

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION REGULAR CALLED MEETING
JULY 17, 2024, 4:15 PM
OWENS CENTER
1405 SW 11TH ST., LAWTON, OKLAHOMA
STANLEY HAYWOOD ROOM

Dewayne Burk: Deputy City Manager

Also Present: Misty Roberts/Lakes Admin 2

Larry Parks: Director/Parks and Recreations

Austin Rabon called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m. Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

Austin Rabon (Co-Chair)
Donald Smith
Kade McClure
George Gill

Absent:

Mark Scott (Chair)
Dustin Hilliary
Tim Hushbeck

REPORTS: PARKS & RECREATION STAFF: No reports

COMMISSION MEMBERS: Don Smith reports that there is heavy traffic of watercraft at sunset at the lake that the police don't seem to be taking care of. It is not uncommon to observe sea-doo's out on the lake which are not supposed to be out more than 30 minutes before sunset. Usually, you can still see some out there at 9:00 pm. The Saturday of Memorial Day weekend there were two sea-doo's operated by young girls, no life jackets with windy-white cap conditions on the lake. Some days it is like the wild west on the lake and police don't seem to be out there taking care of business on the lake at sunset. Highway Patrol was out the weekend before doing boat registration inspections. Gill states that the police department has a boat, and this is something that needs to be addressed with the chief. Smith states that if they were on the lake every Friday and Saturday night that more than likely they could ticket at least one person a night due to not following the laws and regulations of the lake.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

Old Business:

Consider waiving the rules to reconsider previous action taken by the commission regarding the development of a plan to revamp the park located in the School House Slough campground area in the memory of Donald Ryans and take action if necessary. ***waving the rules to reconsider this item will require a 2/3 majority vote of all commissioners***

(excerpt from minutes from January 17, 2024)

A. Discuss and take action, if necessary, on the Donald Ryans Memorial Park at the School House Slough

Rabon states that there is a park over by the School House Slough that is basically run down. Donald Ryans was tragically killed in a car accident. Donald was a huge supporter of the lake and had a large presence at the lake. What we would like to do is revamp the park to get it where kids can play and picnic there. We are wanting to establish the Donald Ryans Memorial Park and it be funded by donations and the City of Lawton help on how we get those funds. Rabon states they have talked to the Country Club, and they are willing to do a golf tournament and people are excited about it. It is a way to get funds to be able to revamp the park without spending a lot of money from the City of Lawton and possibly the City matching funds.

A motion was made by Scott to approve and develop a plan for Donald Ryans Memorial Park at the School House Slough. Second made by McClure

AYES: Scott, Rabon, Hilliary, Smith, McClure, Hushbeck, Gill. NAY: NONE. MOTION CARRIED

Rabon states that back in January there was discussion regarding doing a Donald Ryans Park. Donald Ryans a big part of the lake community that was tragically killed in a car accident. What was talked about was dedicating the Donald Ryans Memorial Park at the School House Slough. Rabon states that there is people willing to do a golf tournament to raise money and a lot of other support from others wanting to contribute to get this done. Rabon would like to take this to City Council to get this approved so that fund raising can start and look to the city to help match funds. McClure asked if there was a location of where the park is going to be. Rabon states that the location would be at the already existing park that is at the School House Slough. The park and equipment is run down and not useable. Gill asked why this is being brought back up since this was approved already. Rabon states that he needs the City Council to establish a special revenue fund so that fund raising can begin. Burk states that the first step would be to get a recommendation and agenda item to take to city council and dedicate the park and establish the fund. Burk states that the Parks director Larry Parks already has an improvement plan to place new equipment out at the slough and upgrade the park. Burk states that he thinks it's a tremendous gesture that this is wanting to be done but to keep in mind when that door opens, there are a lot of people that have been involved and grown up at the lake and where do you stop the dedication of renaming parks.

There was continued discussion regarding the steps and legal process that it would take to establish the park. There was a motion made by McClure table the item and a second made by Smith to table this agenda item.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve the minutes from April 17th, 2024, regular called meeting.

A motion was made by Smith to approve the April 17th, 2024, regular called meeting and a second made by McClure to approve the minutes. **AYES: Rabon, Smith, McClure, Gill. MOTION PASSED**

B. Receive a presentation from staff and allow for audience participation regarding tentative improvement projects for Lakes Lawtonka and Ellsworth and take action as necessary.

Burk states that about a year ago that there was a lot of discussion and different meetings regarding lakes improvements. The biggest concern was that if the rates were going to increase improvements would want to be seen. One thing that was brought up by the Mayor was to have staff seek out a \$3,000,000 loan and that funding would be utilized for improvements at the lakes. At the time there was not a mechanism to

repay the loan. We have now instituted the increase in the rates and generating more revenue. We are still having to buy out Wallers contract. A plan now needs to be brought back to council for their consideration of approval of what improvements will look like. We have stepped out priorities and now that we are closer to the funding a plan needs to be finalized.

Parks gives a slide presentation on proposed lakes improvements and cost estimates.

Plan attached.

A motion was made by **Gill** to accept the improvement projects for Lakes Lawtona and Ellsworth and a second by **Smith**. **AYES: Rabon, Smith, McClure, Gill. MOTION PASSED**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, MARK SCOTT