

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF MOORE PARKS BOARD
May 2nd, 2023 -6:00 PM**

The Parks Board of the City of Moore met in regular session, 700 S. Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma on May 2nd, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Chairman Jeff Arvin presiding. The following members were present:

Jeff Arvin
Janie Milum
Sid Porter

Charles Payne
Robert Washington

ABSENT: Eddie Vickers, Kelley Mattocks

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Parks and Recreation Director, Sue Wood; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Whitney Wathen; and Administrative Assistant, Rita Chadrick.

Agenda Item Number 1 being:

- ROLL CALL; (listed above).

Agenda Item Number 2 being:

RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING HELD MARCH 7th, 2023

Secretary Payne motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held March 7th, 2023; second by Board Member Milum. Motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Porter, Payne, Arvin, Washington, Milum

Nays: None

Absent: Mattocks, Vickers

Agenda Item Number 3 being:

DISCUSS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION ON INSTALLATION OF A PLAQUE AT BUCK THOMAS PARK DENOTING THE HISTORY OF THE NAMING OF THE PARK

Board Member Mattocks arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Sue introduced Danny Thomas, 1128 NW 7th St., who addressed the board regarding the possibility of installing a plaque at Buck Thomas Park to explain how and why it was named after his father. Mr. Thomas stated that his family has lived here since 1963 and his father was active in the community as well as in little league baseball. He was the driving force behind getting 12th St. Park built, as it was initially called, and it was renamed Buck Thomas Park after his father passed away and a petition signed by members of the community to rename the park was approved by City Council. After the name change there was still confusion about the name of the park; television stations and newspapers would still call it 12th Street Park and he would correct them as to the new name of the park. Mr. Thomas would like to request the City to place a plaque at the park that will tell a little about his father and those he worked with to develop the park; he and his brother are willing to provide some funding to make this happen.

Chairman Arvin asked where the plaque would go if this is approved. Whitney responded that it would be placed somewhere around the new trail at a location that won't impede 4th of July vendors; he will research this and put a proposal together.

Board Member Milum commented that if we do this for Buck Thomas Park we would have to do the same for other parks named for individuals as well. Sue responded that we can think about this and will have to find out how much it will cost and address it with the City Manager.

Secretary Payne motioned to move forward with the installation of a plaque at BT Park denoting the history of the naming of the park after staff has investigated and come up with ideas to present to the board; second by Board Member Washington.

Ayes: Porter, Payne, Mattocks, Arvin, Washington, Milum

Nays: None

Absent: Vickers

Agenda Item Number 4 being:

EMERGENCY GATES AT SPORTS COMPLEXES AT BUCK THOMAS PARK

Sue stated that this came about due to a parent who was concerned about not having enough exits at the baseball field during tournaments in the event of severe weather, situation with guns, etc. The parent did not hear back from the Tournament Director regarding her concerns so she emailed Sue, then the City Manager, because she didn't feel like it was being researched and handled quickly enough. Mr. Mitchell and City Attorney Bryan Miller met with her and she was very serious about it and felt that parents should be able to react quickly and get out of the ballpark in a timely manner and going to the north or south gates were not enough. Sue added that the City Council approved the construction of eight gates, which also includes gates at softball and football.

Board Member Mattocks asked if they are breakaway gates. Board Member Washington asked if there is some kind of emergency action plan in place at the sports complexes.

Sue responded that these gates will be exit gates and open from the inside only. She added that there are emergency action plans in place; however, the parent would not be satisfied unless an emergency gate is built and this is the right thing to do to be safety oriented.

Agenda Item Number 5 being:

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Chad Wilson, 117 Meadowbrook Dr., addressed the board regarding the Buck Thomas Park tennis courts. He stated that he took the board's advice from when he was here one year ago and is applying for a USTA grant; he is excited about possibly being awarded the grant and having more tennis courts built.

Chairman Arvin said he appreciated Chad taking interest in expanding the tennis courts and the update on applying for a grant; if more citizens took an active interest in something they want it would make things easier and better for all of us. Whitney added that he'll update the board when everything is being finalized and the grant is submitted.

(B) ITEMS FROM THE PARK BOARD

Secretary Payne commented that the west side of the dog park is looking good.

Vice Chairman Porter stated that park history is important, but as Board Member Milum noted we need to be careful about other City parks that are named after people. He liked that Mr. Thomas offered to pay for some of the cost of the plaque and no matter what it seems like a win-win situation.

Whitney responded that it's a great question to bring up about other parks named after people. It's important to have proper documentation on how we're going to process and do this; it's a lengthy process but we'll try to do it as fast as we can while also doing it correctly.

Agenda Item Number 8 being:

REPORTS

Sue stated that the rotary club wants to do a project in 2023-2024; a few things they're thinking about are installing a bench somewhere and flags along Broadway on Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, etc. There will be food trucks and snow cone vendors this summer at Little River South, Westmoore and Fairmoore splashpads; our City Ice truck will be here at Central Park. Nabholz will have a Topping Out ceremony on May 17th for the Station expansion and would like the Park Board to attend. A liaison with Phillips 66 contacted the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board to see if we can get funds to develop the Phillips 66 Nature Park.

Whitney stated that Buck Thomas softball complex parking lot should be completed next week. Senior Center restroom renovations are ongoing; will take two weeks to complete. The Station locker room floor renovations begin May 8th for the men's locker room; will take about two weeks then work begins on the women's locker room floor. Installation of trash cans in all parks begins next week; this will take about 3-4 months to complete. The Aquatic party pavilion is complete; waiting on installation of interior fence. This pavilion will be used for birthday parties and special events. The dog park renovation is almost complete; trying to install sprinkler system now.

Agenda Item Number 9 being:

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Porter motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of the Moore Parks Board; second by Board Member Washington. Motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Porter, Payne, Mattocks, Arvin, Washington, Milum

Nays: None

Absent: Vickers

The Moore Parks Board meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

RECORDED/TRANSCRIBED BY:

RITA CHADRICK, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant

PARKS BOARD MEETING-MINUTES

MAY 2nd, 2023

PAGE 5

FOR:

CHARLES PAYNE, Secretary

These minutes passed and approved as noted this ____ day of _____, 2023.