

Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Park & Recreation Commission
April 28, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm by Chairman Brown

Roll call was taken by Anita Kimbrough, ex officio

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

Members Absent: Richard Theile

Approve Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Commissioner Moore and supported by Commissioner Wojtkowicz. There was no discussion on the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Approve Minutes from March 24, 2008 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2008 meeting as presented was made by Commissioner Wojtkowicz and supported by Commissioner Ladd. There was no discussion on the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Tour of Curwood Castle Park

Due to the weather and the full agenda for the meeting, the Commissioners agreed to postpone the Commission's tour of Curwood Castle Park.

Volunteer Policy

Anita Kimbrough noted that there have been many calls from citizens that wish to volunteer in our City parks. To protect the volunteers and the City, she suggested that the prospective volunteers write a short letter to the City stating where, when, and what they wish to complete. The City would then respond back with what they approve can be completed by the volunteers. Commissioner Ladd suggested a form rather than a letter to be completed by the volunteers. Commissioner Wojtkowicz agreed that a form would be the most user-friendly method. Mrs. Kimbrough inquired if the Commissioner wished to approve each request before permission was granted. Chairman Brown said that he feels that City Staff is qualified enough to determine what volunteers can complete. Commissioner Ladd agreed because we do not want the lag time needed to contact all the Commissioners. The Commissioners present agreed that the form should be turned into Mrs. Kimbrough, and that she would meet with appropriate City Staff whether to approve/ deny the volunteer request. John Archer, Building Official noted that the form should include the City's Hold Harmless clause and a place for the volunteers to sign stating they understand. Mrs. Kimbrough

indicated that she would be in contact via email to the Commissioners when volunteer requests were approved.

Fayette Square

Burton Fox of 216 E. Oliver St. gave a presentation on proposed improvements to the Veteran's Memorial located in Fayette Square Park. This proposal includes laying brick down at the foundation, adding a bronze plaque, installing lights to illuminate the American Flag at night, removing an old wooden bench, and a rededication of the circle as The Veterans Memorial Plaza on Memorial Day 2008. Mr. Fox was not asking for any public funds as all would be completed and all materials provided by volunteers. He is requesting a fund within the City be set up to receive donations for the project. Mr. Fox was requesting the blessing of the Parks & Recreation Commission to take his proposal to the City Council.

Lorraine Weckwert and Brian Berry of Preservation Owosso informed the Commission that the 2006 Parks & Recreation Plan shows that a fountain is to be installed in the center of the Park and the memorial to be relocated. Mrs. Weckwert provided a picture dated in the 1920s of the park with a fountain in the center. Their view is to recreate the historical view of the Park including the fountain instead of improving the current Memorial.

Mrs. Kimbrough noted that the 2006 Parks & Recreation Plan does include a site plan with what appears to be a gazebo in the center, but that the information within the plan does not mention a fountain.

Chairman Brown stated that he liked the Veterans Memorial ideas. Commissioner Ladd stated that they may wish to find a name that appeals to all parties such as The Veterans Circle at Fayette Square. Commissioner Ladd moved that the Parks & Recreation Commission support the proposal by Mr. Fox to go to the City Council for approval. Commission Moore seconded the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Bylaws and 2002 Parks Survey

Due to time constraints these items will be discussed in a future meeting.

Citizen Comments:

Terry Brown of 1231 N. Ball St. presented a proposal to start an annual Community Pride Day. The Community Pride Committee has selected to repaint the Woodard Paymaster Building on the grounds of Curwood Castle Park as their first project. All materials and labor would be volunteered. Ms. Brown is asking support of the Parks & Recreation Commission to take their proposal to City Council.

Councilman Martinez requested the Ms. Brown also bring her proposal before the Historical Commission for review, and Ms. Brown indicated that she would.

Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Ladd agreed that there seems to be no reason not to support the project. Commissioner Wojtkowicz made a motion to support the proposal and Commissioner Ladd seconded the motion.

Aye: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Scott Water of 2475 Wellington Dr. Owosso of the Owosso Youth Baseball League came to encourage the Parks & Recreation Commission to take an active interest in Rudy Demuth Fields. He stated that many people enjoy this park every summer and that the League has been a great way to encourage people from outside the city to visit and support our local businesses. He also noted that their main concerns are with safety. Commissioner Wojtkowicz attested to the safety concerns with the children and cars.

Justin Eppler and General Grant of 115 W. Ridge St. gave a short presentation on the items needing repair at the Skate Park. Moving the Skate Park to Bentley Park was also a suggestion. Due to time constraints, Mrs. Kimbrough suggested that we make this an item on our next agenda and Mr. Eppler and Mr. Grant can return to give a full presentation. All present Commissioners agreed.

Mrs. Kimbrough noted that because our next scheduled meeting fell on a holiday, that we would meet the following Tuesday on May 27th, at 6:00 pm. With time constraints of the current meeting and many activities happening due to the spring, the Commissioners wished to schedule a special meeting. Commissioner Wojtkowicz made a motion to have a special meeting on May 12th, at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Commissioner Moore seconded the motion.

Ayes: all, motion carried

Nays: none

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Moore. The motion was supported by Commissioner Wojtkowicz. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

The next scheduled meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission is May 27, 2008 at 6:00pm. A special meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission is on May 12, 2008 at 6:00 pm.

Anita Kimbrough
Secretary and Ex officio member