



BOARD OF PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

JCPRD Administration Building Boardroom
7900 Renner Road, Shawnee Mission, KS 66219

April 8, 2019
6:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Baru, and roll call was taken as follows:

Board Members Present: Steve Baru, Bob Carlson, Jeff Meyers, Leslee Rivarola (entrance noted in minutes), George Schlagel, Paul Snider

Board Members Absent: Steve Klika, Heather Rubesch

Guests Present: None

Staff Members Present:

Jill Geller, Executive Director
Jeff Stewart, Deputy Director
Terry Anderson, Superintendent of Safety & Outdoor Education/Park Police Chief
Bill Maasen, Superintendent of Parks & Golf Courses
Susan Mong, Superintendent of Culture
Rhonda Pollard, Superintendent of Recreation
Jo Ann Courtney, Administration & HR Manager
David Grant, Human Resources Director
Jay Hinrichs, Development Director
Cliff Middleton, Planning & Development Manager

Richard Smalley, Marketing & Communications Mgr.
Ted Tartenaar, Information Technology Services Mgr.
Noelle Testa, Chief Financial Officer
Jennifer Assmann, Sr. Administrative Assistant
Mary Eads, Administration Assistant
Drew Dobbeleare, Natural Resources Technician
Bill McGowan, Outdoor Education Manager
Shannon Sonnier, Sports & Facilities South Manager
Doug Hite, Sports & Facilities North Manager
Matt Garrett, Field Biologist
Mindi Love, Museum Director

DISCUSSION & ACTION

- A. Natural Resources Study** – Bill Maasen, Supt. of Parks & Golf Courses; Matt Garrett, Field Biologist; Kim Chapman, Applied Ecological Services

Mr. Maasen recognized the leadership of the study consultant, Applied Ecological Services (AES), represented by Regional Director Dr. Kim Chapman, and partner, Vireo, represented by Traveece Penelton. Mr. Maasen also recognized the efforts of Field Biologist Matt Garrett and Natural Resource Technician Drew Dobbeleare.

Mr. Garrett informed the project has been in process since late 2017, and in 2018, AES and its consulting partner, Vireo were selected to complete this natural resource management plan via a typical request for proposal (RFP) process. He noted JCPRD is a regional leader in conservation, with 8,700 of its 10,000 acres preserved as natural areas.

Mr. Chapman expressed his appreciation to staff, noting their significant impact on the study. He presented the Natural Resources Study through a PowerPoint, as presented in the meeting agenda packet.

JCPRD's Natural Resources Vision: The forests, prairies, waters, and wildlife in JCPRD's parks and streamways will be protected, restored, and well-managed to be diverse and long-lasting for the enjoyment of all people now and in the future.

He addressed the importance of natural land covers and vegetation and the effects of invasive species – both plants and animals. He reported on the water resources throughout the county, noting all are downstream of cropland and development. He advised of community engagement, which included various levels and types of public input including formulation of a steering committee, surveys, pop up input sessions, and data collection throughout the past year. He informed that JCPRD received over 1,000 responses to the online opinion survey.

Following his detailed review of operation and maintenance modes, staffing, equipment, current available budget, benchmarking and acquisitions & easements, Mr. Chapman presented the study's natural resources conservation and management plan, as well as implementation. He noted the plan provided the following conclusions:

- JCPRD has considerable natural land holdings,
- Compared with other park districts, JCPRD has less staffing & funding for natural resources, and
- Allocating additional resources to JCPRD's Natural Resource Program will enable needed management to occur, with benefits for land, water, wildlife, and the entire county.

Mr. Chapman advised a wide restoration and management plan for all priority terrestrial projects in all JCPRD parks would cost approximately \$35.9 million utilizing outside contractors. The 10-year priority plan would total \$6,519,735.

In response to inquiry by Mr. Schlagel, Mr. Maasen advised the Capital Improvements Plan will be reviewed in the fall, but currently there are no funds dedicated to natural resources. In response to Mr. Schlagel's further questioning, Ms. Geller informed the Legacy Plan addresses staffing but not funding.

Mr. Baru expressed the Board's appreciation for the Natural Resources Study, noting it was an impressive and exciting report.

It was noted that establishing funding for protecting resources should be a priority starting in 2020 with an additional staff member and a larger budget.

COW-1 It was the consensus of the Committee of the Whole to recommend Board consent acceptance of the Natural Resource Management Plan prepared by Applied Ecological Services as presented.

B. Outdoor Sports Facilities Study – Jill Geller, Executive Director; Jeff Stewart, Deputy Director; Rhonda Pollard, Superintendent of Recreation; The Clark Enersen Partners

Ms. Geller introduced the Outdoor Sports Facilities Study as developed by The Clark Enersen Partners. She noted the attendance of Sean Ray, Landscape Architect, and Rick Wise, Architect, from Clark Enersen, who were present to answer questions and provide information as requested.

A noted finding of the study is that attendance and usership at JCPRD's outdoor facilities are decreasing due to the condition of the facilities, as they have not been maintained and renovated to the standard of other municipalities' and school districts' facilities. The county's population and popularity of youth sports have grown significantly, with no improvements to JCPRD facilities. Many users prefer synthetic turf facilities over natural grass fields.

Mr. Stewart detailed needs and potential Phase I and Phase II improvements at the following outdoor recreation facilities:

- HP Football Complex - \$10,950,648
- Heritage Soccer Complex - \$40,147,320
- Heritage Softball Complex - \$5,314,033
- Mid-America Sports Complex - \$26,640,569
- Mid-America West Sports Complex - \$14,776,305

It was noted the soccer complex at Thomas Stoll Memorial Park was also considered in the study but no improvements are suggested for that site, as it is recommended the current facility use be transferred to the improved Heritage Soccer Park.

Leslee Rivarola entered the meeting at 7: 25 p.m.

The study found that JCPRD facilities, if improved as recommended, would increase visitations and the return on investment would be more than four times the initial investment. Net revenues realized from increased use of these improved facilities would be put into future improvements.

Ms. Geller presented funding scenarios for the study's proposed improvements. Discussion was held on the possibility of debt financing to fund these projects. Inclusion of funding for the Safety Plan was noted in the presentation as well, as the Board has indicated the Safety Plan as a priority.

Ms. Geller presented staff's recommendation to recommend Board consent approval of the Outdoor Athletic Facilities Study as presented. Mr. Baru and Mr. Snider suggested the Board consider acceptance of the study instead of approval of it.

Mr. Meyers noted lighting improvements as recommended in the study are long overdue.

COW-2 It was the consensus of the Committee of the Whole to recommend consent acceptance of the Outdoor Athletic Facilities Study as developed by The Clark Enersen Partners as presented.

Mr. Stewart expressed appreciation to The Clark Enersen Partners firm and JCPRD staff including Shannon Sonnier, Doug Hite, Jill Geller, Rhonda Pollard, Cliff Middleton, Bill Maasen, and Richard Smalley.

C. 2019 Fees & Charges Policies Revisions & 2020 Fees & Charges – Jill Geller, Executive Director

Ms. Geller and the division superintendents presented staff's recommended Fees and Charges Policies for 2019, as presented in the meetings' agenda packet with recommended revisions.

Mr. Snider's request that Policy 9.1.1.1. include notice that general fund covers capital costs for recreational facilities.

COW-3 It was the consensus of the Committee of the Whole to recommend Board consent approval of Fees and Charges for 2019 as presented with modification that Policy 9.1.1.1. Revenues / Enterprise Fund Policy include notice that general fund covers capital costs for recreational facilities.

Ms. Geller and the division superintendents presented staff's recommended Fees and Charges for 2020, as presented in the meetings' agenda packet with recommended revisions.

COW-4 It was the consensus of the Committee of the Whole to recommend Board consent approval of Fees and Charges for 2020 as presented.

D. Preliminary 2020 Budget – Jill Geller, Executive Director; Noelle Testa, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Geller noted staff's recommendation for the proposed 2020 budget was previously distributed to the Board for review prior to consideration, with summaries as follows:

- JCPRD Mill Levy – 3.088 mills / \$65,940,032
 - General Fund – 2.500 mills / \$33,556,620 with \$28,082,940 in ad valorem taxes
 - Includes Legacy Plan Funding – 0.726 mills / \$7,966,937
 - Enterprise Fund – 0.00 mills / \$24,416,124 – fee supported
 - Employee Benefits Fund – 0.500 mills / \$7,967,288 with \$5,572,288 in ad valorem taxes
 - Bond & Interest Fund – 0.00 mills, GO bond issue for Big Bull Creek Park will pay off its 20-year obligation in 2019.

Mr. Schlagel stated he would like JCPRD to fund 1/10 of recommended cost for the Natural Resources Plan, with continuing that funding over a 10-year span as presented in the plan.

Mr. Snider stated JCPRD should ensure marketing efforts to apprise citizens that approval of the preliminary 2020 budget will take place next week.

It was the consensus of the to add consideration of the preliminary 2020 Budget to the Discussion & Action portion of the Regular Board Meeting agenda on April 17, 2019.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Testa announced JCPRD will be sending the preliminary offering statement for proposed certificates of participation issuance to the Board for their information and review.

Ms. Rivarola stated she had a procedural question for the chair. She noted if implementation of the Outdoor Facilities Study is approved in the future, additional funding would have a significant impact on the budget. She inquired if, from a timing standpoint, would the issue be separate from the budget's timeline. Mr. Baru responded the budget should be considered without the addition of potential additional funding. He noted, and Ms. Geller concurred, that although JCPRD has statutory authority to seek voter approval for either a mill levy increase or general obligation bond issuance, JCPRD has an agreement with Johnson County Government that it will not take an issue to vote without first taking it to the BOCC.

ADJOURNMENT

No further business was discussed. Mr. Baru adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

**BOARD OF PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

[Signature on file]

STEVE BARU, Board Chair

Prepared by: Jo Ann Courtney, Administration & HR Manager

Approved April 17, 2019