



**Bentonville Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2017 – 5pm
Downtown Activity Center – 215 SW A Street**

Agenda

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes from February Meeting

New Business

1. Melvin Ford Parks Tour
2. Information Item Only, Not for Vote.
 - a. Review a proposed public art piece at Orchards Park

Other Business

Attachments:

*January 2016 PRAB Minutes
Capital Improvement Worksheet – March 2017*

APPROVED

Bentonville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting March 27, 2017

The Bentonville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met February 27, 2017 at the Downtown Activity Center.

Present were members Holly Hook, Courtney Schaffer, Craig Gilbert, Mike Power, Jon Terlouw, Amy Davis, Chris Sooter and Tom Butrynski. David Wright, Lee Farmer, Angel Stuler and Crant Osborne were present for the staff. Guests included Martin Smith from the EDG.

Meeting began at 5:00PM

Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes from January meeting
 - Motion to approve by Gilbert
 - Hook seconded the motion
 - Approved 5-0

New Business

1. Train Station Park – Wright informed PRAB on the public art installation request that needed PRAB's approval. The art has already been approved by the Public Art Committee, and if passed by PRAB, it will proceed to City Council for approval. If approved, the artwork will be installed at Train Station Park and is a story for kids as they walk through the park. In the later future, the story will change with the changing seasons. In addition, one of the authors is from Bentonville. Hook asked Wright about tracking visitors. Wright said we would probably install an eco-counter at the park. Hook motioned to approve the art proposal and Butrynski seconded it. The Public Art Installation was approved 8-0.
2. Lake Bentonville Improvements
 - Martin Smith, from the Ecological Design Group, presented PRAB with the new design plan for Lake Bentonville and the proposed Osage Prairie Park. An FPO will be added to the airport and will tie into the new design for Lake Bentonville. Natural plants will be introduced to the area such as additional swamp milkweed to attract monarch butterflies. A board walk will run through the privately owned public park (that will merge with Lake Bentonville). Both parks, the airport, and FPO will all tie in together. The biggest component will be taking down the dam, and expanding the lake which will make it a natural wetland. Budget on the new public park is 1.1 million. The playground currently at Lake Bentonville will be replaced. In addition, fishing will remain, water will improve via watershed, a dock will be installed for kayaks, trails will be added, native natural grass will be planted, a small music venue and a new parking lot that will include easy bus access for school field trips will also be built. Power asked about the timeline for the project. Wright said we will be lucky to push dirt this year, but most likely the

project will start in 2018. The Walton Family Foundation is keeping the private land, but for public use. Lake Bentonville will blend into the land (like Compton Gardens/ Crystal Bridges Trail). PRAB needs to vote on whether to accept the gift from the Walton Family Foundation – new parking lot and new playground for Lake Bentonville. Terlow asked Wright and Smith to consider installing a Leathers Playground when we replace the current playground at Lake Bentonville. He asked Smith to look into it. Sooter gave the motion to approve the Lake Bentonville Improvements and Hook seconded the motion. The Lake Bentonville Improvements plan was approved 7-0.

3. Parks and Recreation Ordinance Review

Wright said the City Attorney asked Bentonville Parks and Recreation to meet regarding revisions on current city ordinances (regarding parks and trails). Wright said a few of the revisions included section 63 – dogs (add dog park after dog run). Another revision includes any youth sports board must require a background check on coaches. All felony offenses in the last 10 years (excluding violent or sexual - they'll never be able to be a part of any of our programs) and misdemeanor charges with drugs/alcohol within the last 5 years can apply after the 10/ 5 year lapse. The National Recreation and Parks Association worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the 10 year felony/ 5 year misdemeanor offenses rule and we are implementing this into our department. Wright said the other article that we plan to revise is the section regarding Bentonville public lakes. We want revise it to say it is okay to have non-motor boats in our lakes. Power gave the motion to approve the ordinances and Sooter seconded the motion. The Parks and Recreation Ordinance revisions were approved 8-0.

4. Citizens Park Playground Concept Drawings Presentation

Farmer presented the design for the all-inclusive playground for Citizens Park. Public input was sought from special need teachers, parents, and Bentonville Public Schools. The playground design enables both able-bodied and special need children to play side by side. Public feedback included: lots of shade, a place where parents can congregate, fence, and a hard surface (no mulch). The theme of the park is cycling because Bentonville is a cycling destination. The playground will be located on the south west corner of Citizens Park and will be about 1/3 of an acre. It includes a zip line, wide slides, chimes and swings. A donor wall with name plates may be added. Schaefer mentioned possibly adding a digital kiosk for this.

5. 2016 Annual Report

Wright presented the 2016 Annual Report rough draft to PRAB. He asked that all feedback be emailed to Stuler by Friday, March 3rd, in order to make the changes and get it to print.

Other Business

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 PM