

MINUTES OF THE
UNIFIED GOVERNMENT WY CO/KCK
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
December 11th, 2019

The December 11th, 2019 meeting of the Unified Government WyCo/KCK Board of Park Commissioners was held at City Hall 701 N. 7th St. Room 515 Kansas City, KS 66101

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Unified Government Board of Park Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mark Mohler, Chairman. Jeremy Rogers, Director stated proper meeting notice had been given.

ROLL CALL:

Members present were recorded for the minutes.

Board Members Present:

Mark Mohler, Chairman
Bridget Holton-Deere, Member
Patricia Gates, Secretary
Beatrice Lee, Member
Craig Howell, Member
Ty Collins, Member
Billy Brame, Member
Jeff Sachen, First Vice Chairman
Tammy Romstad, KCKPS

Board Members Absent:

Carolyn Wyatt, Member
Matt Warner, Member
John McTaggart, Member

Administration Present:

Jeremy Rogers, Parks and Recreation, Director
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 December 11th, 2019 Agenda was seconded by Craig Howell

Motion Carried (Ayes 8, Nays 0)

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 regular Board of Park Commissioners meeting are presented for review and consideration for approval.

A motion was made by Jeff Sachen, seconded by Beatrice Lee to approve the minutes of the Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 regular meeting.

Motion Carried (Ayes 8, 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 spoke at this time

2. Correspondence

- No correspondence was given

III – OLD BUSINESS

- No Old Business was presented

IV – NEW BUSINESS

- Jeremy Rogers presented information to the board regarding the interest of the Turner Recreation Commission acquiring Riverview Park. He explained that TRC has been in contract with the UG leasing this property since September 2008. He then introduced Robert Spencer with Turner Recreation Commission and he spoke regarding their interest in acquiring Riverview Park from the Unified Government Parks and Recreation Department.
- Mark Mohler asked why TRC was not happy with the contract they are under now?
- Robert Spencer explained that they were interested in capital improvement of the facilities and did not feel that was in their best interest without ownership.
- Mark Mohler asked if they had capital improvement plans in place with money available and asked their exact plans for the project?
- Robert Spencer said that they do have ideas but no definite set plans as of yet.
- Jeff Sachen asked Robert what the drawbacks were with furthering the partnership with the UG Parks Department. He also suggested that by keeping the same agreement and working together that both departments would be able to benefit using the fields since the City Park Facilities would be under construction in 2020.
- Robert Spencer stated that the facilities at Riverview Park were all youth fields and not of equivalent size as City Park fields and that it was his understanding that their program was at a high capacity, but could possibly accommodate some fields for the UG's youth sports program.
- Billy Brame asked for clarification on what exactly Turner Recreation Commission was.
- Mark Mohler explained that TRC is a separate entity within the Turner School District and that they have their own programming outside of the UG Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Ty Collins asked if there was any history of parks property being transferred to another entity in the past?
- Jack Webb stated that Highland Park had been gifted to TRC.
- Mark Mohler asked for the value of the property that had been previously gifted?
- Robert Spencer stated it was his understanding there was a fee of \$1.00 dollar, for the Highland Park property.
- Jeff Sachen stated that he did not believe that this was a good time to give fields/parks away considering City Park is used by multiple schools within Wyandotte County and the fact that it would be unavailable for their use in the upcoming season. He asked Jeremy for his opinion on moving the UG youth sports to the Riverview fields?
- Jeremy stated that the Parks and Recreation Department would try to accommodate all UG Sports programs but did not consider the Riverview fields as equal accommodations to the City Park Fields.
- Mark Mohler asked if the UG would be offered the same accommodations being offered to the TRC if they had ownership of the Riverview Park and Facilities located there. He also asked what this agreement would state.
- Robert Spencer stated that an agreement could be made after the improvements were made to help accommodate the UG Parks and Recreation Department's Sports Programming.

- Emerick Cross, Assistant County Administrator, introduced himself at this time and stated that the agreement between the TRC and UG Parks and Recreation Dept. would be an interlocal agreement where the existing contract would be changed and would state that it would depend on the final project outcome and what types of teams we would be able to put at these particular fields for the 2020 season.
- Robert Spencer stated that the agreement would depend on the timing of the arrangement, if the park is acquired by the TRC they would begin Capital Improvement projects immediately.
- Mark Mohler asked if TRC had a budget at this time for the project.
- Robert Spencer stated that they do have money for this project and that they are working on grants to help fund the project and have naming rights that would also fund the project.
- Mark Mohler asked if there was a dollar amount being budgeted for the project.
- Robert Spencer stated that there was no exact dollar figure set for the project and would not be until the park is acquired.
- Ty Collins asked if the UG Parks and Recreation staff had any knowledge of the quality and condition of the fields at Riverview Park. He stated that there are other parks throughout the community that are in need of improvements and that if the UG were to keep Riverview Park is there a need for improvements and if so where this would fit into the budget.
- Jeremy Rogers stated that this project is not earmarked in the 2020 budget, there is a maintenance line specifically for ballfields that covers all of the ballfields.
- Ty Collins addressed Angel Obert and asked for her programming prospective if she thought the UG needed more fields than it already has.
- Angel Obert stated that the sports of baseball and softball tend to fluctuate from year to year. Some years the program is beyond capacity and others it is under capacity. Jeremy Rogers added that you can never have too many fields.
- Billy Brame asked if TRC is only for the Turner School District and if there are other school districts throughout the county that are similar.
- Jeremy Rogers explained that there are three Parks and Recreation “District’s” in Wyandotte County. The UG Parks & Recreation Department, the Turner Recreation Commission (which is taxed through the school district) and the Bonner Springs Parks and Recreation Department and that each of these entities are responsible for recreational activities that they sponsor and parks that they maintain/own within their area.
- Jeff Sachen stated that if all parks and recreation department’s throughout the United States are in need of more ballfields why the UG is considering giving these fields away, and how it would benefit the UG. He asked where the schools and other groups would be playing and practicing this season since the City Park fields will not be available.
- Ty Collins stated that Schlagle and Washington High Schools both play baseball at the Eisenhower Ballfield, Sumner Academy plays baseball at Heathwood Park Ballfield, Wyandotte High School plays baseball on their personal field. there are only two USD 500 schools that offer softball, Washington High School plays at the WYCO Fields (privately owned location near 100th and Leavenworth Road), Sumner has recently relocated to the field in Armourdale (Nally Field at Shawnee Park).

- Jack Webb stated that if the department were to keep the fields they would be obligated to accommodate TRC. He also stated that if TRC were to take control of the fields it would not change the situation of the City Park Fields and that either way the department is going to have to accommodate all schools and other outside groups for the upcoming baseball and softball season.
- Jeff Sachen stated that he did not see the benefit of this property being given away, and state that he would feel more comfortable partnering with TRC and work with upgrading the park facilities.
- Mark Mohler stated that he would like there to be a clause in the contract stating that if the park became a for profit facility that it should then come back to the UG. He also stated that he did not feel comfortable voting on the issue at this meeting with this being the only discussion thus far.
- Ty Collins requested information on the cost for renovating the fields if the UG chooses to not sign a new contract with TRC or give ownership to them but also stated that he was open to hearing things about the property going to TRC but also stated that he would like there to be a right of first refusal clause in the contract.
- Beatrice Lee asked the UG still had an “Adopt a Park Program”. She also requested a copy of the previous written agreement prior to a decision being made by the board.
- Jack Webb explained that the program is mainly used to do park clean-ups. He stated that they do have a copy of the agreement and also explained the extent of the upgrades needed to be put into the property and that the improvements would be very costly.
- Mark Mohler asked Jack Webb if he had an estimated cost for the renovations.
- Robert Spencer stated that the estimated cost they are looking at would be several million dollars.
- Jeff Sachen requested copies of the previous agreement between the UG and TRC.
- Tammy Romstad asked how many fields there are at the location now, what age groups are using the fields and their total number of participants.
- Robert Spencer stated that there are 5 fields, baseball and softball starting from t-ball and they have around 250 participants. He also gave his contact information if anyone had any further questions, spencerr@turnerusd202.org

1. Staff Agenda

- Jeremy Rogers:
 - a. Directors Report - Fee Increases: Jeremy reported that he fee increases in which he presented at a previous meeting and was discussed after had been taken to County Administration and was approved. The increases will begin on January 2nd, 2020.
- Jack Webb:
 - a. CDBG Project - They are holding a meeting on December 18th and will have more information for them at the January meeting regarding the timeframe the park will be unavailable.
 - b. Klamm Park Restrooms - Contract was signed today and is in the process of being built. It will be installed mid-summer.

c. West Maintenance Shop - Has not gone to bid yet. They are waiting on the architect for the paperwork, once it is received the information will be presented to County Administration for approval.

● Angel Obert:

- a. January 2nd Reservations - Reservations will only be accepted at the office at 5033 State Ave. KCK 66102, the West Administration Office will not be open.
- b. Craft show Eisenhower has around 50 vendors registered at this time
- c. Donuts with Santa will be December 14th, at Kensington, from 9:00am - 12:00noon
- d. St. Margaret's Fitness Court ribbon cutting will be next Thursday, December 19th at 1:00pm

2. BOARD MEMBER'S QUESTIONS OR COMMENT

- Jeff Sachen asked if information on Eagle Days could be sent to him.
- Beatrice Lee requested more information on the fee increases going into effect in January.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mark Mohler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jeff Sachen,
Meeting adjourned at 6:43PM

Motion Carried (Ayes 8, Nays 0)

Mark Mohler, Chairman