

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

Wednesday, August 11th, 2021

The August 11th, 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 6:04 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

Carolyn Wyatt, Member

Bridget Holton-Deere, Secretary

Faith Rivera, Member

Patricia Gates, Member

Billy Brame, First Vice Chair

Jeff Sachen, Second Vice Chair

Board Members Absent:

Micah King, Member

John McTaggart, Member

Craig Howell, Member

Tammy Romstad, KCKPS

Administration Present:

Jack Webb, Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director

Angel Obert, Parks and Recreation, Assistant Director

James Bain, Unified Government, Counselor

Stephanie Bell, Parks and Recreation, Program Coordinator

I – PRELIMINARIES

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Jeff Sachen to adopt the August 11th, 2021 Agenda, was seconded by Bridget Holton-Deere Motion Carried (Ayes 7, Nays 0)

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

There was no quorum for the July 14th, 2021 meeting.

Minutes of the June 9th, 2021, regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting are presented for review and consideration for approval.

A motion was made by Jeff Sachen, seconded by Patricia Gated to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, June 9th, 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.

- No Visitors

2. Correspondence

- No Correspondence

III – OLD BUSINESS

- No Old Business to Report

IV - NEW BUSINESS

- Aaron O'Dell with Jolt Lighting Presenting on Holiday Show at WYCO Park – Jack Webb stated that the Parks & Recreation Department had been in talks last year with some vendors regarding the idea of having a drive through Christmas Light Display Show at one of our parks. He explained that they decided to put an RFP out to this year to see if there would be any interest, there was a team that looked it over and then met with vendors. They decided on one, that being Jolt Lighting. He explained that Jolt Lighting had been doing these types of events for a long time and that they had put on the display at Swope Park last year. He stated, “we’re excited to bring them on, Aaron O’Dell is with Jolt, he is going to give a small presentation, for information only, so I’ll let him take it from here”.

Aaron O’Dell stated – that he is the president of a company Jolt Lighting, and that they have been in business, since 2015, they are from Kansas City and that he has been in this industry, since 2005 and another founder had been in the industry, since 2000. We did the project on the Marriott Downtown, the large lighting façade, that is still operating there. He stated that the company consults, designs, manufacturer’s and installs Christmas light displays all over North America parts of Central American and the Caribbean. They have some very high-profile clients such as Disney, Macy’s, Radio City Music Hall, Los Angeles Zoo. He stated that they primarily focus on zoo’s, municipalities. shopping centers and retail groups which is mostly for manufacturing and selling displays and consultant and design. Their local events include the Longview Lake Christmas in the Park, Deanna Rose Farmstead, Downtown Dazzle, Worlds of Fun’s Winter Fest and Winter Magic at Swope Park. He explained the logistics of their proposal including length, timeframe for the event being November 1st – January 2nd. He stated that they would provide all equipment including the lights the structures that ticket booths all power cords, all displays, traffic control and security. He stated there would be very minimal effort from the Parks and Recreation team and stated, “We want to create an event for all KC metro families, it will be COVID safe, family friendly and inexpensive about \$20 a car during the week and \$25 per car on the weekends.” He explained the

benefits to the county such as sales taxes paid for by admission the revenue share. The estimated payment-based projection being around \$70,000.00 another \$14,000.00 going into the Wyandotte County Park Foundation, the 501 C 3, these amounts could be higher depending on volume of attendees. He then explained the processes of the event, provided a mapped-out area in the park of the route of the event stating the approximate length would be 1.4 miles and explained the types of lighting, music and characters that would be displayed. He explained their marketing processes and the positivity of the events they provide.

Jack Webb thanked Aaron O'Dell for joining the meeting and presenting to the Parks Board. Ty Collins and Jeff Sachen also stated expressed their appreciation for the presentation.

- Law Firm presentation regarding Bethany Medical Building – Presentation was postponed.

V - OTHER BUSINESS

1. Staff Agenda

- Jack Webb –
 - a. Mowing Update – With the hot weather the grass growing has slowed, were slightly behind this week, worked overtime to catch up, contractors are still on schedule.
 - b. Project Updates –
 - The West Shop Replacement - bid has been awarded, the contractor has accepted and is getting his paperwork turned in now and will probably start in October, this project will be completed this year.
 - Four Restroom Replacements – These are in the process designing and scoping out locations within the parks, they will be going to Rosedale, St. Margaret's, Quindaro Ballfield and Kensington Park, hoping to revamp Kensington Park and convert it back to a turf field.
 - c. Christmas in July Event – Event went really well, there were 27 boats register. The event had a good turnout, and everything went smoothly. This was the first year the Snacklebox to be involved, they had a band he is expecting it to continue to grow and get bigger each year.
 - d. New Park Ranger Deputy Mock – The Parks Department has a new Park Ranger, his name is Deputy Timothy Mock, he is scheduled off on Wednesday's and was unable to attend the meeting, he is a seasoned veteran and has been with the Sheriff's Department for years. We are excited to welcome him to the Parks.

Angel Obert –

- a. Aquatics – Parks & Recreation and the Human Resources Department’s both pushed very hard to promote the Lifeguard Training Work Study Program. We received 10 applications, 7 of those responded when we contacted them and went to the pre-test at Parkwood Pool, 3 of the participants had the skills required to go on to the training program located at Bay Waterpark, this training was for 2 days, only 1 of the applicants completed the 2-day training. The Parks and Recreation Department put together “Pop Up Splash Kits” to hand out to local community groups, we worked with the Unified Government Public Relations Department to help get the information out about them. They fully intend to open the Parkwood Pool in 2022 any rumors stating it will be closed are not true.
- b. ARPA Funds – There has been a lot of meetings with Commission. Angel, Jack and Emerick have been working on request for funds. There are very strict requirements for this funding and the projects must fall under their guidelines.
 - Jack Webb added – All Unified Government Departments are fighting for these funds, please reach out to your Commissioners and advocate for the Parks and Recreation Department to help get funding.
- c. Summer Guide – this is on the website, it was only produced digitally due to COVID and not having a lot of programming. We did have Summer Program, they were very successful, and this was the first year that we had State Licensing, which is very important for us.
- d. Pets Safe Bark for your Park Grant – Kansas City Kansas is one of the finalists for this grant, we received a grant in 2017 that helped install the Dog Park at St. John’s Park, if this grant is awarded to us Fisher Park would be the next Dog Park Project.
- e. Movies in the Park – The first Movies in the Park event was on Friday August 6th at Rosedale Park, it was very successful, there were around 60 people in attendance, the next is scheduled for Friday August 20th, this will be at Shawnee Park and the final event will be at Big 11 Lake on Friday September 17th.
- f. COVID Update – The department is working very closely with County Administration and the Health Department and following the guidelines necessary as it relates to our programming and reservations to maintain a safe environment for staff and the community.

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

- Ty Collins stated – “Thank you Angel. Again, I just want to thank you guys for trying to be as creative as you possibly can, with the funds that we do get and then also continuing to find alternative sources of funding, like the Bark in the Park Grant and you know at trying to put, well outline projects for these ARPA Funds. So, hopefully we stand a good chance with that and, hopefully, everybody will heed that call and make calls to the, to your Commissioners. One thing I did want to bring up Angel, just to potentially increase numbers for that aquatics program. I would love to have

someone who would be over that program come and meet with my boys swim team that represents Wyandotte, Washington and Sumner Academy in the district. We've had between 3 and 15 boys, and that's over the winter so that's going to actually be well before you would, you know you would need to have them to apply, but then also, my girls swim team has been up to like 27 swimmers at one point in time, and all of those girls competitively swim so, at least from a swim requirement, I would assume they would meet. The requirements to you know for lifeguarding, maybe there are other things that have prevented them, but I would be happy to set up a meeting here at Sumner get dedicate some space and get those young ladies and those young men in there, I know that's something you'll be recruiting for into the spring, obviously, but whenever you feel like that would be convenient, I would love to have that happen so.”

- Angel Obert responded – “Thank you, yes, I'm glad you mentioned that I will definitely be taking you up on that yeah.”
- Ty Collins continued – “Um quick note and you may not have anything, or any data on this, but for the limited summer program and we did do, how did CivicRev go, did things still go well with that or is it being utilized.”
 - Angel Obert responded – “Yes, so CivicRec was great, and we were able to do the registration online and so that that was awesome for us for that program. And we will really start to see CivicRec take off and be able to utilize it more and especially with the data and reporting capabilities. As soon as we are able to get the second kind of phase of that project done and that second phase is getting the technology in our Recreation Centers. So great news is we ordered the equipment, we have the computers, we have the network phones, our IT Team has been working on getting the Internet and Intranet in the centers. And I want to say that project I'm hoping is done here by the end of the year and then that way all of our centers and Recreation Specialist will have access to CivicRec and can do more of the data tracking there and it all goes into the same system, so it's been great so far, especially with COVID and you know kind of limiting that face to face interaction. But our youth programming, or our yourth sports has been huge and a really good tool for all digital as well.”
- Ty Collins responded – “Awesome, thank you for that little update, I like I said I know it was kind of unplanned so.” He also thanked Billy Brame and Jeff Sachen for helping out with running 2 of the meetings that he missed.
- Patricia Gates stated – “I would just say thank you for all that information about the Summer programming and I did hear several of wonderful positive comments about the Wyandotte County, Christmas in July, a couple friends of mine friends went and good job.”
- Bridget Holton-Deere stated – “I really don't have much to say except I think a lot of good, exciting things are happening, I look forward to the Christmas in Wyandotte County Park that sounds like that's going to be a great thing for our parks. Just appreciate all the work you guys are doing and keep it up.”
- Jeff Sachen stated – “Yeah just echoing Bridget's I think that Christmas in the Park is going to be great I mean just the access to the highways right there for that Park, I mean,

I think that could potentially bring in a lot more, and thanks a lot Aaron for bringing that presentation in with all the details that was great, and I know that my family will be excited to go multiple times and. and contribute in and to enjoy it for the holiday season and that's just great and I did also want to echo Pat as well, I did hear really good things about Christmas in July and the fireworks show as well, so pretty excited to see what you guys have on the plate for next year.”

- Billy Brame stated – “I’m excited about the drive thru extravaganza went to the one at Swope Park last year with my family, and so it's real fun and excited that KCK can benefit from that so.”
- Faith Rivera stated – “Yeah, so um today I had breakfast with Mr. Mike Kane, and I want to let you know that Angel and Jack I did talk to him about parks and recs you know that's my that's where my heart is so I made sure that I did give a shout out to you guys that you guys need more funding. Because our kids want more things to do in our community, especially right now with the fact that we have you know COVID going on, they want to you know, they want to participate in something, so I did let him know that you know you guys need some money. So, please to think about our children out here and Aaron wherever you there you are good job. I don't have any kids anymore, but my kid did play Pokémon so he probably would love that game so kudos to you for thinking outside the box on that. Because these kids out here, you know that's all they do is just like this, this is all they do, and I know because I have two of them. That are now adults so um Thank you I’m excited for the Christmas in the Park extravaganza lights and again hopefully you'll get this, and you get more you know we'll get to see more of these cool things thanks have a great day.”
- Carolyn Wyatt stated – “Yes, I was yes, I was on a call with Commissioners last week about the funds their funds for District 1 and District 6 for the Parks Rec and I did send letters to the Commissioners and At Large, and I even one to Doug Bach. And I tell them about situations about the Beatrice Lee and the parks, that we have in District 1 that are, in need to be upgraded and the swimming pool about that also so I’m just ah, that new fund that new ARPA whatever it is I will be also stressing the same thing that I sent to the Commissioners and Doug on that also. That's all”

VI – ADJOURNMENT

Ty Collins requested a motion to adjourn, Jeff Sachen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carolyn Wyatt, Meeting adjourned at 7:31PM

Motion Carried (Ayes 7, Nays 0)

Ty Collins, Chairman