

Minutes approved by Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
JULY 19, 2007

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 July 19, 2007, in the B. S. Barnes Room, City Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kennedy, Moore, Schieber, Wentroth and Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ball, Bishop, Leonard and Whipple.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Joe Surber, Ponca City School System; Gary Martin, City Manager; Craig Stephenson, Assistant City Manager; Beverly Bryant, Ponca City News; Travis Megee, President, Ponca City Sports Alternative Assn; Matt Grudowski, Vice President, Ponca City Sports Alternative Assn; Darren Courtney, 204 N. Stephens; Nikki McGee, 310 Lora Ave; Brad Hayes, 1004 Poplar Ave; Megan Hengman, 1004 Poplar Ave; Tyler Ford, 117 Viola; Zac Mansfield, 200 S. Flormable; Austen Batt, 938 N. 4th; Gavin Nowkirk, 803 Elm; Kevin and Leisa Downs, 413 N. 10th; Sally Wheeler, 215 N. 7th; Jesse Holt, 420 N. 9th; Nate Lessert, Merrifield Rd; Tim Arnswald, 520 S. 11th; Clay Vick, 200 North Flormable; Melissa Dunn, 1928 N. 5th; Drew Rateliff, 611 S. Palm; Brook Wilson, 1113 E. Oklahoma; Austin Dunn, 1928 N. 5th; George Branes, 918 E. Grand; Kenny Alexander, 1801 Potomac; Roberto O., S. 10th.

1. Call to Order

Vice Chairman Wentroth called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Wentroth introduced Gary Martin, City Manager; Craig Stephenson, Assistant City Manager; Dr. Joe Surber, Ponca City School; and new board member, Al Moore.

2. Citizen Comments

None.

3. Consider and vote on minutes of May 17, 2007 meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Young and seconded by Kennedy. Vote was as follows: Yes - Kennedy, Moore, Schieber, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

4. Comments from Chairman and board members.

None.

5. Directors report.

Craig Stephenson, Assistant City Manager, provided an update on Sindelar. He reported the crews are busy catching up on mowing. Motocross will move in this week, and we continue to keep lifeguards on hand to keep the pools open.

OTHER BUSINESS

9. Consider and vote on request from Dr. Joe Surber on behalf of Ponca City Public School to install playground equipment in Garfield Park. (taken out of order)

Surber explained that Garfield School sits on 2 acres. The school would like to have a concrete area for basketball. There is very little flat grassy area on the school grounds to provide for playground equipment.

Surber met Jim Eck, Park Superintendent, at Garfield Park to look at suitable locations to place the playground equipment. The equipment is certified safe. The school would like to give the equipment to the City. The school would have a construction company install the playground equipment where and how the City wants. They would use a plastic interlocking material for the fall zone required for playground equipment. If the City does not want to accept the donation then the school would like to lease the land to place the equipment. The playground equipment would be for everyone to use.

Staff commented they have discussed various issues with Dr. Surber and would like to have a License Agreement allowing the school to install the playground equipment and the school would maintain the equipment. Staff agrees with the concept to provide a place for the children to play.

Motion was made by Moore and seconded by Young approving the concept to provide an area in Garfield Park for the installation of playground equipment with City staff and Ponca City School preparing a License Agreement for approval by the City Commission. Vote was as follows: Yes - Kennedy, Moore, Schieber, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. Consider and take action as needed regarding BMX Track and Skate Park land.
Travis Megee explained the group was in attendance to follow-up u p the motion made to request the city council to purchase land on behalf of the Alternative Sports Association. The Ponca City Alternative Sports Association held an open house meeting this past Tuesday evening. The purpose of the meeting was to start the community outreach program.

Wentroth commented that at the last meeting the board was moving toward the city purchasing land for the tract. Stephenson explained the city was still trying to evaluate existing land. If the City were to purchase more land it would be difficult. Stephenson asked the group if they were bringing in a demonstration. Megee reported the American Ramp Company will be bringing the portable skate park system to Ponca City on Sunday, August 26 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. The demonstration will take place in the north parking lot of the Library. The group encourages people in the community to see what the kids need and provide input regarding a Skate Park. This will allow the Park Board members an opportunity to gain more information.

Megee continued the group has explored the idea of splitting up the complex and having just a skate park if possible and having BMX somewhere else. The purpose of having everything together was for ease of maintenance and control. The group has continued to look for properties. They have looked at Dan Moran Park and want to talk to Junior Baseball. Megee and Grudowski said they thought the BMX track would fit at the south end of Dan Moran Park between the transformer and guardrail. North of the existing playground equipment, there is ample room to locate a skate park. There is a restroom and parking already located in this park. Something may need to be worked out with the baseball association and perhaps the parking lot could be expanded. The noise level would be away from most of the population. Eventually the track would require lights but they would not be needed in the beginning.

Those in attendance were invited go to Yukon for a 3-day racing event. This would provide an idea of the economic impact on the community.

Grudowski cautioned that the group not “just throw something together” and reminded the audience they do not want to jump into building something that kids are not going to use in six months time. They are taking the time to study and find out what the majority of the kids need.

Stephenson clarified the group is talking about the southeast corner of Dan Moran Park. Young liked the location on a traffic corridor and visible to the entrance to town. The sports alternative group has been told there is some possible development in the area including another truck stop. Megee said that geographically people using the skate park live in that area. Questions from the audience included use of tennis courts at East and West Junior Highs. These are school properties. It was agreed by all in attendance the kids need a place to skate. Wentroth reiterated that the board supports the idea of building the Skate Park and BMX track and stated it is an issue of finding a suitable location.

Wentroth stated the board supports the development of the BMX Track and Skate Park. Martin explained that over the years the city has not been able to get everyone to agree regarding location and/or type of Skate Park. The southeast corner of Dan Moran may be a little crowded but would be a start. It is very difficult to buy land right now.

Megee and Grudowski are working very closely with the kids of Ponca City to come to an agreement on what is needed. Wentroth summarized that the City may not be that interested in purchasing property even if some were available. Wentroth continued the only new idea he heard is the proposal for location in Dan Moran Park. Wentroth proposed the Sports Alternative Association bring a proposal and drawings back to the board in August. Megee requested they bring the proposal and plans to the board in September. This will allow input after the Skate Park demonstration August 26.

Stephenson said the city would prepare aerial photos and assist the group in preparing the layout on the map. Grudowski said the company doing the Skate Park demonstration would be bringing both the modular and concrete examples. Martin offered the use of the Library Programming Room for meetings of the group. Martin told the group they need to come with a firm proposal for consideration.

Wentroth commented that the board does support the concept of locating the BMX Track and Skate Park in Dan Moran Park. Martin continued that if we build them we would keep them separated. The Skate Park will be owned by the City and open to the public. The BMX Track may or may not be a lease and not always open to the public so the city will need to think about how the BMX Track will be managed. Megee suggested that the agreement be set up similar to Junior Baseball Association.

OTHER BUSINESS

10. Receive report from Lake Committee and take action as needed.

Young reported the committee met and suggests steps be used to address the issues. The first step is to increase the fine and post signs that include the fine immediately. Currently the fine is \$65. Wentroth explained we could then see how this affected before closing the road is even considered.

Martin commented staff has met with the Police Chief and they think part of the problem is the Lake Patrolman's days off are Tuesday and Wednesday which is when a lot of the vandalism seems to be occurring. The Police Dept is going to step up extra patrol on those days during the summer to see if the activity is curbed.

Young expressed that placement of cameras or Extra Eyes program would help to monitor activities. Martin suggested creating a citizen alert program where someone with a cell phone could call and report illegal activities. The dumping appears to be occurring in the daytime. Young will check on the trash cop program. Wentroth asked what kind of action step Young would like to have. Young stated he wanted signs placed immediately and increase the fine for illegal dumping. Young made a motion for the city post signs regarding illegal dumping and increase the fines. Moore seconded the motion. Martin commented the officers need to start righting tickets instead of telling those who dump to load their trash back up. An article in the paper might also help educate. Young said the signs should say there are people watching what is going on at the lake. Moore asked if people other than lot lessees use the dumpsters is considered illegal dumping and it is. There being no further discussion vote was as follows: Yes - Kennedy, Moore, Schieber, Wentroth and Young. No - None. Abstention - None.

12. Discuss Wentz Caretaker House (taken out of order)

Young commented the committee does not know what to do and they did not want to tear it down, but the city needs to make money on the house. The house could possibly be used as a rental. The architecture of the house is not seen much any more. Staff commented that they have received calls wanting to rent a cabin at the lake for short periods.

It was agreed that staff will prepare a list to include cost of repairs for floors, roof, windows and doors, plumbing and HVAC. Martin said there is a home at the Marland Mansion has home located on the grounds that is rented out. You have to make enough money to justify sending someone out the clean and prepare the house for the next rental. Wentroth summarized a decision needs to be made on how much money needs to be invested in the house.

Schieber suggested George Smith's son, currently a college dean in St. Louis, might be approached with a plan for the house and he might have connections to make the repairs happen. George Smith was a previous caretaker at Wentz. Smith International currently leases the Gate House at the Mansion. Smith is responsible for the maintenance of the house and the Mansion receives \$450 a month in revenue. Staff explained the Fair Labor Standards Act prevents the city from having a caretaker live on location as we did years ago.

Martin reminded the board if the house is fixed up it will have to be heated and cooled year round, which would increase the Park Department budget. Martin challenged staff to look at knocking walls out in some rooms to create meeting rooms. Moore said there is a shortage of affordable meeting rooms that can be scheduled for continued use each month. Kennedy suggested this might allow another area for family reunions.

Stephenson suggested continuing this item to the August meeting. Not all board members have been in the caretaker house. It was agreed the August meeting of the Park Board would include a tour of the caretaker house and if the Mess Hall is available, the regular meeting will be convened there. Staff will confirm the availability of the Mess Hall for the August Park Board meeting.

11. Discuss size of board and take action as needed.

Wentroth explained the attendance of the student members has been questionable at times and many times having two more members on the board, it takes an extra person for a quorum. It is up for thought if we want to continue the student position or have only the adult positions. Staff explained obtaining student members has been very difficult. Moore made a motion to remove the two student appointees to the board and make them ex-officio members. Schieber seconded the motion. Vote was as follows: Yes - Kennedy, Moore, Schieber, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

6. Elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Wentroth opened the floor for nomination of a chairperson. Young nominated Wentroth and Kennedy seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Wentroth was elected chairperson by acclamation.

Wentroth opened the floor for nomination of a vice-chairperson. Young nominated Ball. Kennedy seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Ball was elected vice-chairperson by acclamation.

13. Discuss items for August agenda.

BMX/Skate Park update
Wentz caretaker house

14. Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.