

**MINUTES OF THE
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT WY
CO/KCK BOARD OF PARK
COMMISSIONERS**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13th, 2022

The April 13th, 2022 meeting of the Unified Government WyCo/KCK Board of Park Commissioners was held at City Hall, 701 N. 7th Street, Room 515, KCK 66101 & Virtually via ZOOM Online

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Unified Government Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Diana Aguirre, Chairman. Angel Obert, Director stated proper meeting notice had been given.

ROLL CALL:

Members present, were recorded for the minutes.

Board Members Present:

Diana Aguirre, Chairman
Carolyn Wyatt, Member
Bridget Holton-Deere, Secretary
Faith Rivera, Member
Karen Daniels, Member
Andrea Behrman, Member
Micah King, Member
Jeff Sachen, Second Vice Chair
Tammie Romstad/KCKPS

Board Members Absent:

Dani Gurley, Member
Vilmer Alvarado, Member
Billy Brame, First Vice Chair

Administration Present:

Angel Obert, Parks and Recreation, Director
Shaya Lockett, Parks & Recreation, Assistant Director of Recreation
Wendy Green, Unified Government, Counselor
Nichole Marlowe, Parks and Recreation, Administrative Support Supervisor

I - PRELIMINARIES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Carolyn Wyatt to adopt the April 13th, 2022 Agenda, seconded by Bridget Holton – Deere Motion Carried (Ayes 7, Nays 0)

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the March 9th, 2022 regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting are presented for review and consideration for approval.

A motion was made by Bridget Holton - Deere, seconded by Carolyn to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, Marth 9th, 2022, 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.

- No Visitors

2. Correspondence

- No Correspondence

III– OLD BUSINESS

- Meeting Options - UG Boards are back in person. It has been requested to have the meetings in person again. Will resume in person meetings starting April 28th. Hybrid option will still be available for the public.
- Electrical Meter Installation at Joe E. Amayo/Argentine Center/Metro 24 – There were no questions at this time, Chairwoman Aguirre would like to bring back at later date.
Carolyn Wyatt – Stated that she doesn't like outsourcing any of the buildings for profit.

(Faith Rivera entered the meeting at 6:40p)

IV- NEW BUSINESS

- Possible Sales Tax Measure – Angel Obert introduced, Chief Financial Officer Kathleen VonAchen. Kathleen shared a presentation explaining how the potential tax measure would work, she explained that it would take place over the next 10 years. She stated that the residents are mostly in favor of a tax increase because they will see the improvements in our parks. She stated that if this is passed by the Commissioner this will go on the ballot for the primaries in August. The funds are going to be distributed for projects within departments of the Unified Government, including Parks and Recreation, Public Works, the Police Department and the Fire Department. She stated that the Commissioners would like more time to review the information.
 - Angel Obert – Stated that the projects were determined using the 2017 Master Plan and Community input survey.
 - Jeff Sachen – Asked how can we be sure that Parks gets the funds if we support the tax?
 - Angel Obert – Stated that Mayor Garner would be answering these questions in a moment.
 - Mayor Garner – Requested the Board make a list of their priorities for the community, as an example with the shortage of Lifeguards there could be more Spray Parks installed in the community. He said he would stand behind Parks decisions and, on the projects chosen and that there would be no funds taken from the projects if it passed. He stated that we need to advance the City, and that no businesses are wanting to move here. He stated that we need to spur growth.

Chairwoman Diana Aguirre requested that a roll call be taken for a vote to support the Possible Sales Tax Measure, a vote was taken,

Diana Aguirre voted yes

Carolyn Wyatt voted yes

Bridget Holton-Deere voted yes

Faith Rivera voted yes

Karen Daniels voted yes

Andrea Behrman voted yes

Micah King voted yes

Jeff Sachen abstained to vote

Vote carried, 7 votes yes with, 1 abstained

V - OTHER BUSINESS

- **Staff Agenda -**

Jack Webb – Angel Obert spoke in the absence of Jack, she stated that he would have his full report in May, and that the contractors had started mowing and that the Clifton Park Project was moving forward.

Shaya Lockett –

1. Recreation Update – staff working on getting Spring and Summer programs organized and moving. There will be two programs both are free, one will be located at Eisenhower Community Center and the other will be that the Beatrice Lee Community Center, it will be run by the YMCA.
2. Summer Activities – Kick off is May 21st at Emerson Park with National Kids to the Park Day. Currently working on programming Senior activities as well in the community centers.
3. Recreation Short Staffed – Currently there are only 5 staff members for our 6 Community Centers, this is forcing us to have to close buildings.

Angel Obert –

1. Aquatics Update – Recruiting for Lifeguards. Currently have 16 applications for Lifeguards. Working on getting them certified. Community wide recruitment.
2. Staffing – We are still at 25 % vacancies for full time employees. Got some jobs released.
3. Program Guide – The new Spring & Summer guide is up on our website and on Facebook.
4. KABOOM –build taking place May 5th through May 7th. Need volunteers.
5. 7 Days of Kindness - Yoga in the Park and big clean up at Parkwood Pool/Park

Jeff Sachen asked if we had more gyms for the kids to practice in besides just Kensington.

Angel Obert responded by stating that due to staffing and weather determine availability on the different parks and gyms.

BOARD MEMBER'S QUESTIONS OR COMMENT

Carolyn Wyatt – Stated that she does not like outsourcing the facilities for a profit. She doesn't like the YMCA taking over Bea Lee for the summer program and that this should never happen. Centers should be for the youth and seniors in the community.

Bridget Holton-Deere – Asked what the next steps were since the vote passed, and where would it go to from here?

Angel Obert – Stated she would reach out to members after the Commission Meeting with an update.

Faith Rivera – Thank you Mayor. Thank everyone for all the conservations.

Micah King – Stated that Joe E. Amayo Argentine Community Center is an asset to the Community. He stated that he has clean ups planned in Vega Park and Emerson Park on April 23rd and that they have 150 people signed up to volunteer.

Diana Aguirre – Stated that a private business that are profitable in the Community Centers isn't right and that they should have to buy another open building elsewhere in Wyandotte County and that we need to work on this. She requested an emergency meeting about the vote.

Wendy Green with Legal stated that this is possible if done correctly.

Jeff Sachen – Good work to Parks employees for all the hard work you do.

Diana Aguirre – Stated that she was impressed with the presentation especially with it being put together so quickly. Thank you.

VI – ADJOURNMENT

Diana Aguirre requested to adjourn, Bridget Holton - Deere made a motion, Karen Daniels seconded meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Motion Carried (Aye 8, Nays 0)

Diana Aguirre, Chairman