

CITY OF MERRIAM PARK AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 24th, 2017  
6:00PM

**Roll Call**

The February meeting of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:02 pm, by Chairperson Tom Heffron. Board members in attendance included: Kathy Stull, LaVera Howard, Thelma Fowler, Suzanne Downey and Grant Getzlow. Katie Leary was excused. Staff members in attendance included: Anna Slocum, Director; Dave Smothers, Assistant Director; Sara Thompson, Recreation Supervisor, and Ingrid Berg, Assistant Program Coordinator.

**Public Comments**

There was no one present for public comments.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Kathy Stull made a motion to accept the January meeting minutes and Lavera Howard seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

**Staff Reports**

**Director's Report**

Facility Master Plan Update

At the February 13th City Council meeting, city council unanimously agreed to eliminate the Band-Aid option from the three options for moving forward with the facilities. The reasoning behind the decision stems from past Citizen Satisfaction Surveys and the emphasis placed on maintaining and improving city services. This option would not meet the expectations that citizens have placed on maintenance. In addition, the costs associated with this approach would not be visible – spending \$5 million on pipes and HVAC with no improvements in meeting the needs identified in the Master Plan Survey. At last night's council meeting, staff provided a "State of the Facilities" update. Since the conditions have worsened since the studies were completed in 2014/2015 staff wanted to update Council on current conditions. A summary of this presentation will be part of the weekly blog post – including photos. Included in the Summer Highlights that is being packaged will be a four page insert on the remaining two options.

April Park Board Meeting

The April Park Board meeting will not have a typical agenda. This meeting will be a special joint meeting including City Council, Park Board, the Steering Committee and the public, led by the Mayor. Staff will be working on an agenda, invitations will be sent to those that participated in past open house events as well as those that have participated in programs, have memberships or season passes. This will be the chance for the three groups to ask questions of staff, of each other, listen to public comment and help guide City Council in the decision that needs to be made. Our goal is for this meeting to be very interactive with great conversation and questions. If you are on NEXT DOOR, what are neighbors saying – what questions are you asked in the grocery store – this will be a good time to help staff educate the public in areas that there maybe some misunderstanding or confusion. It will help us ensure everyone is all moving together with the same focus on doing what is best for the citizens of Merriam.

2017 Park Passport Program

We will once again be participating in the Park Passport program. Information will be in the summer Highlights. Our park will be Campbell Park since it is the featured park in the summer highlights. There were no changes made to the

structure of the program – participants will be encouraged to visit the 6 designated parks during the month of July and submit their passport for a chance to win a 2018 aquatic season pass and SuperPass.

### 2017 Project Update

- \*Quail Creek Playground Replacement with 2 benches-donated by the Foundation.  
(decision on playground tonight – benches are here)
- \*Four new Park Signs (Campbell, Quail Creek, Waterfall, Werner) – approved and in fabrication;
- \*Eight new park rule signs – waiting installation by Public Works
- \*Drinking Fountain Replacement – Brown and Chatlain Park – ordered – waiting installation when able to turn water on
- \*Fence Enclosure on Dumpster at Brown – completed
- \*Additional Trash Containers at Brown – installed
- \*Enclose Power at Brown – on schedule with vendor
- \*Replacement Street Banners – later in 2017
- \*Replacement of grill at Vavra Park – ordered
- \*Concrete pads under picnic tables at Quail Creek and Campbell – spring / summer project
- \*Replacement Camera – donation of Foundation – completed.

### **Assistant Director's Report**

#### **Updates**

##### 2017 Farmers' Market Season Update

There are 22 Saturday vendors (20 returning and 2 new) and 13 Wednesday vendors (10 returning and 3 new). There will be several food trucks every Wednesday with Farmers' and Food Trucks (with craft beer & wine) the first Wednesday of the June, July & August. Staff will be marketing through Find It KC, FaceBook®, and Dos Mundos. It was suggested to try the neighborhood app, Next Door or sending out postcards to area residents that they could bring to the market and enter into a door prize drawing.

#### **Upcoming Events**

##### Heartland Art Exhibition

The opening night reception for this, the next exhibit at the Tim Murphy Art Gallery is Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-7:00 pm. It features 121 works from 73 artists from 11 states across the US. The Doug Talley Duo will provide entertainment and complimentary appetizers, beer, wine & soft drinks will be served.

### **Recreation Supervisor's Report**

#### **Updates**

##### Turkey Creek Festival Report

The first committee meeting was held in January and will meet again in April. The festival is scheduled for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The 5K run starts at 8am (IBFCC), the Lion's Pancake Breakfast at 8am (Antioch Park) and festival activities at 10 am (Antioch Park). The new run logo and more detailed festival information is included in the packet.

##### Daddy Daughter Dance

The theme this year was CANDYLAND and ran throughout with ice cream/candy bar to decorations. It was a very successful evening with 105 in attendance and lots of good volunteers. New this year, staff ordered pizza from Papa Murphy's which was a big hit with the dads and daughters alike.

## **Upcoming Events**

### Yoga in the Heartland

This event is scheduled for Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am-noon in the Tim Murphy Art Gallery with a sneak peak of the Heartland exhibit.

## **Old Business**

### Discovery Soccer

Discovery Soccer Academy is asking to rent Waterfall Park on May 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> for a 24hr soccer game benefitting Great Plains SPCA. Kathy Stull moved to approve this event and Tom Heffron seconded the motion; motion was approved unanimously.

## **New Business**

### Quail Creek Playground Project

Four playground options were discussed. Suzanne Downey moved to recommend "Option 1" (The Whole Shebang) to City Council, Lavera Howard seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously. This will be presented for approval at the March 13<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting.

## **Other Business**

### KRPA Outstanding Park Project

Brown Park was honored in January at KRPA annual conference ---the multi-year, joint department project was recognized for the improvements made to the park – new playground, shelter, monument signs, enclosures for dumpster and portable toilet totaling approximately \$300,000.

### Brown Park Vandalism

Two weeks ago kids were caught lighting nail polish remover in the shelter at the Brown Park – no damage was done. The next day it was discovered that the monument sign had been damaged again. Staff met with the vendor to discuss a solution to prevent this from happening in the future. The blue arch is not secured to the pillars allowing vandals to lift one end which then causes the breakage. In addition to finding a solution to fix this sign, staff is talking to the manufacturer to redesign the new signs currently in production to be secured in a similar fashion.

## **Adjournment**

Kathy Stull moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm and Tom Heffron seconded; motion was approved unanimously.