

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

President Wahlig called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Attending were President Wahlig, Vice President Selman, Members Poor, and Adams. Also attending was Superintendent Hanna, Event Coordinator Tabitha Griva, Randy Coffey, Dave Martin, Jennifer Barclay, Gary Crum, Kim Shoup, Deb Shoup and Carmyn Hottell.

The minutes of the July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 were approved with a motion by member Adams and seconded by Vice President Selman. All were in favor.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

**Park 5-Year Master Plan-** Superintendent Hanna gave some background information regarding past plans and how public input has been used to shape where the department goes. President Wahlig opened the hearing up for any public comment. Randy Coffey introduced himself, suggesting an area in the dog park for smaller dogs away from large dogs. He also suggested hiking trails throughout Commons Park. Supt. Hanna said they have trails, but they aren't advertised. Maybe signage or promotion might help get some more use out of them. Jennifer Barclay suggested some cross over between the downtown plans and comprehensive plans with the Park Master Plan. Jennifer also asked if preliminary findings would be released on our current survey and what has been completed from the last 5-year plan. Supt. Hanna said he didn't have all that information in front of him but one of the big things was a park on the north side of town, and that is why they have worked so closely with the YMCA on the plans for the Sheets Family Park. Supt. Hanna also stated that the last plan showed a desire of residents to have access to fishing. Hanna said they accepted a donation of land from Blue Heron Ministries which includes frontage on Big Center Lake. Hanna said plans are being made to create fishing access in the future. Hanna stated that access from residential areas to the trails was another big item on the last plan. He believes that the city is working toward this goal and hopes to improve trail access. Hanna said as far as preliminary findings from the survey, this will be provided during the second half of the plan. Once the DNR approves the first draft, it will be presented to the public for final public input. This is when you will be able to see how the community responded to the survey. Jennifer Barclay offered to sit down and discuss cross references between the 2022 Comprehensive Plan and the Park Master Plan. Gary Crum asked if we have any preliminary findings from the surveys that have been turned in so far. Hanna said that we haven't dove in deep to current results. Hanna said they are concentrating on getting the input back before worrying about the results. Hanna asked Tabitha Griva if she has seen any trends thus far. She stated that a splash pad, more concerts, another dog park, trail connections are all suggestions she has seen. Gary Crum stated that the Parks have done a great job with programming but wondered if more could be done for seniors like art classes or photography class. Kim Shoup stated that when he was younger, the city streets were lined with large trees and created beautiful streets. He feels as though that is going away and wondered what could be done about it. Supt. Hanna said that his Tree Board has started a ROW inventory which not only includes current trees and their condition but places that can support new trees. The right tree in the right space is a vital philosophy that needs to be utilized. Hanna felt that doing some ROW plantings would start moving us in the right direction. He also felt like the importance of trees in new developments is vital. President Wahlig asked what species are being planted? Hanna said only locations are being selected, they have not yet selected tree species. Hanna said they would be planted in small areas so if maintenance was needed, the staff would have to run all over town. Jennifer Barclay asked if new development street tree requirements could help this goal as well. Hanna said that store fronts don't want street trees because it blocks the view of their sign or building. Hanna didn't feel as though there was currently a good compromise between developers and the city. Jennifer suggested that having this information in your plan serves as evidence for the need to deny variances requests proposed by developers. Jennifer Barclay stated that she would like to see more programming for kids less than five years old. Supt. Hanna said he had that feedback in the prior plan, not necessarily programming, but playgrounds for five and under. Hanna asked the Board if they had any input. President Wahlig feels that the Chuck Sheets Property would make a great park. Vice President Selman stated that the importance of keeping our events and programs free, is vital to the community. Dave Martin agreed that the Board and Department have done a great job with the parks and should be proud. Suzy Adams said that Center Lakes has been in the works for over 20 years and that should be concentrated on. The development of fishing access is important to complete. President Wahlig thanked everyone for coming and giving their input.

OLD BUSINESS

**Lewis and Clark Circus in Park-** Event Coordinator Griva said the circus was well run by the company, from set up to tearing down. She said a staff member was on site during all three shows just in case something was needed or there was any kind of emergency. Tabitha reported an average of 40-50 people attended each show and by the end of the third show we made \$465.00 back from The Lewis and Clark Circus. Tabitha stated she wouldn't mind having them again, with it being their first time around our area another year could bring more people. Tabitha explained there were quite a few other events happening that weekend as well.

**Hubie in the Park--** Event Coordinator Griva stated that the The Hubie Ashcraft Band provided a great show and once again, the attendance was awesome. The proceedings we made from concessions, donations and sponsorship ended up making more than what it cost us to have the concert. Griva stated with the much larger crowd than in the past, she will be reaching out to Shigs in Pit to see if it's possible to run more than one line in the future.

**Budget Approval-** Hanna mentioned there only has been one change made since emailing the board the 2024 proposed budget. The only change was in professional services, instead of \$40,000.00 it's now requested to be \$45,000. The mayor asked to put another \$5,000.00 towards the fireworks. Matt mentioned it was presented to the council last night and there will be a work session next week. Matt would like to let them know the board has made their approval at the meeting. Matt explained he has taken the \$20,000 of estimated annual maintenance cost that was put towards the new splashpad and spread it amongst different areas in the budget. President Wahlig asked if money was included for an employee to work at Sheets Park. Matt answered yes, he included an additional maintenance employee. Matt explained at this point he is still working with the people at the YMCA just is not sure when the breaking ground will take place. Matt asked the board if they had any other questions. No questions were asked. Member Poor moved to approve the 2024 budget, member Adams seconds. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

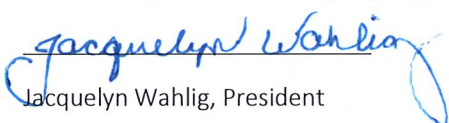
**American History Fest-** Event Coordinator Griva mentioned that no one has had any contact with Tom Fredrick since Matt informed him that he was not able to bring a helicopter in. Griva said she did get on their facebook page, and it is listed that they were still planning on having the event at the Selman Timber Frame September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. President Wahlig mentioned reaching out to Tom with the rules. Matt said we will get the rules and expectations forwarded on.

Other Business-

**Chairty 5K – Acacia Fraternity** has set the date for October 21<sup>st</sup>. President Wahlig asked who they are donating the money to. Griva responded they will be giving it back to the Turning Point Shelter.

**Night of Worship-** Matt mentioned Night of Worship will take place September 16, this concert also gives back to the Turning Point Shelter.

No further business, Meeting adjourns 11:09 a.m.

  
Jacquelyn Wahlig, President

  
Matt Hanna, Secretary