

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes of the meeting of June 12, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Dickey Bill Stobart, Chairperson
Pat Duncan Christy Watt
Scott Roberts

GUESTS PRESENT: John VanGorden, Director of Parks and Recreation
Tammy Edge, Operations Manager
Kim Vogel, Recreation Superintendent
Jon Kindlesparger, Golf Course Superintendent
Ken Robertson, Park Superintendent

Pittsburg Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 4:00 pm in Lincoln Center. Bill Stobart called the meeting to order with 5 members present.

The first order of business was the approval of the February minutes. Christy Watt made a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded by Pat Duncan. Motion passed.

The second order of business was the review of the activity & facility usage reports from March through May. Kim Vogel reviewed those reports and then mentioned activities that were up-coming for the month of June. Bill Dickey wanted more information on the Adult Trips. Kim went over some of the different locations that the trips have been. Christy Watt wanted to know if there was a good following and Kim said that the popular one was the casino trips but the other locations such as the Kansas City Dinner Theater, Precious Moments & the Branson Belle were also fun and well attended trips. Bill Stobart asked if there were any more questions and every one agreed to move onto the next order of business.

The third order of business was items from the floor. Mr. Stobart said that the board needed to elect a new chairperson. He agreed to take the position until May and then there needed to be a vote to elect someone else on the board to that position. He nominated Christy Watt. She stated that she would be more than happy to try the position. Scott Roberts motioned to approve and Pat Duncan seconded the nomination. Bill Stobart asked Christy if she would want a stand by and she agreed with her busy schedule that it might make it difficult to make all of the meetings, so the board voted to elect a vice-chairperson. Pat Duncan moved to elect Mr. Dickey to that position with Scott Roberts seconding.

New Business

Jaycee Ball Diamond Update

Mr. VanGorden said that the turf at Jaycee was a fun project. Everything looks great. There are a few other little things that the Parks Department is working on to make the facility look better for the upcoming ballgames and tournaments. He stated that there needed to be cleaning and painting touchups throughout the complex. He also told Christy that the department is really working hard on trying to keep up with the bird dropping problem. Ken Robertson said that the turf is making it a lot easier on maintenance, but there are still issues with the drainage in the outfield that will be addressed in the fall and winter of this year. He also said that the pitching mound has had to be repaired a couple of times. Bill Dickey said that a lot of people visiting the area are just amazed with the field. Christy Watt said that Gene Stephenson from Wichita State flew down here just to see the facility. Mr. Dickey asked about the parking. Mr. VanGorden said that there were 48 – 50 stalls added in 2007. All in all everyone agreed that the facility looks great and will help Pittsburg become a better community in being able to offer more baseball events and revenue to the area.

Fourth of July

Kim Vogel went over the events flyer for the 2008 Fourth of July activities. She stated that all of the arts/crafts and food vendors would be located on the east side of the pond. In 2007 we had to move them to this location due to the weather and everyone seemed to like the location better than on the west side of the pond. New attractions for this year will be 10,000 piece building blocks which will be located under shelter #3 near Kiddieland and a carnival which will be located east of the band dome. Kim said that she and Mr. Seal, the PHS Tennis Coach, had agreed to hold the tennis tournament on the weekend after the fourth. Mr. Seal thought that it would draw a bigger turnout if it was not held on the actual holiday. Not to get off the subject of the Fourth of July but Mr. Stobart asked how the golf course was doing from the damaged greens to the wind storm that took out some trees throughout the course. Jon Kindlesparger stated that the greens were doing well and that green # 5 will improve with time. It was the most damaged green and had to have all new sod. He said that there were 14 trees down from the storm and they were working on cleaning them up. Bill Stobart then asked how the Aquatic Center was doing. It got off to a rough start with all of the rain but was doing well.

Stice Ball Diamond Fence

Mr. VanGorden received a letter from Doug Dellasega in regards to the fence at Stice Ball Diamond. It stated concerns from parents about the backstop and the foul line fences not being tall enough to keep balls from going out into the street and into the crowds. The kids chase the foul balls and run out into the road. I have enclosed a copy of the letter for your review. Mr. VanGorden said that this would be a major expense

but would look into it this fall and winter to try and fix the problem. The City has reduced the speed through this area but has not seemed to solve the problem. The City has even thrown around the idea of closing off the road from Catalpa to the west entrance to the ball diamonds. Mr. VanGorden thought that this would just bring on more complaints. Nothing is more important than protecting the children so this will be looked into toward the end of the season.

Handicap Accessibility to Shelters

Tammy Edge went over a complaint received from an individual who attended a family reunion at shelter #2 in Lincoln Park. The person who reserved the shelter for her family was in a wheelchair and could not get under the shelter house to get out of the weather. A family member had to go home and get a large umbrella so that she could be covered from the rain. This shelter has tables that are bolted down and cannot be moved. There is no way to get a wheelchair under the shelter around the tables. I have enclosed a picture for your review. Scott Roberts asked if a couple of the tables could be removed at one end to make it ADA Accessible. Ken Robertson said that the tables are pretty old and that it would not be an easy fix. Mr. VanGorden said that we would look into getting the shelter where it would be ADA Accessible.

Downtown Window Painting

Kim Vogel brought up the downtown window painting as maybe being a problem this year with the new streetscape project. She said that we do not want the children painting on the windows and messing up the new sidewalks. Jon Kindlesparger stated that the new cement would stain pretty bad. This is a big event that the area children enjoy doing so Kim suggested having the children paint their pictures at another location and then the Parks & Recreation Department would deliver the pictures to area merchants to display in their windows. Bill Dickey asked if the area merchants cleaned up after the painting was over. Kim said that not all of them cleaned, and that the Parks Department would even go back and clean some of the areas if the merchant requested it. Ken Robertson mentioned that maybe we could get the schools to let the kids paint their pictures during school hours. Kim said that we have tried to get the schools involved with essays and other picture contests and we do not get a lot of response from them. They have set schedules and it is hard for them to do. Kim said that we have a few months to think about it and she is sure that there will be a resolution to the matter. Mr. Roberts wanted to know if we went with markers instead of paint if it would be cleaner. Kim said that markers for this big of project would be too expensive.

Closing Comments from the Floor

Mr. Stobart noticed that the fence was still around the slide at Schlanger Park and wanted to know when it was going to be fixed. Ken Robertson said that the Parks Department had the items to fix it and it & it should be completed soon. He also said that the water fountain at Schlanger needed repaired. Ken said he would check on it. Mr. Stobart asked about the new parks in town, Minors Memorial, Immigrant Park & Europe Park. He wanted to know the status of the City taking them over for maintenance. Mr. VanGorden told him that we maintain all three at this time but that Minors Memorial and Europe Park was not legally turned over to the City as of yet. Mr.

Roberts wanted to know if Doug Dellasega would want a response to the letter about Stice Ball Diamond fence. Mr. VanGorden said that he would contact Doug. Mr. Stobart asked how the batting cages were doing this year. Mr. VanGorden said that extra staff was hired so that they would be taken care of anytime they broke down. Usually it is just something small that needs to be adjusted and that it is handy to have staff there at the time to take care of it. Mr. Stobart asked if there was anything else. Mr. Dickey asked about the vandalism at Four Oaks. Mr. VanGorden stated that they are pretty sure they know who did it but cannot get enough evidence to prove it. There has been a lot of vandalism going on throughout the parks from graffiti to setting fires in the park restrooms.

With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm and the next meeting was scheduled for July 10, 2008 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy Edge