

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF MOORE PARKS BOARD
October 3rd, 2023 -6:00 PM**

The Parks Board of the City of Moore met in regular session, 700 S. Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma on October 3rd, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. with Vice Chairman Charles Payne presiding. The following members were present:

Charles Payne
Janie Milum
Eddie Vickers

Robert Washington
Kelley Mattocks

ABSENT: Sid Porter

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 SEPTEMBER 5th, 2023

Board Member Washington motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held September 5th, 2023; second by Board Member Vickers. Motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Payne, Washington, Milum, Mattocks, Vickers

Nays: None

Absent: Porter

Agenda Item Number 3 being:

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present to be heard.

(B) ITEMS FROM THE PARK BOARD

Board Member Milum spoke about the Chili Cook-off and silent auction that Aging Services, Inc. will host on Oct. 20th from 11:00am to 2:00pm at the Moore Community Center. The fee to enter the contest is \$5 and it will cost \$5 for chili, drink and dessert. Proceeds from this event will provide meals for senior citizens at the Brand Senior Center, which provides more than 200 meals daily to senior citizens of Moore.

Vice Chairman Payne asked how to purchase tickets for the event and said he will advertise the event through his church newsletter; Secretary Mattocks said she will also advertise the event. Board Member Washington added that MHS wrestlers could possibly assist in serving and cleaning up after the event. Board Member Milum responded that tickets will be available at the door and any help the day of the event would be appreciated.

Board Member Vickers asked if the silent auction would also be available online. Board Member Milum responded that this auction would not be online, but Aging Services, Inc. will have another silent auction around Christmas time that will be online.

Agenda Item Number 4 being:

REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director, Sue Wood, gave updates on the sports associations:

- Soccer – has an organization in charge but are not as strong as we had hoped they would be; last year's report was also not very solid. They will present their annual report at our December meeting.
- Football – has completely made a turnaround; met with the new president, James Boyd, and his staff last week. Clarified questions from them regarding rules and agreements, liabilities, revenue and coach's responsibilities and background checks. Only six teams registered this year, down from 60 last year, due to the former president increasing registration costs; James said he will lower the registration fee to a reasonable amount so teams will come back to play. They will also be working with the district elementary schools to have teams that will move up into middle school and high school, which is how it used to be. They will present their annual report at our December meeting.
- Softball – took a huge hit this year. They received a \$90,000 donation to improve their fields through the Triple Crown organization, which is in competition with USSSA and other softball groups. USSSA also wanted tournaments like Triple

Crown but Wes couldn't afford that so USSSA pulled out their support, which hurt the league. They had 6-8 teams in each age group this year; I don't believe they lost money but they're not going to have the \$150,000 brought in like they did last year. They have always been well managed so I have no doubt they'll do better next year. They will present their annual report at our December meeting.

- Table Tennis – they pay \$2,000 a year and play at the Moore Community Center on Saturdays and Sundays; they like to fit everyone in to play and are very good at what they do. It is an automatic renewal for them every year since they collect their own membership fees.
- Baseball – have concerns with them right now; they were active in the summer but are now losing a large amount of parents who don't want their kids to play at Buck Thomas Park due to the current leadership. I have heard that he isn't fair with league scheduling and is also very rude when dealing with people. The association also does not communicate well with us; we have a hard time getting in touch with them and do not receive reports from them as required per the agreement. Sue also noted that as per the agreement either party can give a 30-day notice to end the agreement. They will present their annual report at our meeting next month and will want a new agreement with the City; however, there is a possibility of the City taking over the association and running baseball.

Board Member Vickers suggested terminating the agreement since the association is not in compliance with the stipulations of the agreement signed with the City; he also inquired as to why other people are not voting this current board out if they are unhappy with how baseball is being run. He added that the City needs to let the board know at our next meeting if they are ready to take this on since they have never wanted to take over the association in previous years.

Sue responded that this current group can't just be voted out because they are a 501c3 and Moore Youth Baseball Association is the association that signed the agreement with the City. We're putting a report together for Brooks that would show him what it would take for us to run that baseball facility. We can do it but it would take quite a bit of money to pay umpires, supervisors, run a concession stand, etc. We would possibly need another full-time employee and a lot of part-time employees; another option is opening it up and allowing the parents to run it.

Vice Chairman Payne asked if the MYBA board is in agreement with the leadership and if there is a group ready to take over baseball if MYBA's agreement is not renewed.

Sue responded that we don't know what the situation with the MYBA board is since we don't attend their meetings. All we know is what's happening with the public, what we're seeing, and their financial state; last year they made more than \$600,000 but had more than \$600,000 in expenses so they lost money, primarily in concessions. Sue added that

there is a group that expressed interest in doing it and they could come in and present a proposal; afterwards the board can choose who you want to run the facility, whether its another group or the City of Moore.

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Whitney Wathen, added that if the City takes over the focus will be on league play, not tournaments, and maintaining the facility; the running of concessions would probably be bid out.

Secretary Mattocks asked about the feasibility of having a recreation league and a competitive league. Sue responded that we can request that if we choose to go with another group.

Board Member Vickers stated that a full-time person would need to be hired just for running baseball and that person could do something else in the off-season.

Whitney responded that a full-time person gives us the opportunity to put out a quality, well-run, well-communicated league. During the off season that time can be used to put together proposals to upgrade facilities, get bids for those upgrades, and work on general maintenance projects. He added that ideally we would like to have another association take over that's the right fit with the right mindset; a group that's willing to do the things we ask of them in the agreement and run a quality league that will keep the citizens happy.

Sue added that we may not want to renew MYBA's agreement and opt to look for another association, but if we can't find another one to take over we're very capable of running that league. We're going to open it up and the board can listen to other group's proposals and choose who you want to run it.

Vice Chairman Payne noted that the board just needs to know what the options are before it's time to vote; whether there are other associations that could run it, and if not, is the City willing to take that position.

Sue responded that a vote is not required when MYBA presents their report; everything will be discussed in January after all the associations have presented their annual reports.

Sue also reported that The Station expansion is going well and is on target. Panels will separate four areas in the meeting rooms for use; walls in the group exercise rooms upstairs have been plastered; and the Activity Room is being renovated to become a part of Child Watch. Classes have not been cancelled during this expansion; one-quarter of the gym is currently being used for fitness classes and Spanish, Art and Sign Language classes are being held at the Moore Community Center.

Vice Chairman Payne asked what the Moore Community Center is being used for now and the status of the little park being built on Main St. Sue responded that the Moore Fire

Department uses some of the rooms at the Moore Community Center and other rooms are being used on the weekends for recreational classes like table tennis and futsal. We will also have a Halloween dance there on the 27th; a haunted house for Haunt Old Town on the 28th; and may possibly have a large coin show next May. Whitney responded that we are still waiting for the release of the right-of-way to continue with building the park on Main St. Sue added construction of the underpass on 4th St. will start soon; they are doing utility work there now.

Agenda Item Number 5 being:

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Washington motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of the Moore Parks Board; second by Secretary Mattocks. Motion passed unanimously.

Ayes: Payne, Mattocks, Washington, Milum, Vickers
Nays: None
Absent: Porter

The Moore Parks Board meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

RECORDED/TRANSCRIBED BY:

RITA CHADRICK, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant

FOR:

KELLEY MATTOCKS, Secretary

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