

**Recreation Advisory Board
October 19, 2016
Minutes**

Members Present:

Loren Anthony
Brandi Parks Lane
Brett Remsberg
Tony Heilman
Susie Carson

Members Absent:

Kenny Eaton
Russ McCaig
Miles Harvey
Bill Young

Commission Representative:

Commissioner Kendra Wilkinson

Youth Commission Representative:

Staff Present:

Kevin Wishart Don Argo Tabitha Sharp

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman, Loren Anthony.

Susie Carson moved to approve the September 21, 2016 Minutes with the addition of his name to those present.

Brett Remsberg seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5 – 0.

Fall Activities Update – Kevin Wishart

- Don stated that soccer has been going well. He stated that there is no handicapped parking near that lot, so they are requesting a few places near that side.
 - Loren asked how many are on each team.
 - Don stated that it depends on the age of the team. The younger teams play fewer players, so they have fewer on each team.
 - Tony asked if the schedule was working.
 - Don stated that it is working well, by the time they get to the U14 teams, there is only one game on the field. He stated that if we moved flag football to the turf, it would possibly be a challenge to fit both on the turf fields. He stated that parents with soccer and football players are having a tough time getting to both fields.
 - Loren clarified that the child had to be 6 by January 1st to play in the U6 team.
 - Kevin stated that he would have to look at the date.
 - Don stated that this is a YMCA division, so it's new for recreation staff.
 - Kevin stated that volleyball is going fine.
 - Kevin stated that football is going well, there are several teams in the younger division. The older division still only has four teams.
 - Kevin stated that there are no problems with adult women's volleyball. He stated that men's flag football didn't have enough teams to play this year. He stated that fall adult softball ends in two weeks.

Baseball/Softball Coaches Meetings

- Kevin asked the board to consider the proposal in the packet.
 - Tony stated that three of the board members that have the most involvement are not present.
 - Loren stated that we could table it until the next meeting.
 - Discussion about moving the November meeting up.
 - Kevin stated that they will reschedule the November meeting to the 9th.
 - Susie stated that it is important to get the information as soon as possible.
 - Kevin requested that the information be kept amongst the board until a recommendation could be made.

YMCA Partnership

- Kevin stated that there has been a discussion about basketball, the YMCA has recommended that they do 6 and under (Kindergarten) and the City will do the other groups.
 - Kevin stated that they are committed to being a partner, but due to the deadlines for the Walnut Valley League, we needed to leave things the same for this year.
 - Loren confirmed that the Kindergarten would play at the YMCA.
 - Kevin stated that he was correct.
 - Kevin stated that they will be discussing spring sports in December.
 - Tony asked if the YMCA is happy with how things are progressing.
 - Kevin stated that Taylor and Jessica have both met with staff and he believes that they are happy.
 - Don stated that Taylor has commented that he is happy to see all of the kids using the middle school field.
 - Kevin stated that both staff groups will meet in November for a wrap up meeting.
 - Loren stated that the YMCA has gone out of their way to help the Elks soccer program.
 - Brandi stated that she was disappointed that the schedule comes out later with the recreation programs. She stated that they are having the same problem with basketball.
 - Kevin stated that as far as basketball goes, the recreation department had planned to do basketball on their own and the YMCA came in late and asked to partner on that. The original plan was to use soccer as a pilot and make plans for next year.
 - Kevin stated that the game schedule is delicate because we have coaches who have more than one team. He stated that the date range was difficult this year because of the new partnership, and he hoped that would change with more experience.
 - Brandi stated that she spoke with a parent who has only been with recreation in the past and he had a really great experience. She asked when basketball would begin.
 - Kevin stated that practice would begin around Thanksgiving, scrimmage on the 17th of December and games would begin January 7th through the first week of March.
 - Tony asked if February could be the end because of Spring Break schedules.
 - Don stated that the Walnut Valley League makes the schedule.
 - Kevin stated that they try to work with coaches, but we will lose a weekend because of Kids Fest.
 - Brandi stated that it would be helpful to see a calendar for these events.

- Don stated that he thought it was on the city calendar on www.eldoks.com.
- Brandi asked if basketball would be coed.
- Kevin stated that it was dependent upon enrollment numbers.
- Brandi asked how hiring new staff was going.
- Kevin stated that they anticipate interviewing in December and a hire date at the beginning of January.

Susie left at 5:58 p.m. so there was no longer a quorum.

Election of a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Tabled until the next meeting with a quorum.

New Business

- Kendra stated that her grandson really enjoys playing on the turf at the middle school.
 - Tony stated that he spoke to someone at the stadium before the meeting and they stated that we could put patches of turf on the field.
 - Kevin stated that they have had that discussion.
 - Brandi asked if they wanted to have turf everywhere.
 - Kevin stated that the ideal is to have a grass outfield for many reasons. He stated that there has been discussion of going all turf at McDonald stadium because it will help with the drainage issues, but the cost is currently prohibitive. He stated that doing patches would make the field different colors.
 - Kevin stated that there is money from the sales tax fund next year to help with repairs at McDonald Stadium.
 - Kendra stated that she would like to install fans in the stadium to help with air.
- Tony asked if staff were able to talk to the Walnut Valley League about rules for age groups.
 - Kevin stated that they have information ready, but a meeting has not been held yet.
 - Tony clarified that there is still time for them to submit those rules.
 - Kevin stated that it was the weekend before Thanksgiving last year.
- Kevin stated that the Disc Golf Course Designer has been on sight at least once. He is very excited about the space available. He anticipates a design to the disc golf committee in approximately three weeks.
 - Kendra asked if they were going to do solar lights.
 - Kevin stated that he would ask.
 - Brandi asked how much the course would cost.
 - Kevin stated that the disc golf course alone, not sidewalks, will be approximately \$15,000.
 - Brandi asked what the return on investment would be.
 - Kevin stated that it would be an amenity and unless we bring tournaments in and charge for them, we will not make money off of them.
 - Loren stated that Rotary had contributed money as well.
 - Brandi clarified that there were people interested and there were tournaments.
 - Kevin stated that there were many interested and Emporia just held a large tournament this past summer. He stated that the designer has already spoken to several people in

Wichita who are excited to see the course. He stated that many people at Walnut River Festival stated that they had played and were excited to see the course.

- Kevin stated that the Prairie Trails Pool has been painted.
- Kevin stated that the Heights League elected Don Argo as President this year. He stated that it will create work for Don, but says a lot about the work he has done for the league.