

MINUTES OF THE
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT WY
CO/KCK BOARD OF PARK
COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, April 14th, 2021

The April 14th, 2021 meeting of the Unified Government WyCo/KCK Board of Park Commissioners was held via ZOOM Online

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Unified Government Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Ty Collins, Chairman. Angel Obert, Assistant Director stated proper meeting notice had been given.

ROLL CALL:

Members present were recorded for the minutes.

Board Members Present:

Ty Collins, Chairman
Faith Rivera, Member
Micah King, Member
John McTaggart, Member
Patricia Gates, Secretary
Billy Brame, First Vice Chair
Jeff Sachen, Second Vice Chair
Tammy Romstad, KCKPS

Board Members Absent:

Carolyn Wyatt, Member
Bridget Holton-Deere, Member
Craig Howell, Member

Administration Present:

Jack Webb, Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director
Angel Obert, Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director
James Bain, Counselor
Nichole Marlowe, Administrative Support Supervisor

I – PRELIMINARIES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Jeff Sachen to adopt the April 14th, 2021 Agenda, was seconded by John McTaggart Motion Carried (Ayes 7, Nays 0)

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting are presented for review and consideration for approval.

A motion was made by Patricia Gates, seconded by Jeff Sachen to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, March 10th, 2021 regular meeting. Motion Carried (Ayes 7, Nays 0)

II - PRESENTATIONS, HEARINGS, COMMUNICATIONS

1. Visitors

Visitors may speak to the Board at this time.

As a general rule, the Board will not enter into discussion, but will direct Administration to take under advisement, make necessary response and bring items to a future agenda as may be appropriate.

2. Correspondence

- No correspondence was given

III – OLD BUSINESS

- There was no Old Business to report

IV - NEW BUSINESS

- There was no New Business to report

V - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Staff Agenda

- Jack Webb –
 - a. City Park Field #3 - The renovations there has been completed, except for the installation of a light pole, we're working on that. We're doing the final walkthrough next week on the irrigation, and other than that we are just wait for the grass to grow. We put in a new infield at the Bonner Park baseball field. They have been laser leveled and they're good to go now. All the mowers started mowing last Monday and our fields are being mowed by our contractor twice a week, he had a bit of a rough start, and we had to take over mowing for him last week but he's going now.
 - b. First Overnight Fishing Day – This was last Saturday (4/10) it was rainy and cold but there were still a few fishermen that came out to stay the night and fish.
 - c. The West Shop Replacement – The bid was awarded, and it was over budget. It took us a while to get it funded and, in that time, the 90 days expired, and the contractor received 2 price upgrades, so we cannot do the build for pricing that was bid so we will put it back out to bid, probably next month.
 - Ty Collins asked – “Question on the routine maintenance items. I was just curious like before the seasons, do we send a staff member out to walk each one of the fields to document anything that might be wrong. Like a broken backstop or I know there was like a base issue at Eisenhower, anything like that. Do we do that before the beginning of like spring season or fall season, or anything like that?”
 - Jack Webb responded – “We do, we do that after the season, and we do it before, but the base issue was due to equipment hitting the base. We cannot control people from getting on the fields and abusing the fields. I do not have a field crew as you know. Every time we touch a field it is not just mowing grass, we do what we can with the funding we have.”
 - Ty Collins responded – “Yeah and listen, I know you guys are doing everything you can, I was just curious and just interested in the process, as I dig a little deeper into looking at the stuff that we use through the district, that are owned and maintained by the city.”
 - Jeff Sachen asked – “I have a question about the West Shop. Do you think that is going to really happen with the current price of everything? You know I imagine the bids are going to come in a lot higher than they were, so is that something that is going to have to be put on the backburner do you think what the current funding will still be able to get that done?”
 - Jack Webb responded – “We will probably have to go and try and amend it. Or put it back for next year. But we won't know until we put it back out to bid. It might be something that when it comes back we'll have to piece it out and do it ourselves. Piecing it out, is quite possibly what route we will go anyway.”

Angel Obert –

- a. Summer Recreation Update – “I want to update on summer recreation, As you guys know like I said last time we're trying to slowly start implementing our programs back. That is sports and youth programming. So, we are looking to have some summer programs. We are hoping to have a program at Eisenhower and then Patricia Diane Kane Community Center. Then also this summer, the YMCA will be running a summer program at Bea Lee Community Center. So, we partnered with the YMCA when the pandemic hit. They ran a virtual learning program at Joe E. Amayo Community Center. That's something that was really directed by administration. That's something that they wanted to see they task Parks and Recreation with working with the YMCA. That was a really good partnership that we started to build on with students missed out an entire school year, so the YMCA is implementing it's like a summer camp, but there's a lot bigger of a tutoring and learning component to that summer program. So, I think it's a really good opportunity. The nice thing about this program is that the YMCA will be able to offer it free for the kids that attend this program. I believe the cap is 35 participants, but it'll be 100% subsidized. I think that's a really good opportunity for our youth. You know, we need to get programming back and unfortunately we struggle, sometimes to do that ourselves. Just with staff limitations, but I think partnering with some of these organizations definitely helps us bring those opportunities to the youth in our community. Eisenhower and Piper (Patricia Diane Kane) we're hoping to run those sites ourselves and you know we'll be taking all the necessary precautions to make sure that we're complying with COVID guidelines, social distancing, wearing masks and all those things. Also, just real quick our aquatics we are planning to open all three of our spray parks. We've been working really closely with the Health Department on that and County Administration on those decisions. As far as Parkwood Pool goes, we will have more information next month as we're still kind of vetting that process.”
- b. Update Code of Ordinance - “Last Thursday Jack and I were at Full Commission, just making sure the code of ordinance went through we brought those updated ordinances and regulations to you guys in December, and they did pass last Thursday at Full Commission. I just wanted to update you want that.”
- c. Jack Webb awarded by KRPA as Park Professional of the Year for the state of Kansas- Lastly, I do want to say Jack and I traveled to Emporia today, for our Kansas Recreation and Parks Association, which is our state chapter had part two of their annual conference. The first part of that was in February, and it was virtual, so we had a smaller conference today in Emporia and wanted to recognize Jack. He was actually recognized as park professional of the year for 2021 in the State of Kansas. So, that you know that's pretty exciting that's a really big honor and the way that process works is KRPA does accept nominations every year for a number of awards and there's a review committee that gets the applications and then comes to the decision and chooses that recipient. I think that is a great award for Jack. I know just in the time that I've been here working at the UG and

Parks and Recreation he's just been really great to work with and has taught me so many things. You know it's always nice, I always feel a lot of confidence, working with Jack because as everyone knows, we do the best that we can with what we have, which is very little, but Jack always finds a way to get things done and, I know the community also thinks very, very highly of Jack and appreciates the work that he does, and our staff as well. So, I wanted to share that information, it's very exciting and I know we're certainly proud of him and that's good representation and brings a lot more awareness to Wyandotte County because, you know, we've got Johnson County Parks and Rec around us Blue Valley, a lot of great Parks and Recs but, you know we've done a lot of really good things here in Wyandotte County and I think it's important that we're at that same table with them too. We've got a lot of good things happening over here on our side, for our youth, so, congratulations to Jack and that's all I have.”

- All present members congratulated Jack Webb on receiving the Kansas Park Professional of the Year Award.

• **BOARD MEMBER’S QUESTIONS OR COMMENT**

- Ty Collins asked – “Angel quick question on a summer recreation, not that there will be formal programming but, will they be opening back up for kind free play, like in the gyms in some form or fashion at some of the ones that aren't hosting formal summer camps.”
- Angel Obert responded – “Yeah, you know we are working through what, that looks like right now I believe, I’m pretty confident that we will be able to reintroduce free play. It'll just be a lot more controlled, and we'll have to cap it with participants and do some level of contact tracing but not too much you know we won't be able to just have a free for all anybody come in and go as you please. It'll just be more controlled.”
- John McTaggart asked – “Emerick and Jack both and maybe even you too Angel in this next round of seemingly stimulus funds are you going to be able to acquire some of those funds or to upgrade to more of the park restrooms and etc.”
- Emerick Cross responded – “Mayor McTaggart this is Emerick Cross. I will respond to that. We're working with Crystal Sprague and also Allen Howze on that very subject. I’ll be honest with you it's not only for parks right now we're trying to do it for any facet of the local government, that we can. But, certainly for this board we're going to look at opportunities in parks and at this point I’ll turn it over to Angel, and report on if Crystal Sprague has given you any specifics yet.”
- Angel Obert stated – “Thanks, Emerick. Emerick pretty much summed it up, but we have been made aware that there will, there could potentially be some more opportunities for some of that funding, however we've not been given much more information. We have a general idea of some projects that would probably fit some of the requirements, Jack and I have been working on a few of those pieces just to have ready to go.”
- John McTaggart responded – “Yeah, well I did understand that from our Council meeting Monday night that some of the details have not been sent down yet about what

qualifies and what didn't. I just was hoping that we would be able to tap into this that's all. Anyway, but thank you very much yeah Thank you Eric and I'm sorry yeah you're fine yeah.

- Emerick Cross responded – “Yeah you're exactly right, one thing I want to point out, I think that was like a 66,200 page document.”
- Faith Rivera stated – “Way to hold Wyandotte county down, the other situation is I know that we've been talking to Community members and they were wanting to know if we're looking to have program directors at more of our Community centers. I know that we, I think there was one posted so I know that some of the Community Members were asking about you know, like other communities, so that was something that they asked me to ask other than that congratulations. Keep it up and see you soon.”
- Patricia Gates stated – “I took a drive around Wyandotte County Lake Tuesday and the red bud trees are just gorgeous all through the forest, and I saw some people fishing right off the large round about outs area, and they were catching fish and I also saw an Osprey zoom down and catch a fish in and fly off with it so.”
- Ty Collins stated – “I think I've officially decided like when Covid is 100% done, I need to get Pat to take me on a drive. She's always able to name like the beautiful wildlife and trees and things that we have out there. It's just a cool looking tree when I drive through the park. Like I can't, I need to get educated by Pat so. Jeff.”
- Jeff Sachen asked – “Hey how's it going? I just kind of had a quick follow up, this was a while ago but, I know that in the budget, I believe it was last year, the year before we did some studies on the clubhouse at Sunflower, I was wondering if there was any update on that. If anything, had come from any of the stuff that that they may have found.”
- Emerick Cross responded – “Jeff we just got that RFP issued. As a matter of fact, I am meeting Friday with Jonathan Bennett and Kelly Reagan in purchasing to go over the, we are in the negotiations for the pricing on that RFP, so we're trying to get that whittled down. They are a little bit over. We want to work it back to where it's to where it's price, where we quoted it where, I posted it at so, once we get that done then we'll be moving forward. That's also an issue that I just talked with Alan Carr over at visit KC our Convention of Visitors. I just spoke with him and they're doing a general sports study as well. So, we are going to work with that agency on the Sunflower Hills Golf part and see if we can use any of their data and information research to help us and aid us in that study, but we will keep the board posted on the movement of that issue as well.”
- Ty Collins asked “All right, the only question I have actually just comes from something Emerick just said. When that study makes its way that sport study makes its way through the process and is done can we have them come and present some of that information to us.”
- Emerick Cross responded – “Mr. Chairman, we can certainly ask Alan Carr and the visit KC the Convention of Visitors, folks to come over and do just that. I really don't know, I think it's a much broader study. Obviously, it's a sport study, more than just Sunflower. I know Sunflower is a part of it, but we can certainly solicit them to come over, and I think they'd like to you know, distribute that information to as many

groups and agencies and boards as they can. Yes, we can have Alan Carr come over, and I think, give a presentation to the board he'd be more than happy. The Convention of Visitors Bureau works for the city of Kansas City Kansas are partially funded through KCK as well as through the Unified Government, and I think they'd like to share that information with any agency or board throughout the community, to get that word out and to explain exactly what they've seen in the study and what we can do in the future from the research and data and information that they have. Parks will work with them and make sure that that happens okay.”

- Micah King stated – “Yeah I just got two quick things probably both for Jack. Congratulations, by the way, Jack awesome job. My two questions were this. One came from a, as you know, Jack that sometimes we Emerson Park and Vega, we kind of take a look at the bathrooms during the week. Make sure they're clean. People like to trash them that kind of thing. We've recently had some people letting their dogs just walk in the park and poop wherever they want not picking it up. It's come up like three or four times. We have people that kind of sit at the park, because they have nothing else to do and kind of watch it. If somebody dumps a bunch of trash or something they go and stop them. Well, we've had a few individuals with dogs, they just don't clean up after them, is there anything we can do like any type of citation or something that we can do to get that to stop. They just said, well I'm not going to stop until somebody makes me. That kind of thing and so, it's got into some heated conversations with other people at the park. So, I talked to Mario Escobar he was one of them that talked to the lady and she's like I'm gonna do anything I want. So, I didn't know if that's best to call like, I didn't know animal control or the police and just have them talked to her or.”
- Jack Webb responded – “I can sure send an email to the sheriffs, they would be the one on our part and that would take care of that. We were going to put in for that park problem, to get the dog bags at Vega, but the person there questioned that and decided against it, because she figured it would invite them to be like a dog park and she wanted it more for soccer so we kind of rethought that but we could sure look into that.”
- Micah King responded – “Yeah, it's been going on for three or four weeks I've been getting complaints by multiple people. They're letting them go in the walk the track around and everyday. Lady just doesn't care it's the same person too. I think there's one other individual also.”
- Jack Webb stated – “I will sure alert the sheriff's department see if they can have step patrol up there. Okay, is it more Vega.”
- Micah King responded – “Yeah, more Vega really than anything so and then my second question would actually help the first situation, but do we have any development or any plans to put Wi-Fi in any of the parks. Either there or Emerson just for camera sake.
- Jack Webb responded – “We're struggling right now, just to get the Wi-Fi into the Rec centers. Since Angel's come on board, it's going better than what it was before. I will say eventually if there is a possibility it would be Emerson before Vega.”

- Micah King stated – “Okay, if I got funding for that. Would we just talk to you guys about putting that in or what would we need to do. If I raise some funds to get cameras and pay for the cameras, as well as the monthly fee.”
- Jack Webb responded – “We are in negotiations with that at City Park, due to all vandalism we have had there in the past year and a half. It is right at about \$20,000 to put the cameras up, and that’s with the infrastructure already there.”
- Micah King stated - “We’d want to go with the same company then that we had before. I was gonna say what we've done in the past with some of our buildings in Argentine, just do nest cameras. Just set up, so if we had a wi-fi connection we could buy the cameras and run it for less than \$2000 a year, probably. If we did something like that would that be possible until you guys got funds for.”
- Jack Webb stated – “The Police Department monitors them, we go through their infrastructure people, their IT. I mean it’s possible.”
- Micah King responded – “I have been talking to South Patrol itself, who are wanting them too and they are like hey is there anything you guys can do, they've asked me. So that's kind of why we're trying to figure out there's a lot of at the beginning of the month there's a lot of drug deals going down. Lately we've had people going to all the area food drives and just collecting all the food and throwing it in the trash there, for whatever reason. Just random things like that so, lot of cars parked lately overnight. South patrol’s kind of made them get up and move, it's happening, a lot more as the weather gets nicer so. Just stuff that the Community had in mind so okay.”

- **ADJOURNMENT**

Ty Collins requested a motion to adjourn, John McTaggart made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeff Sachen, Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM

Motion Carried (Ayes 7, Nays 0)

Ty Collins, Chairman