

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission
March 24, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Anita Kimbrough, ex officio.

Roll call was taken by Anita Kimbrough, ex officio

Members Present: Kevin Brown, Marsha Ladd, Don Moore, Richard Theile, and Michael Wojtkowicz.

Members Absent: none

Approve Agenda:

A motion to approved the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Brown and supported by Commissioner Theile. There was no discussion on the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Review of Ordinance:

A copy of Ordinance 691 was included in the packet to members for reading prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments on the ordinance.

Appointment of Officers:

Per Ordinance 691, a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson were to be appointed by the members of the Commission. Mrs. Kimbrough had suggested that they wait on the appointment until they knew each other better, but Commissioner Brown volunteered to be the Chairperson. Commissioner Theile made a motion that Commissioner Brown be appointed Chairperson, and Commissioner Moore supported the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Next, Commissioner Wojtkowicz volunteered to be Vice-Chairperson. Commissioner Brown made a motion that Commissioner Wojtkowicz is the Vice-Chair, and Commissioner Theile supported the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Rules of Procedure:

Also included in the packet was a brief summary of Robert's Rules of Order, which are widely used and accepted as rules of procedure. Commissioner Theile made a motion to accept Robert's Rules of

Order as the rules of procedure for the Parks & Recreation Commission. Commissioner Brown supported the motion.

Ayes: All, motion carried

Nays: none

Bylaws Discussion:

Two examples of by-laws were also included in the Commission packet for review. Per John Archer, Building Official, it is usually a good idea to get at least a rough draft started of the by-laws in the first couple of meetings. Commissioner Theile suggested that at the next meeting the Commission could start the by-laws by using the examples as templates and collaborate as a group during the meeting. The other commissioners thought this to be an acceptable idea. Mrs. Kimbrough said she would make sure to make it an item on next meeting's agenda.

Time & Place of 2008 Commission Meetings:

A brief discussion was held about the length, time, date, and place of the Commission meetings for 2008. It was noted that it might be a good idea to have the Parks & Recreation meetings on the same night as the Planning Commission because the two will probably work together in the future. The Planning Commission meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00pm. A motion by Commissioner Brown was made to hold the Parks & Recreation meetings on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:00pm for 1 hour. In the event that the meeting is to go longer, the board can move to the adjacent conference room to finish. Commissioner Theile supported the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Review of 2006 Parks & Recreation Plan:

A copy of the 2006 Parks & Recreation plan was provided to each member. Mrs. Kimbrough indicated that this would be an excellent tool to help the Commission prioritize future actions. Commissioner Brown indicated that with the last Parks & Recreation Commission a large survey of public input was completed. He inquired if that survey was used to write this plan. Mrs. Kimbrough answered that it probably was not used, but was unsure. Commissioner Theile said that the results of this survey would be a good starting point for the Commission's prioritization. Mrs. Kimbrough offered to find a copy of this survey for the next meeting.

Commissioner Brown then noted that there is nothing in the plan about the public approved millage to keep Holman Pool open. Per City Manager Joe Fivas, the budget is being put together and has not been presented to the City Council yet. He indicated that the Council will want to work with this commission on this issue, and it may take another public vote to renew the millage.

A recent presentation by Gordon Pennington on a new marketing plan for Owosso had sparked Commissioner Ladd's interest, and she wondered if the City is working directly with Mr. Pennington on his ideas. Per the City Manager, this project is not directly linked with the City, but the City is definitely willing to work with Mr. Pennington on his ideas.

Next, Councilman Gary Martenis welcomed the members of the Commission and indicated that the City Council is looking forward to the ideas from the Commission and the community. He also said

that he can be contacted for information. Commissioner Ladd asked if Councilman Martenis is the official liaison, but Mrs. Kimbrough said that she is the liaison to the City.

Commissioner Ladd suggested that the economic conditions and the population dynamics found in the first part of the Parks & Recreation plan be updated to help the Commission prioritize. Mrs. Kimbrough said she would look into that for the next meeting.

Commissioner Moore would like the plan to include not only plans for the parks but for recreation as well. He used an example of starting up a new ping-pong league. Commissioner Ladd would like the Commission to come up with an official definition of recreation to help guide decisions.

Citizen Comments:

Rick Morris, the Chairman of the former Parks & Recreation Commission, encouraged the members to review the citizen survey completed by the former Commission because it is the best indication of community wishes. Additionally, he mentioned that visiting the parks of other communities would be a good place to start for ideas and funding methods. Mr. Morris also mentioned that it would be nice if the Commission would work with Rails to Trails to connect the townships through the City. John Archer indicated that a route has been proposed in the past and may require some easements. He said that he would provide a map to Mrs. Kimbrough of the proposed route.

Joe Fivas, City Manager, then expressed his excitement about this inaugural meeting. He feels that this commission is the first step in improving the quality of life for the community, which may in turn promote economic development for the City. Mr. Fivas introduced Brent Morgan, Community and Economic Development Coordinator. Mr. Morgan encouraged the members to use the Park & Recreation plan as a resource for making recommendations to the City Council.

Anita Kimbrough suggested tours of the parks within the City, to get a feel for the resources the Commission is working with and goals to work towards, during the next couple of meetings.

Jerry and Nell Hebekeuser, representatives from the Owosso Youth Baseball League, indicated that they are working on plans for a new concession stand at Rudy DeMuth. They feel the old one is a safety hazard and is in need of plumbing and electrical work. Their organization is hoping to have something new in place for next season. Commissioner Theile stated that he would like to see continuity between these organizations and others with the City on planning. Mr. Hebekeuser indicated that there would be fundraising opportunities for the plans.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Theile. The motion was supported by Commissioner Moore. The meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission is April 28, 2008 at 6:00pm.

Anita Kimbrough
Secretary and Ex officio member