

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
January 16, 2019
Minutes**

Members Present:

Brett Remsberg (left at 6 p.m.)
Loren Anthony
Russ McCaig
Tyson Nielsen

Members Absent:

Betty Kirkpatrick
Brandi Lane

Visitors:

Commission Representative:

Matt Guthrie

Staff Present:

Kevin Wishart Brian Urton Don Argo Tabitha Sharp

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
Russ moved to approve the amended minutes.
Tyson seconded the motion.
Motion carried 4 – 0.

Activity Update

- Kevin stated that basketball season has started, things are moving along well.
- Heights league signups are coming soon.
- There are 7 men’s basketball teams signed up.
- Volleyball signups are still going.
- Russ asked if the Y still does their adult volleyball league.
- Kevin said he wasn’t sure.

Capital and Sales Tax Projects

- Kevin stated that he will propose new playground equipment for Riverview Park for 2022 and 2020 for equipment on West Main.
- Kevin stated that he is going to put the items they discussed in here on the sales tax request list.
- Tyson asked about the batting cage at East Park.
- Kevin stated that the existing one will be repaired and the new one will be on the sales tax requests for 2020.
- Kevin asked the board to continue thinking of other items and e-mail or call him with them.
- Kevin stated that they are taking down the equipment at Gordy and repurposing some of it for equipment at the boys’ fields.

Review of Article “American Meritocracy is Killing Youth Sports”

- Kevin pointed out one part of the article.
- Russ stated that in his experience, there are some parents who don’t want to put out the effort and so kids can’t play.

- Brian stated that he wasn't trying to make a referendum about travel teams, he felt the article was an accurate summary of our current programming issues.
- Tyson stated that he has a travel league, but tries to play both city and travel teams. He said he can't find El Dorado kids to play. He stated that he is seeing a decline in youth who want to do anything.
- Matt stated that he felt like it is parents who aren't making kids be active.
- Russ asked if they had heard of any real solutions to the problem.
- Kevin stated that there are articles and discussion about it, but no one has the answer yet.
- Tyson stated that in the few years he has been coaching, he gets kids who don't come to practice, but show up to the game and we have to let them play even though the kids who have been to every practice are there.
- Brett stated that he is seeing a decline in participation in scouts as well, so it's across the board.
- Kevin stated that there is also the issue of divided interest because there are more opportunities available for kids to experience.
- Don stated that he thought it was about technology as well. He stated that the same thing is happening in the schools with participation.
- Tyson stated that more kids went out for the bowling team than for the girls' basketball team.
- Loren asked if there are bowling scholarships.
- Brian stated that there were, just not as many.
- Tyson asked what the purpose of the discussion was.
- Kevin stated that staff are looking for ways to increase participation.
- Don stated that some of the teachers who used to be around would talk the sport up and then hand out our flyers.
- Tyson stated that he remembered when the high school students used to go to the recreation league sports in uniform to encourage kids to play.
- Matt stated that the pride in sports was related to success in those four major sports. He stated that success in those high school sports drove the want in younger kids to want to be on those teams.
- Kevin stated that they have to solve the parent apathy problem.
- Tyson and Russ said that the schools offer free food and it increases participation.
- Brian asked what our version of free food would be.
- Tyson recommended pool passes.
- Loren asked if it would be difficult to implement.
- Kevin stated that it wouldn't be. He worried that coaches would forget to hand them out.
- Tyson stated that it would be difficult on coaches who are already volunteers.
- Kevin stated that site supervisors could do it.
- Brian stated that it wouldn't be an incentive if we did it after.
- Russ stated that maybe they could do it based on those who attend everything by the 4th or 5th game.
- Don stated that it would be more of an incentive if a new pool is built.
- Russ stated that some of the travel teams are about to price themselves out of the game.

New Business

- Matt stated that the sales tax collections were the highest in history and the parks and recreation department has been benefitting from that in the previous few years.
- Russ asked about canopies for the other fields at East Park.
- Russ asked about Lawrence Dumont seats.
- Kevin stated that there are a hundred something seats available that could be installed at any one of our venues. He stated that they were considering McDonald Stadium behind home plate. He stated the challenge is that the bench seats there are fiberglass. He said the ones that are available are red.
- Tyson asked if there was talk about tilling up and leveling outfields at the various locations.
- Kevin stated that they should see improvement this year, Jason and Brian have been working on them for a few months. He stated that they are going to Bermuda and being treated and mowed differently. He stated that this time next year, the two city fields at East Park are going to be very different. He stated that the college is the only one doing maintenance on the north field.
- Tyson asked if they will be able to have practices on the north field.
- Kevin stated that staff are going to try and schedule our teams at Snell and Orndorff, we can still play games on north, but we're going to try and avoid it if possible.
- Brian stated that he felt that the two city fields are going to be a pleasant surprise to all.
- Russ asked who will stripe and work the field for high school games and if they paid the city for the field.
- Kevin stated that the field will be available for the high school as well. He stated that the city still owns the field.
- Russ asked about installing grass behind home plate on Snell and Orndorff.
- Kevin stated that it wouldn't happen this year, but they were open to it in the future.
- Kevin stated that city staff are still caring for McDonald Stadium.
- Loren asked about the field flip at Central.
- Kevin stated that there are challenges in the right field corner of the north field that may have to be helped along with sod. It's too early in the year to determine how the work in the fall helped.
- Loren asked about the golf course.
- Kevin stated that paperwork is being done, but we are working on deeds and lease agreements that should be done soon.

Director's Report

- Kevin stated that we are taking applications for the summer employment.
- Kevin handed out renewal forms for the members who were present.
- Kevin stated East Park Shelter posts are in, concrete will be poured when the weather cooperates. Dirt work is being done at Library Park for the half court.
- Loren asked about a press box at East Park.
- Kevin stated that engineering will need to do some work before that project can start. He stated that staff are meeting with the college to talk about the press box.