

Osage City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2008
6:30PM -- City Council Chambers

Board Members Present: Gary Griffith, Michelle Plinsky, Jodi Stark, Dave Azwell, John Garland

Board Members Absent: Will Kerns and Melody Baker

Staff Present: Corey Linton, Recreation Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Gary Griffith and seconded by Dave Azwell. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2008 was made by Jodi Stark and seconded by Michelle Plinsky. The motion passed 5-0.

Items which were discussed by the Recreation Director:

JULIE CARLSON (CONRAD CARLSON FOUNDATION)

Julie Carlson, on behalf of the Conrad Carlson Foundation made a presentation about a walking path to be located at Huffman Park. Julie displayed a site drawing of Huffman Park. Julie discussed the interest in working with the city to create the walking path. She stated she spoke with Fred Hallowell (OC Street Department Head) a couple of years ago about the surface for the walking path. She said at the time the city had a lot of millings and would be willing to put heated millings down as the walking path surface.

Julie also said they would need help from the city to create the walking path. The city would need to prep the site by skimming the top layer of ground in order to place the millings down. Julie stated the walking path could be done in phases depending on cost and time the city had. Julie also stated that the Conrad Carlson Foundation would be willing to help cost and labor on the project.

Julie informed the Park Board and Corey that the Conrad Carlson Foundation would donate \$500 to the OCPR Scholarship Fund.

Julie also discussed scorekeeper shelters at the Jones Park Ball Complex. She said the Conrad Carlson Foundation would be willing to help fund a project at the ball fields to place shelters where the scorekeepers sit during ball games. Julie said the foundation would help with materials cost. John Garland stated if the city needed a group to help with the project labor to contact him.

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6:30PM -- City Council Chambers

WINTER PROGRAMS

School House Rock Live

Rehearsals began the first week of February for the 4th-6th grade section. Rehearsals for the Pre-K & K division and 1st-3rd grade division will begin the end of February. There are 4 signed up in the Pre-K & K division, 11 in the 1st-3rd grade division, and 4 in the 4th-6th grade division.

Spring Break Art Camp

OCPR with Jennifer Towle will offer a spring break art camp March 17-20. The art camp will be at the Osage City "Scout" Building from 8:30am-12:00pm. The art camps are divided into three sections, Pre-School-1st Grade, 2nd-4th Grade, and 5th-8th Grade. Deadline for sign-up is March 14.

Youth Baseball (ECKL)

Sunday, February 17 the ECKL had its winter meeting. In attendance were town reps from Pomona, Appanoose, Williamsburg, North Lyon County, and Lyndon. Also in attendance were town reps from Eskridge (Rex Kraus) and Burlingame (John Dorr).

At the meeting information about sanctioning with Babe Ruth was discussed, team fees, and insurance costs if a town needs insurance. Rex and John discussed the possibility of merging the Flint Hills League Junior Division with the ECKL Junior Babe Ruth division. FHL team numbers have declined and the ECKL had 5 teams in their division last year. Rex and John said they would bring this merger up at the FHL spring meeting in March.

The ECKL discussed rule changes for the 2008 season. The rule changes focused on the 8 & under division. Beginning in 2008, the 8 & under division will be modified kid-pitch. Pitchers are allowed to pitch two (2) innings per game, per pitcher. Batters can not walk. If a batter receives ball four, the team's coach will come out and assume the strike count. Batters then either have to hit the ball into fair territory, or strike count.

The ECKL refined its all-star selection process, in regards too if a player from a town can be chosen and can not play in the all-star game.

The ECKL determined when their Spring declaration meeting will be. The meeting will be Sunday, April 6, in Osage City.

Osage City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2008
6:30PM -- City Council Chambers

Osage City Aquatic Center

At the end of January, OCPR sent out letters to 2007 summer staff asking who will be returning. The deadline for the return letters was February 15. As of this meeting all but two staff have returned their letters. Lynn Tice and Corey will then determined if additional summer staff will need to be hired for 2008. If additional staff is to be hired, Corey will advertise this for a minimum of two weeks, with the application deadline of March 28. Lynn and Corey will then conduct interviews, if needed, and determine whom to hire by the middle or end of April. This would give Lynn time to certify staff, if needed. OCAC will open for the summer on May 24.

Corey brought up discussion about the family pool passes at OCAC. The concern is the occasional abuse by families when they purchase a family pass. Corey gave the option of converting to all punch passes. If punch passes were chosen, they would be increments of 10, 20, and 50. Initially the 50 punch card would cost \$50 (\$1 per visit), the 20 punch card would be \$40 (\$2 per visit), and a 10 punch card would be \$25 (\$2.50 per visit). The daily admission for people age 4 and above is \$3 per permission. By using this option families could end up spending more money attending the pool, because a Family Pass is \$150.

A second option would be to raise all passes at the pool. The cost of a single pass or a family pass has not gone up in the 3 years the pool has been in operation. The initial idea of increase would be 10%. This could cause a single pass to go from \$60 to \$66, and a family pass to go from \$150 to \$165. Also there was discussion about raising the 10 punch swim card from \$20 to \$25.

A third option to combat the abuse of the family pass system, was to issue a specific OCAC swim pass to each individual who purchases a single pass and for each individual on a family pass list. The swim passes would be credit card size, laminated cards, which the public would be responsible for. These swim cards would be required to be shown in order to enter OCAC. If a patron lost their swim card(s), it would cost them \$5 per card to replace.

In general the park board was in favor of an increase in pricing to the pool passes. They were also in agreement of implementing the third option discussed.

Osage City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2008
6:30PM -- City Council Chambers

SMOKE IN THE SPRING UPDATE

As of February 21, 14 teams were signed up for the Smoke in the Spring.

Several of the major Smoke in the Spring sponsors have been determined.

Grand Champion Sponsor	Norseman Plastics
Brisket Class Champion Sponsor	Budweiser (Mussatto Brothers)
Ribs Class Champion Sponsor	Osage City Chamber of Commerce
Chicken Class Champion Sponsor	1 st State Bank of Burlingame
Blue Ribbon Sponsors	Edward Jones (Taste of Osage City)
	Bank of Osage City (BBQ Judge Sponsor)
	Landmark Bank

Corey displayed a design for the new lapel pins. Each BBQ team and BBQ Judge will receive a goodie bag with various items in the goodie bags. Corey is working on a hand towel to be given to the judges. Edward Jones is willing to pay half of the hand towel cost, as long as their logo appears on the hand towel. Corey also stated he would be talking with Norseman Plastics on a Norseman package for the BBQ teams, from the products they produce.

Jared "Pete" Gile and Groovus Maximus will be the entertainment at the Smoke in the Spring on April 11. Pete Gile is a local country artist, who will perform from 5:30-7:30pm. Groovus Maximus is a blues, classic rock cover band from Parsons. They will perform from 8:00-11:00pm.

Several local groups will be selling items at the Smoke in the Spring for fundraising. The 4-H Willing Workers will sell different kinds of nuts, The OC Lions Club will operate the Beer Garden, the Conrad Carlson Foundation will sell cotton candy, the Lutheran Youth Group will sell funnel cakes, and the OC Band Booster Club will sell a BBQ lunch on Saturday. The groups will be placed as close to the center of the competition as possible.

Osage City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 21, 2008
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MISC.

LED Community Sign Update Corey gave an update about the LED Community Sign. At the most recent Chamber of Commerce meeting Casey Mussatto discussed the interest from the Chamber in a community sign. Casey has done a lot of research and passed around a sheet for people to sign up to be on a committee for the sign project. Corey said he put his name on the list. Casey indicated at the meeting that USD 420 would also be interested in the sign project, as well as local businesses.

The Osage City Chamber of Commerce donated \$1,000 to Osage City Parks and Recreation from proceeds received from the Christmas Opener. The donation is to be used for improvement to Lincoln Park.

Corey discussed his invitation by USD 420 to their last school board meeting. At the meeting Corey gave a year in review of programs and happenings from OCPR. Corey also said the school board asked him his opinion of their possible development at Jones Park. In regards to his feelings of what issues need to be tackled with the development. Corey said he stated to the school board the biggest issue he thought should be focused on is flooding. With the possibility of flooding issues, especially after last May, that is it flooded only one time, this could ruin anything the school board develops in that area. Once the flooding issue is solved, Corey stated he thought the school board's ideas for amenities at the area would be sufficient.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Will Kerns and seconded by Dave Azwell. The motion passed 6-0.