

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**  
**March 17, 2021**  
**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Loren Anthony  
Tyson Nielsen  
Brett Remsberg  
Camielle Austin  
Russ McCaig

**Members Absent:**

**Visitors:**

Matt Engel  
Wendy Scribner

**Commission Representative:**

Kendra Wilkinson

**Staff Present:**

Kevin Wishart                      Don Argo                      Brian Urton                      David Dillner                      Tabitha Sharp

Brett moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.  
Camielle seconded.  
Motion carried 5 – 0.

**YMCA Proposal for Youth Sports Programming**

- Kevin stated that Matt and Wendy were present to answer any questions regarding the proposal from the YMCA.
- Russ asked what the difference is for in the price structure between basketball and soccer.
- Matt stated that the El Dorado Y does not officiate or manage the advanced basketball, it is done through the Farha Sports Center. He stated that he thought that the cost difference is likely related to the costs for that facility and the workers.
- Tyson asked if the Y would form their own league if the City declines their proposal.
- Matt stated that their hope is that the City will consider the proposal, he did not know what discussions would look like moving forward if the proposal was declined.
- Loren asked if they competed with Andover in their rec leagues there.
- Matt stated that he believed they had a relationship and worked together.
- Brett asked about basketball.
- Matt stated that it was two separate seasons.
- Brett asked where they would do games.
- Matt stated that there are three levels, all advanced will be played here. Intermediate will be played about half of the time here. Recreational will be played here.
- Russ asked if the City was considering an expansion of the activity center.
- David stated that the school district was not interested in an expansion when it was discussed.
- Matt stated that there is a path to support as many children as we can so that everyone can play. He stated that there is a difference in the price point, but the campaign allows him to give scholarships to assist children who cannot afford these rates. He stated that the goal is to maximize the participation.
- Brett asked if the clinics that Corey would do would be open to all kids or just Y participants.
- Matt stated that the clinic would be run through the gym at the Y, but all kids would be welcome.

- Russ confirmed that they would be able to keep teams together through the years.
- Matt stated that they would.
- Russ asked if the city felt this proposal was a benefit.
- Kevin stated that the city will support what the community believes is best for the children. He stated that this is an advisory board decision and staff will support the decision.
- Brett felt that there needed to be an opportunity for community feedback before they made a decision.
- Kevin stated that if Brett made a motion for that, they would do so.
- Brett moved to host a community feedback session.
- Camielle seconded the motion.
- Russ stated that the only pushback he has ever had on this proposal was that the Y programming was a participation trophy league. He stated that allowing teams to stay together will help, but he feared that teams would bail out if they saw that the Y was involved.
- Matt stated that after 6U, there are no participation trophies. He stated that everyone still gets to play and they recommend teams move levels if they are exceling in a lower level league.
- Loren asked if there was a deadline for the meeting.
- Brett stated that he was open to any timing.
- Matt stated that for the Y to ensure that there is a smooth transition, he would like to hire someone in early summer so that they could be trained in time for fall sports.
- Brian asked if it would be a good idea to get the proposal out to the public.
- David stated that we could get it on the website and put announcements on the Facebook page.
- Motion carried 5 – 0.

### **Sales Tax Requests**

- Kevin stated that the sales tax committee is meeting to hear requests for projects. He stated that there would be requests for the McDonald Stadium, West Park Development, bleacher replacements at all ball fields and the activity center, Forest Park repairs, and repaving at the south side of Sunset Lawns and Belle Vista. He stated that the Parks and Recreation Department requests total \$506,071.
- Tyson asked if there was space at Vintage to place a park.
- Kevin stated that Criss Park is just west of the Homestead Facility.
- Loren stated that he thought each new development was supposed to leave parkland.
- Kevin stated that there is space on the west side in the Griler Addition, he was unsure about Vintage Place.
- Kevin stated that the committee will hear those requests and some from other departments at the end of the month.
- Brett asked if sales tax was the same each year.
- David stated that it is up a little this year, the last three years were record-breaking years.

### **Spring Activities**

- Kevin stated that there were 146 soccer players registered. He stated that coaches will meet next week and practices will start the week after.
- Kevin stated that there will be 25-27 teams between baseball and softball. He stated that they are still working through enrollments, there are approximately 125 in baseball and 128 in softball. He stated that there ten and a half out of district teams, the half is the result of a Bluestem team that needs more members and will take from the El Dorado draw.

- Kevin stated that there were 60 people who signed up for the walking program.
- Kevin stated that Pitch, Hit and Run will be April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Loren asked if the Y proposal is declined, will we still be able to play rec soccer at the Middle School fields.
- Kevin stated that there are several options, continuing the current agreement with the Y at the Middle School, play at the lake, or come up with a new place.

### **New Business**

- There was none.

### **Director's Report**

- Kevin stated that they continue to work on the online registration system for facilities and activities. He stated that the goal for that is June.
- Kendra asked if it will include the Depot and Civic Center.
- Kevin stated that they hope to include those facilities, the programmers are working on it.
- Kevin stated that last Friday interviews for seasonal positions started. He stated that they are looking for umpires and some lifeguards still.
- Kevin stated that they have spent a great deal of time at McDonald Stadium in the last few weeks. The outfield fence at McDonald has been repaired and repainted and the irrigation system is in and ready. He stated that they are working on the fencing at the softball fields. He stated that the batting cage at Central should be done in the next week if weather is cooperative. He stated that they will then spend some time at the lake to get those fields ready.
- Kevin stated that they have several meetings over the next few weeks for coaches and new staff.
- Kevin stated that he plans to fill the pool earlier than normal in order to get lifeguard training complete sooner.
- Kevin stated that they will begin adult activities again, starting with women's volleyball this spring and coed softball this summer.
- Russ asked if there is a pickleball league.
- Kevin stated that there is not an official league, but there is an unofficial group that plays at the Activity Center and at the Sam Binter complex.
- Kevin stated that the City is advertising for a part-time tennis instructor in order to bring back a youth tennis program.
- Kevin asked when they wanted to schedule the meeting with the Y.
- David stated that they could begin by sending out a survey to parents who have enrolled in the past. He stated they could then host a public meeting in a few weeks.
- Kevin stated that he would keep the board up to date on the meeting date and time.
- Loren asked who would be presenting it.
- David stated that he felt that the Y would do the presentation, the City would facilitate the forum.

Adjourn 6:53 p.m.