

**MINUTES
PARK BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

THE PARK BOARD MET IN REGULAR SESSION IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 12 NORTH ROWE STREET, PRYOR, OKLAHOMA AT THE ABOVE MENTIONED DATE AND TIME.

BOARD MEMBERS: ** BILL KANNEGIESSER, MELINDA MARKS, PAT RICHARD, WAYNE JONES, LORI SIEVER, CHRIS GRAVES, CONNIE MELTON

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

Chairman Kannegiesser called the Park Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Members present included: Bill Kannegiesser, Melinda Marks, Pat Richard, Wayne Jones, Lori Siever, Chris Graves, Connie Melton.

Others present included: Mayor Tramel, Park Superintendent Frank Powell, Cemetery Employee Joel Keith, Councilor Cheryl White, Councilor Drew Stott, "The Paper" reporter Terry Aylward, "The Times" reporter Cydney Baron.

2. DISCUSS, POSSIBLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26TH, 2015 REGULAR MEETING.

Motion was made by Richard, second by Jones to approve the minutes of October 26th, 2015 regular meeting. All voted yes. (The Agenda stated special meeting; that was a scrivener's error.)

Golf Director Dennis Bowman entered at 6:01 p.m.

Chairman Kannegiesser announced that Frank Powell recently won medals for weight lifting.

Chairman Kannegiesser moved to item 4.

4. DISCUSS, POSSIBLY RECOMMEND COUNCIL ACTION TO DEMOLISH THE BATHROOM AT BOBBY BUCK PARK.

Motion was made by Richard, second by Melton to recommend Council action to demolish the bathroom at Bobby Buck Park. Voting yes: Kannegiesser, Marks, Richard, Jones, Siever, Graves, Melton. Voting no: none.

5. DISCUSS, POSSIBLY RECOMMEND COUNCIL ACTION TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE GOLF COURSE DRESS CODE POLICY.

There was no action on this item. Chairman Kannegiesser stated this item would be revisited at the next meeting in December.

6. REPORTS:

a) GOLF (BOWMAN)

i. PUMP STATION STATUS.

Dennis Bowman reported the pumps were removed and tested. He stated that they will need to be replaced this spring at an estimated cost of \$12,000.00. He will seek bids to replace the motors.

ii. OTHER.

- Dennis Bowman gave a financial report for the Golf Course. He stated they were up \$7,000.00 from last year due to the rate increase and membership dues received. He added the expenses are down \$26,000.00 compared to last year.
- The recent OJGT Tournament brought in ninety boys and girls from three states.

- The Hotel / Motel Grant funds paid for the sod and tee box repairs.
- Currently working to repair the cart pass in places.
- The bathroom is almost complete; there is only need of partitions.
- The golf course and bathrooms have been winterized.

b) PARKS (POWELL)

i. SPLASH PAD PROGRESS REPORT.

Powell reported the utility lines will be run December 1st and the construction will begin December 14th.

Lori Siever asked about the completion date. Powell stated it would be at least 60 days. Mayor Tramel stated the Splash Pad will open on or before May 1st, 2016. Mayor stated that the used asphalt that is kept at the soccer fields will be crushed to use for the parking lot to be installed at the Splash Pad.

ii. WHITAKER PARK POND PROJECT STATUS.

The Whitaker Park Pond Spillway Project bids were received and the lowest bid submitted was from Jaybelle Construction for \$71,000.00.

Mayor stated the park walking trail will be shut down in areas when the above projects are in progress.

c) POOL (POWELL)

i. ELECTRICAL PROGRESS REPORT.

- Frank Powell stated that he met with three electricians to bid on the electric project at the Pryor Public Pool. There were issues about code interpretation. Powell stated that it may need to be inspected. This issue is still in the works.

ii. OTHER.

- Powell stated the ladders have been installed and the new pump will be installed once the electric is taken care of.

d) TENNIS COURTS (POWELL)

i. RESURFACE PROGRESS REPORT.

Frank Powell stated that due to a death in the family, Henzel will not begin the resurface project until spring.

ii. OTHER.

There was no other report from for the Tennis Courts.

e) BALL FIELDS (POWELL)

i. WINTERIZATION STATUS.

Powell stated that all winterization had been completed.

ii. OTHER.

There was no other report for the Ball Fields.

f) CEMETERY (POWELL)

There was no report for the Cemetery. There was discussion earlier of the new pavilion being erected at the Cemetery and that the old one had been given back to the American Legion; it belonged to them.

Chairman Kannegiesser moved back to item 3.

3. DISCUSS, POSSIBLY APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FAIRVIEW AND GRAHAM MEMORIAL CEMETERY TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH PRYOR CREEK CITY CODE.

There was no action on this item. It will be revisited at the next meeting.

Discussion:

- There was a request for a moment of silence before the item was addressed.
- A gentleman, who did not introduce himself spoke voicing his concerns.
- Mrs. Keen asked why the rules are being revamped.
- Chairman Kannegiesser stated that the City has to set perimeters so that the cemetery will be maintained properly.
- Powell stated that these rules have always been in place but have not been enforced.
- Chris Underwood said the he should have been approached and given the rules.
- Chairman Kannegiesser stopped the discussion to clear up the issue and stated we have to have the same rules for everyone. We have to maintain a system that lets you know what you can do within these parameters.
- The audience wanted to know why there is a problem if they maintain their own graves.
- Chris Graves stopped the audience and unruly discussion. He asked everyone in the audience direct their questions to the board. He also stated that Frank Powell is to make recommendations to the board and he works on our behalf. He reports to the board and city officials. Graves asked that everyone take their turn when addressing their concerns.
- Pat Richard stated there are 4 items that are being changed; the rest have been the same from the beginning. Rules in discussion: 15, 16, 18, and 20.
- Sharolyn Smith of Peggs spoke about thievery at the cemetery. She'd like the cemetery to place surveillance cameras to catch thieves. She also thanked Frank Powell for allowing her family to place a bench and tree at her loved one's grave. She wants to place signage for prosecution. Would like prosecution added to the rules.
- Jason Herron spoke about his son's grave purchased 20 years ago. He said that no one ever handed him the rules. He stated that he will not allow anyone to tell him what he can and cannot do because it is his property. The audience agreed they did not receive the rules at any point.
- Kelly Jo Underwood spoke about when they paid for their plots that they were not given the rules. She stated they would have made different decisions if they had been informed. She requests the board give her options. She would concrete the entire grave so that others could place items. Underwood voiced her frustration that they could only put things on the grave at certain times. She does not want to ask for permission to place something on a plot that she owns. She does not want children to have to ask to place items. She asked what the timeline would be for the update of the rules.
- Chairman Kannegiesser stated how the process worked.

- The audience requested to be alerted when rules were posted.
- Kelly Jo Underwood asked if they could be grandfathered in.
- Jones spoke and thanked the audience for the suggestions and asked the board their thoughts if the public maintained their own graveside. The board said they cannot decide on that item until they are in agreement of the amended rules.
- Items requested to be discussed:
 1. Grandfathering In
 2. Options for removal and refunds if rules are not adjusted.
- Todd Keen spoke. He stated he had never seen the rules but he understands that when you purchase a plot you are not able to place items all over it and that it must be maintained. He added if you don't want things stolen, do not take them to a public area. He stated that his father and he placed the flag for his brother and he will not take it down. He doesn't believe it is hindering anything.
- Mrs. Keen asked if her son's flag would be taken down. No answer was given.
- Cheryl White, City Council, Ward 1 introduced herself and spoke about number 18 on the Rules and Regulations. She requested it be modified to allow people to be able to recognize their loved ones at any time of the year.
- Chairman Kannegiesser stated that he had the feeling that number 18 was being misunderstood. He spoke about his daughter's grave and that they place items at the base of the stone. He addressed the flat items on the ground they have placed can be mowed over with no issues. The rule states that you can place items on the stone however you can't place it on the mowing area.
- White stated the verbiage is not clear and should be amended for clarity.
- Siever stated that Item 14 addressed these issues. She also stated that Item 16 is a problem in her opinion.
- Glenda Gifford spoke about the bench that was placed for Sharolyn Smith. She was told she was not able to have a bench placed and wanted to know the reason.
- Chris Graves said this is one of the issues they are trying to address and ensure they tend to the inconsistencies. Even though these rules are in place they have not been enforced. Graves said that "exceptions" are hard to police. He added we are trying to balance several different concerns. Some are the budget for maintenance; the staff is limited. We have to take in consideration the look and feel of the cemetery. It is expected to look like Arlington National Cemetery by many. We have to follow the rules, because if we do not, someone could come in and decide to build a mausoleum. We are trying to have a discussion to balance and decide what makes sense and what is best. There will not be a perfect answer that all will agree to. He encouraged the audience to submit their ideas. Graves stated we must be consistent and we want to keep everyone informed. He added the rules could be possibly posted at the cemetery. He encouraged all to work together collectively.
- Sharolyn Smith spoke again and asked that the rules be given at the time of a plot purchase.
- Connie Melton addressed the audience. She stated that she felt many were there to fight. She would like to keep this issue professional. She asked that people not blast the city on social media. Social media blasting will not get you anywhere she stated.

She reminded them that the rules are a draft and the board wants to hear their suggestions.

- Kannegiesser stated that he was appreciative of all of the feedback. Send suggestions to City Hall for the Park Board. The next draft will go before the Park Board and all are welcome again at that time. Once this board is in agreement, then the recommendation will go on to the City Council.
- Main concerns:
 1. Decorating all year.
 2. Flat headstone restrictions.
 3. Flag restrictions.
- Melton asked that the board go out to the cemetery and take a look at the graves.

7. UNFORESEEABLE BUSINESS. (ANY MATTER NOT REASONABLY FORESEEN PRIOR TO POSTING THE AGENDA.)

There was no unforeseeable business presented.

8. PETITIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE.

There were no petitions from the audience.

9. ADJOURN.

Motion was made by Siever, second by Grave to adjourn at 7:10 p.m. All voted yes.