

Minutes approved by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2010

Pursuant to the 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 September 16, 2010 in the B. S. Barnes Room, City Hall, 516 E. Grand Ave.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bivins, Kennedy, Throop, Wentroth and Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cox, Moore, Riley and Wilson.

OTHERS PRESENT: Garry DeWeese, 3407 Crown, Ponca City; Jackie Hunsucker, 2505 Turner, Ponca City; Beverly Bryant, Ponca City News; Jason Troutman, 2011 Leadership Class Representative; Jim Sindelar, Director, Parks and Recreation; Katie Goss, staff.

1. Call to Order

Young called the meeting to order.

Young introduced Jason Troutman representative of the 2011 Leadership Class. Board members and citizens in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Citizen Comments

DeWeese requested to wait until after the Park Committee Report to make his comments. Young approved. Hunsucker came to see what was happening in regard to the request from the Save the Crow's Nest group.

3. Consider and vote on the minutes of the August 26, 2010, special meeting.

Wentroth noted a correction to be made on page 2 the last paragraph under Citizen Comments 2<sup>nd</sup> second should read "Wentroth ask..." rather than "Wentroth as...". The motion was made by Wentroth and seconded by Kennedy to accept the minutes with the noted correction. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Kennedy, Throop, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

4. Directors Report

Sindelar reported the following:

The City received notification Wentz Camp is now on the National Historic Register.

Construction of the new restrooms in Dan Moran Park is to be complete October 9, 2010.

**Public Hearing – None.**

**Old Business – None.**

**New Business**

5. Receive Park Committee report and take action as needed.

Throop reported the Park Committee met September 7 at the Park and Recreation Dept. office. The meeting was attended by Young, Bivins, and Throop. Throop was elected Chairman of the committee.

The first item the Park Committee discussed was the Crow's Nest located at Lake Ponca Park. Sindelar introduced Jim Fairbanks, City Engineer. Fairbanks felt at this time there is no good access to get equipment to the location to work. He did not feel there was a true bottom or starting place to stabilize the erosion. It does not appear we would be able to meet Federal, State, or City code requirements, for example, ADA requirements. Fairbanks suggested reducing the size of the east portion of the patio area to establish a solid foundation and rebuilding from there and building a berm along the southwest corner to divert water in order to help stop water erosion. The group discussed that DeWeese had PowerLift at the site to see if they would be able to do anything. DeWeese had reported PowerLift thought the project to be beyond their capability.

The question was asked if code requirements could not be met, would grants be available for the project. The response was funding would be unlikely if the project could not meet the different construction codes.

Throop stated "The Park Committee does not feel as though this is a high priority project, nor that it would be a true benefit to the majority of Ponca City residents. The Park Committee's decision is that they would not recommend it to the City Commission at this time. **The Park committee is truly open to reconsidering this project at a future date.**" In November we should see a loss of vegetation at the site which would allow a better look at the existing property.

Throop reported the committee defined the following items as their goals for 2010-2011:

- a) Evaluate equipment in parks as to type, safety, priority, and to establish time table for replacement and clean-up of the equipment and tables.
- b) Incorporate goals of Water Spray Park and Gazebo, meeting facilities, and summer concerts together and ask the City to obtain property by Bank of the West Building (Commercial Federal) to build the spray park and a gazebo.

Sindelar reported staff has started preparation of a site inventory book for the park evaluation project.

Young asked the board if there were questions regarding the report other than the Crow's Nest. Kennedy asked about the proposed gazebo. It was explained because the property in question is "L" shaped possibly the water spray park could be on one end and the gazebo on the other end since there is parking at this location.

Wentroth suggested looking at the practice field and parking capabilities in each park while the committee is evaluating the individual parks. Sindelar reported funding is still available for development of parking area and practice field at Creamers Park (detention pond area behind Union Elementary).

Young asked if there were questions about the report regarding the Crow's Nest. Wentroth commented the location could probably be made ADA compliant, but not feasible. The question then was if there was outside funding available could you do anything and not make the location ADA accessible. Wentroth then asked if the site is improved does it have to be ADA accessible. Sindelar commented a part of the cost estimate for the project must include what to do with the site if fixed up for use.

DeWeese expressed disagreement with the report presented by the committee. DeWeese then read a prepared statement expressing the frustration of the Save the Crow's Nest – Lake Ponca Park group with the committee setting the project as a low priority. He stated in his statement there were two issues. The first issue is to providing funding and responsibility for repairs to the Crow's Nest area; and the second issue is for the Park Board to formally recognize "Save the Crow's Nest – Lake Ponca Park" by accepting the Mission Statement and

making a motion from the floor recommending the City Commissioners accept “SCN-LPP” as an officially recognized fundraiser for their purpose of raising funds. He continued stating that the group is not asking the City to commit to financing the project. The group intent is to fully fund the project from private donations, grants and volunteer efforts.

Board members assured DeWeese they were not against the project but a proper evaluation of the area could not be made without the vegetation freezing back. Throop stated the committee would revisit the site in November after the vegetation has died back and a better evaluation of the area can be made. Board members stated it would be irresponsible to recommend approval of a project with no project plan and project costs. The board would need a timeline for establishing the funding process, as well as a plan of action with timeline for the actual restoration project.

Sindelar thanked those in attendance for their interest in the Crow’s Nest. Hunsucker asked if money is raised could the City accept the funds. She stated she was reminded of the loss of the Arcade Hotel. Hunsucker agreed it would be a big job but asked if they could continue to pursue the project and keep dialogue open between the board and SCN. DeWeese explained the Chamber would administer the 501(c)3. Throop asked DeWeese if the group really had to have City backing to collect money. DeWeese said the group had not established their 501(c)3 filing waiting to get the City backing. Hunsucker asked if the group had to have City support to form the 501(c)3. DeWeese said SCN had been slow to prepare the filing because they wanted the City backing.

Throop stated the board needs all the pieces of the puzzle before taking anything to the Commission. Once again it was stated no one is against the project. Kennedy stated she felt the board would feel more comfortable with making a recommendation if the board had a plan of action and timeline which includes date for establishing 501(c)3, fundraising start by a certain date, so forth. She continued that she felt it would be irresponsible of the board to just “throw out” a recommendation with no details to the commission.

Bivins asked if we would be using grant funds that should possibly go to something else. The answer was that might happen.

Young stated the project is not off the table. The board will continue to discuss and we do not want to see something happen to the site. Young asked DeWeese to stay in touch with the board. Young asked for a motion to receive the Park Committee Report. Motion to receive the committee report was made by Wentroth and seconded by Bivins. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Kennedy, Throop, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

6. Receive Lake Committee report and take action as needed.

Wentroth reported the Lake Committee met and those in attendance were Riley, Moore, and Wentroth. Riley was elected Chairman of the Lake Committee. The committee reviewed the goals established last year. During the past year modifications were made to the Standard Operations Policy for Lake Lot Leases and a public swim beach was developed. An effort to increase the length of boats on Lake Ponca was not approved by the City Commission.

No priorities have been established at this time; however, goals discussed included the following:

- a) Alleviate weekend parking congestion. Look at strategic placement of parking areas.
- b) Meet with those interested in having concessions at Lake Ponca to determine who, what, how, and when.

- c) Courtesy dock at Hartford Ramp is in process
- d) Dumpster issue – quite a few lake users feel they are not able to use the dumpsters do to the public dumping at the lake. Look at different type of container with lid and key access.
- e) With the plan of the AMBUC organization to upgrade the playground area and improving the area look at pursuing a Department of Wildlife grant for the construction of a restroom next to the boat ramp.
- f) Create a small mini boat ramp at Jaycee Park for 2-man boats. Closest boat ramp currently located at Windmill Cove.
- g) Perhaps develop a new Master Plan for the Lake through OSU.
- h) Would like to have a meeting in the spring regarding Lake Use. See if there is an interest in developing a Lake Ponca Association.

Troutman commented the Number 2 leadership class project idea is to construction a new entrance sign into Lake Ponca.

With no other comments Young asked for a motion to accept the report of the Lake Committee. Motion to accept the Lake Committee report was made by Kennedy and seconded by Throop. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Kennedy, Throop, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

7. Receive Recreation Committee report and take action as needed.

Kennedy reported the Recreation Committee has met twice. Those attending were Kennedy, Cox, Wilson and Sherbon, Recreation Supt. The committee reviewed goals established last year and goals accomplished were: Increase art & music programs – accomplished with the establishment of monthly “Music in the Park” Summer and after hour programs – determined these were programs already in place and would rely on more on the YMCA

Fitness Interest Surveys were sent out – has allowed staff to evaluate the different programs currently offered  
Program Goals for 2010-2011 are:

Evaluate the Indoor Outdoor Walking areas.

Placement of fitness stations along the trail in Redbud Park is a capital project for 2010-2011. Currently looking at a Cardio Stepper, Ab Crunch/Leg Lift, Chest/Back Press, and Tai Chi Wheel. Also looking at including a nutrition and stretch station.

Review programs by age group.

Yolanda Trant currently offers Jazzercise and is working on obtaining certification for ZUMBA Class.

Publication/Education regarding available programs – Long Term Goal.

AMBUC Pool goals are:

Additional sun shade – Short term goal.

Parking Lot to the North – Long range goal.

Recreation goals are:

Ongoing field evaluation.

Additional lighting Dan Moran – Short term goal.

Dog Park – Long term goal.

HIGH PRIORITY – Repair gym floor at Unity Gym. This summer the floor buckled. Install all purpose all sports flooring.

Wentz goals are:

Reevaluate pool – Short term goal.

Review camp rental fees to include swimming.

Evaluation of various repairs to cabins, grounds, dining hall – Long term.

Paint water tower.

Throop asked there will be a charge for walking inside the YMCA. There will be either the monthly membership fee or a daily non-member fee. Throop asked about the location of the outdoor fitness equipment along Redbud with concern about placement in areas where water tends to stand. Staff said the equipment will be installed just off the trail not obstructing the trail to other users.

With no other questions Young asked for a motion to accept the report. The motion was made by Bivins and seconded by Throop to accept the Recreation Committee report. Vote was as follows: Yes - Bivins, Kennedy, Throop, Wentroth and Young. No – None. Abstention – None.

DeWeese asked about the SCN Mission statement submitted to the board. Staff said they were included in the minutes of the August meeting.

#### 8. Adjourn

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