost to replace Styrofoam floatation. Another requested item is erosion control at Lake Ponca in the Jaycee Park area. Other items requested include upgrade of equipment. The Recreation division has requested construction of practice fields in the detention pond area behind Union School. A request was submitted for a Blimpo Screen to provide movies in the parks or "dive-in" movies at the swimming pools providing another type of activity to the community. Staff gave a review of other capital items requested.

Young asked if a decision has been made regarding the Wentz caretaker's house. Staff reported no recommendations or decisions have been made regarding the house.

Staff reported meetings with City Administration and City Commission regarding department budget requests will be in April. Staff will provide the board with information regarding approved capital projects.

9. Discuss items for April agenda.
None.

Additional Board and Citizen Comments received out of order:

Wentroth asked when the Sports Complex is built if the Park and Recreation Department would receive additional funds to operate and maintain the facility. Staff said the City plans to lease out the management and operation of the facility. The City does not have the personnel to maintain and operate the proposed facility.

As an introduction to Whitefield, Bishop explained that the board has several sub-committees one of which is the Lake Committee. Several issues have been discussed regarding activity around the lake. The Lake Committee has discussed several ideas to address the dumping, but many of the solutions have down sides. Staff asked if the committee had established a list of recommendations to be acted on systematically. Young said the first step is signage for the area, which has been done. The second step is installation of security cameras and requesting extra police patrol of the lake area. By arresting a couple of individuals and make an example, word would get around about enforcement and perhaps slow down or stop the problems.

Quint Whitefield said he is constructing a home on Fieldstone overlooking the lake. The area below his property is used to store rock material for the City. People pull off road and park behind the rock piles and engage in inappropriate activities such as discharge of fireworks, shooting guns, driving all terrain vehicles off road and dump trash along the road. Whitefield suggested perhaps the City move the material currently stored in this location and fence Snake Road off to the public.

Ball stated there is no guarantee the disposal of trash and current behavior of the public would stop. Bishop restated the Park Board is well aware of the problems. The Lake Committee will meet and bring a proposal to the Board for consideration.

Matt Grudowski, Ponca City Alternative Sports Association, reported the search for land in Ponca City for the BMX track has been unsuccessful. A Tonkawa business and the Tonkawa Park Department have offered the PCASA land in Tonkawa. The land is located across from Dorsett IGA on Highway 60 and consists of 5.4 acres.

10. Adjourn.
There being no further business to discuss a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kennedy and seconded by Bishop. Vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned.