

**MINUTES
REGULAR CALLED MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
APRIL 24, 2019**

The Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission was held Monday, April 24, 2019 at the Owens Multipurpose Center, 1405 SW 11th St, Lawton, Oklahoma and called to order by Chairman Ross Hankins, at 5:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ross Hankins, Jason Wells, Susan Thompson, Sherene Williams (6:20pm), Larry Craig, Anthony Cox, and Wayne Willis.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Brierton, Jacobi Crowley, William Copeland.

STAFF PRESENT: Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation Director; Reginald Seaton, Recreation Services Administrator; Jeanie Wheeler, Recording Secretary; Jerry Thorne, Sports Supervisor, and Shane Huck, Sports Supervisor.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

No minutes were presented at the meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None.

1. CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION, IF NECESSARY, TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO STAFF ON THE FORMAL COMPLAINT RECEIVED FROM CRYSTAL SEIBERT.

Hankins introduced this item for discussion and request for consideration. He asked staff to present the background for this item.

Hanna informed the commission that this complaint resulted from the removal of players from the game from a Cache softball team due to the parents' behavior. (See attachments for statements of parties involved). The request from the formal complaint is that the parents of the players removed desire the coaches for the team to be removed; Cody Howell and Preston Mitchell. Also, the other equally important complaint is that these players did not get to play in the game. The rules of the game are that all players be afforded the opportunity to play. The coaches on the other hand say their main issue was that the parents were blasting the coaches on social media and going as far as trying to get a coach fired from their job.

Hanna continued that neither coach knew the players involved were ADHD. At present both players are still not playing with the team. He added that Mrs. Seibert is asking for an \$85.00 refund of the playing fees for her child. At this time the uniforms for the player has not been returned.

Seaton added that the main complaint the Seibert's have is to have the coaches removed from coaching.

Cox confirmed that this happened at the first game of the season and noted that one of the players left early. He added it looks like the complaint is also stating there was discrimination due to the ADHD issue of the players.

Hankins and Cox agreed that the refund would be an issue with the Booster Club involved since only \$25.00 is actually paid to the City Parks and Recreation Department per player.

There was continued discussion amongst the commission members referencing Rule #4 – Coaches conduct and Rule #6 involving all player participation as situation permits.

Cox stated since the 12 U is an open league game the players should have gotten to play in the first game, but the refund issue is a Booster Club issue and did not agree that the coaches should be removed because of one incident the very first game.

Hanna added that after discussion with the coaches it was not found that either one singled out any one player and was trying to keep all players in mind.

There had been discussion that a suggestion to the Team Organizers to have Rules and By-Laws concerning their teams coaches/team coordinators.

Willis emphasized the \$25.00 per player goes to Parks and Recreation not the Booster Club.

Hanna and Seaton both agreed the meeting with coaches and parents did not resolve the problem.

There was no other discussion concerning the request and a motion was called.

MOTION by Cox. SECOND by Willis.

To approve recommendation to the Parks and Recreation staff that the coaches not be suspended due to the Parks Commission agreement no rules of the league as placed in the rules handbook had been violated.

AYES: Hankins, Wells, Thompson, Williams, Craig, Cox and Willis. NAYS. None.
MOTION CARRIED.

A. Leisure Services Activity Report. (Reginald Seaton, Leisure Services Administrator).

Seaton reported that the outside mural at the Patterson Center being wood was too damaged to preserve and the cost to redo the mural would be \$5,000.00. Staff has taken pictures of the mural prior to keep because of the historical value and have done a collaborative effort in coming up with a way to preserve this mural idea within the center itself. This would focus on the seniors and getting the youth back involved into the community seeing what they would like for the preservation of the mural. So every effort in finding a way to preserve the mural is being done.

Another effort that is being made is to provide a video library about the Patterson Center to be viewed by those who come to the center to visit. (Seaton passed a copy of the picture of the mural to the Commissioners).

Hankins stated that is about the youth in our community becoming more involved.

B. Parks and Recreation Director's report.

Hanna reported that due to the rain-out situation regular games were delayed and some teams were dropped and the staff is working rescheduling. Coach Pitch and T-Ball have at this time only played one game. Regular games are scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Once the middle school and high school schedules are played there will be an explosion of players wanting to play. He added that the prior Friday games played as scheduled but games were cancelled on Good Friday. All games will be rescheduled.

He added there is an officials issue concerning there are not enough officials.

Hanna informed that there will be a transition for the new scheduling website but will help in the growth of scheduling more teams and/or players.

Thompson agreed growth goal is important.

Hanna emphasized that due to forming by age group there are some players on independent and not on other teams. He reminded that Parks and Recreation leagues are established more as recreational leagues offering the playing experience for all children to play not for so much for competitive. Except for 10UI and 12U the teams are established in groups staying with the schools they attend.

Cox asked about doing Saturday games?

Hanna stated that yes they would schedule some Saturdays and those would be posted in the next week with some double headers.

Hanna reported that the new scoreboards were being replaced at Grand View and McMahon ballparks and he invited the commissioners to go and see them as they can. They will also be installing at the Eastside Park as weather permits.

Hanna also reported that at the lakes the dock at the Ralph's Resort was 99 percent replaced; also the concrete for the pavilion at Elmer Thomas Park is being completed also and the fountain pump is being replaced at Lake Helen at Elmer Thomas Park.

COMMENTS/DISCUSSION/ADJOURNMENT

Hankins commented that it would be nice to introduce everybody at the meeting to the new commissioners attending and preceded introducing the Commissioners and staff respectively.

Hankins also noted that 75 percent of this Commission's job is to overview proposals for the Sports Rules and agenda recommendations to the City Council, but this commission also assists staff in proposals for park facility improvements. He added all recommendations come thru the Parks and Recreation Department and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Hanna added that the Patterson Center received a 45,000 dollar grant for the new siding going on it at this time.

Hanna reported that the first budget meeting with the City Manager staff would be this Friday at 1:30 pm.

Thompson asked about the when the pool and splash pads would be opened. Hanna answered the pool would be open after Memorial Day but goal is to open the splash pads earlier. He added that they are also repainting the wading pool at Harmon Park.

Hanna announced that there will be a ribbon cutting for the new Thunder Court at Lee West Park in May and it would be announced thru the Thunder Corporation and at this time anymore information is not available. He added that this improvement included a 25,000 upgrade.

There was no other discussion and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED
ROSS HANKINS, CHAIRMAN
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION