

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
September 23, 2020
Minutes

Members Present:

Loren Anthony
Brett Remsberg
Tyson Nielsen
Camielle Austin

Members Absent:

Russ McCaig

Visitors:

Bobby Crosby

Commission Representative:

Kendra Wilkinson

Staff Present:

Kevin Wishart Don Argo Tabitha Sharp

Tyson moved to approve the minutes.

Brett seconded.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

Personal Appearance Bobby Crosby, BMX Proposal

Mr. Crosby stated that his daughter has recently expressed some interest in BMX racing. He stated that they went to look at the old track at RIO Park, and it doesn't exist anymore. He stated that he would like the city to consider either RIO or the ball diamonds at the lake. He stated that the second spot has room for parking where RIO doesn't. He stated that some surrounding communities have tracks and he is looking for permission to move forward with a project.

Tyson asked if he was asking the city to fund it, or would it be built with donations privately.

Mr. Crosby stated that he isn't requesting City funding. He would like to gather as much support and donations from the local businesses as he is able. He is just asking to use City property so that they don't have that expense.

Loren asked if they would lease the property and take care of it themselves.

Mr. Crosby stated that they are willing to consider that option.

Kevin stated that he met with Bobby at RIO park a few weeks ago and they discussed a few options including the City owning the land and volunteers maintaining and operating the track. He stated that they talked briefly about a lease. He stated that staff are always looking for ways to engage people in activities that we don't already have and ways to make those happen.

Tyson stated that it's a great idea to do something different, he was worried about legalities.

Mr. Crosby stated that during their events and practices there are rules and regulations that have to be followed.

Tyson stated that he was confused about the status of the track on the river.

Kevin stated that a group developed the area after coming to the Commission several years ago.

Bobby stated that the one by the river is more of a trail system, they are proposing a sanctioned track with four straights and three turns.

Loren asked if RIO was included in the master plan.

Kevin stated that it is. He stated that the advisory board will have to consider how that affects this proposal. He stated that the old track is on the west end of RIO, he stated that you can see the old tower and where the path was if you are aware of what it looked like.

Brett asked if the old track would fit there.

Bobby stated that he thought the sanctioned track size hadn't changed much, so it was likely.

Loren asked if it would be fenced so that it can be a gated event and allow for controlled admission.

Bobby stated that there would be gate practice and during sanctioned events.

Loren stated that he would like to see that spelled out in an agreement so that it could be public as well.

Brett asked if parking would be addressed once the master plan was completed.

Kevin stated that if the aquatic center and other items are moved in, then we would have to put in parking.

He stated that we are still working to acquire the properties in the area.

Loren asked if it would require lighting.

Bobby stated that it would.

Loren stated that the City or his group would have to consider the electrical issues in that area.

Kendra asked what the next steps would be.

Kevin stated that once this board makes a decision, he would take it to the City Manager who would bring it to the City Commission.

Elect Chairperson/Vice Chairperson

Loren stated that he would like to stay on as chair.

Tyson nominated Loren as Chair.

Camielle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

Loren nominated Tyson as Vice Chair.

Camielle seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4 – 0.

Sales Tax Projects

Kevin reviewed the sales tax projects that were approved at the Commission meeting on Monday.

Team Selection Process Update

Kevin stated that several of the teams from outside of the city limits were not happy about the selection process, he stated that he didn't think there were any complaints from local teams. He stated that the majority were flag football complaints this fall.

Fall Activities

Kevin stated that numbers are down about 45% from last year, which they expected based on current circumstances. He stated that there were 86 enrolled in soccer, 86 in volleyball, and 56 in flag football. Kevin stated that staff have spread games out through the week for all three sports to help separate people. He stated that they are asking coaches to wear masks, participants don't have to. He stated that there will not be bleachers for flag football or soccer.

Kevin stated that they have had a few practices and one concern of a possible COVID issue that they are investigating.

Brett asked if there had been any conversations with 490 on utilizing the shared facilities for recreation sports.

Kevin stated that he hadn't, but was unsure if David has spoken to him.

New Business

Loren stated that they will be holding a soccer shoot in October, kids will do preliminaries locally and then go to district at Parsons and then come back to El Dorado October 25th for State.

Tyson asked if Heights League was meeting yet.

Don stated that the meeting is the first Wednesday in October.

Tyson stated that he is still raving about the softball fields at East Park, he stated that they are the best they have ever been.

Loren asked if the gaga ball pit is being used in North Main park.

Kevin stated that he had seen some legitimate play going on periodically.

Tabitha stated that the City's 150th is next year and the CTC will be steering the planning process. If anyone would like to volunteer can attend the meeting October 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Director's Report

Kevin stated that the Riverview Park playground equipment bid went out and is due mid-October. He stated that they plan to have a community meeting to talk to the residents in the apartments there before it goes to the Commission for approval.

Kevin stated that prior to the playground being replaced, there is some work being done to the river bank to improve the shoreline.

Kevin stated that prior to softball season, the City will be doing a fence project at Snell. He stated that there might also be work at Orndorff and the irrigation system at McDonald Stadium.

Loren asked if the low spot has been repair in the Center Field.

Kevin stated that we are making headway and it is significantly better than it was. He stated that the grass at McDonald Stadium is also getting better every year.

Kevin stated that there are a lot of maintenance projects such as tree trimming this fall and winter.

Kevin stated that the last day for the splash parks will be October 4th at the close of the day. He stated that they will utilize the sales tax funding approved for the splash parks to do some upgrades to that equipment.

Kevin stated that the vandalism in the restrooms hasn't been as bad as it was, primarily because we are closing them nightly. But vandalism is still happening during the day.

Brett asked if North Main had been repaired.

Kevin stated that it has and is open and being used. The repairs were \$5,000.

Loren asked if the skate park was being used.

Kevin stated that it ebbs and flows, but there are currently some people interested. He stated that he will be requesting funds to do some repair in next year's sales tax cycle.

Loren asked if the repairs were a liability.

Kevin stated that it's not necessarily a safety hazard, it's the old tennis court surface and so not as smooth as what they usually like.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.