

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY OF MOORE PARKS BOARD
March 2nd, 2021 -6:00 PM**

The Parks Board of the City of Moore met in regular session, 700 S. Broadway, Moore, Oklahoma on March 2nd, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. with Chairwoman Janie Milum presiding. The following members were present:

Jeff Arvin	Charles Payne	Eddie Vickers
Kelley Mattocks	Sid Porter	Janie Milum

ABSENT: Robert Washington

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Parks Director, Sue Wood; Acting Assistant Parks 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 FEBRUARY 2nd, 2021

Board Member Vickers motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held February 2nd, 2021, second by Board Member Payne. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Washington

Agenda Item Number 3 being:

NEW BUSINESS

A) YOUTH SPORTS AGREEMENT PRESENTATIONS

- Mr. Brian Hall of P.O. Box 7621, Moore, addressed the Board regarding the Moore Youth Baseball Association lease renewal. He thanked the Board for the lease granted to the baseball association all these years. There are some revisions to the lease and he is more than happy with the revisions that have been put in place. MYBA offers

Spring and Fall leagues. Spring is the largest season with 103 teams this season; the season has 10 league games and a pre-season tournament. Players pay a registration fee of \$70 for the season, which covers their registration fee and 10 league games. Umpires are pay at the plate. Insurance fee is \$135.00; team pays \$70 and the association incurs the rest of the fee. Fall season is \$350 per team; no individual player fees. No insurance cost due to football also starting in fall and some players only play one or two baseball games. Scholarship program extends to those attending schools outside of Moore Public Schools, as long as the player provides a free or reduced lunch letter from their school. We are following current guidelines of the lease as far as submitting financial statements. We incurred a loss during 2020 due to not charging for the pre-season tournament, putting approximately \$8,000 worth of trees in the park, and refunding about \$36,000 in league fees due to COVID. Also donated \$14,000 to the Moore High School Alumni Association in support of the families impacted by the accident that claimed the lives of several Moore High School student athletes in February 2020. MYBA also fully funds the Courage League, a league specifically for special needs athletes. The league hasn't played since last season due to COVID, but we fully expect it to be back next season.

- Vice Chairman Arvin asked what improvements MYBA has made to the park during the past year.
- Mr. Hall responded that the biggest improvement was the trees. With the old lease the capital gains project was only \$3,000, which made it hard to do any project at the ballpark with only that amount. Now that it's being lifted to \$10,000 it's easier to move forward with projects.
- Board Member Vickers asked if they are still charging gate fees for tournaments. He also thanked MYBA for working with the special needs athletes.
- Mr. Hall responded they are now charging team fees of \$180 for tournaments, but not individual gate fees.
- Board Member Mattocks asked about the MYBA organizational structure.
- Mr. Hall responded that the organization just went through a restructuring; we used to have 10 coordinators and five Executive Board members. Since transitioning to an online registration system we now have five coordinators, each responsible for two age groups, and four Executive Board members.
- Chairwoman Milum thanked Mr. Hall for his presentation.
- Mr. Wes Williams of 5801 SE 142nd St., Oklahoma City, addressed the Board regarding the Moore Youth Softball Association lease renewal. He stated that he took back over the organization in August 2020 after a brief hiatus. League sign-ups began yesterday and 40 teams total are

predicted to sign up. League fees for the 16-game season are \$45; pre-season tournaments are free. No gate fees in spring. Eight-week season in the fall; \$30 per player. We also honor scholarships. Blanket insurance; if you're a league team you're automatically covered.

- Vice-Chairman Arvin asked about the insurance and riders where other teams that are coming in to play have to prove that they have insurance.
- Mr. Williams responded if they play HFL or UCC they can get their own insurance through those sanctioning bodies and we can verify the insurance online.
- Board Member Vickers asked if scholarships were only for kids who live in Moore.
- Mr. Williams responded that scholarships are given to all kids if they qualify.
- Chairwoman Milum thanked Mr. Williams for his presentation.
- Mr. Brian Walters of 1513 SW 113th Place, Oklahoma City, addressed the Board regarding the Moore Youth Football Association lease renewal. He is contracted by MYFA as their CPA to help them reorganize their accounting processes, records, bookkeeping, etc. He stated that all of the board members contribute countless hours every year in the maintenance and upkeep of the facilities and to the kids in the community throughout the league. The mission statement for MYFA is to encourage and increase participation in youth football and ensure a safe and positive playing environment to all participants to ensure lifelong guidance of teamwork, dedication and superior work ethic in the classroom and on the playing field. The MYFA has been a positive influence for the youth of the city of Moore for more than 50 years. The community has depended on MYFA to provide a well-programmed, quality league to all youth that wish to play football regardless of their means to play and their abilities. Our goal is to give every child who wants to participate the opportunity to play. Three generations of players have passed through our gates; grandfathers that once played in our league are now watching from the sidelines. We will continue to be a strong, binding force for the families in the community. In 2020, the Spring 7-on-7 league had about 49 teams and approximately 500 players; Fall Tackle had 39 teams and 700 players. Spending and improvements made last year amounting to approximately \$26,000 included a new mower, two golf carts, paint striper, new field markers and pylons; three fertilization treatments, four truckloads of dirt, repaired sprinklers on fields 3 and 4. Lessons learned from 2020: There was an abrupt transition from one president to another in the middle of the year; there was a lot of institutional knowledge that was lost; things that someone would do out of sheer practice wasn't transferred down to the next leadership. We realized

that there has to be a continuity plan. We have to improve our record keeping and retention; we need to ensure that the city of Moore gets all the records in a timely manner; need to work more closely with the city of Moore. If granted another lease in 2021, the next step is to sit down with the Parks Director and work on the budget for 2021. We expect to have 75 teams, approximately 700 players, for 7-on-7; 312 players signed up as of today. Fall Tackle may have fewer players due to other leagues opening back up. Some expenditures for 2021 include canopies, expansion of concession concrete, fixing drainage issues, additional dirt for maintenance, additional parking on the east side, restriping the parking lot.

- Mr. Mitch Allen of 10717 S Miller Avenue, Oklahoma City, MYFA President, addressed the Board regarding MYFA lease renewal. Mr. Allen stated that he and the current board have been trying to take over the league for the past two years from the former president, Chuck Lewis. We've been taking care of day to day operations in the parks like mowing, running the games, running the fields, maintenance at the park. Our former president was taking care of all the behind-the-scenes stuff; this past April he lost his 26-year-old son to a tragic accident, which forced him to step away from it. This didn't really allow for a smooth transition of power; he hadn't really shared information of how things were handled. When that happened and when Covid started we just kind of pushed forward in spring 2020 getting our 7-on-7 started with what we knew how to do to make things work. Had a very successful 7-on-7 season and tackle this past fall. During the past 20 years the former president dealt with the former Parks Director and the city of Moore. When we took it over, we definitely dropped the ball on our record keeping and communications with the city. With this situation that we're going through right now, it's definitely a silver lining in that it's showing us things that we need to take care of and the other side of running the league besides what we were already doing. It's showed us the avenues of what we need to do, the kind of people we need to put in place to run things correctly and we look forward to working more closely with the city of Moore and having better communication with the city.
- Mr. Eric Conner of 820 Carol Ann Place, Moore, MYFA Treasurer, addressed the Board regarding the MYFA lease renewal. When I first got here we did not do any advertising; I took over the Facebook page and social media advertising and started pushing information out, which increased the number of teams registering to play from 49 last year to 75 this year. Since we've been growing we've seen how difficult it is to deal with all the paperwork, so we moved to an online registration system that allows us to keep all the players' information in an online data storage so we can pull up information if needed in

case of accidents, etc. It also allows streamlined record keeping as far as issuing receipts upon registration, so there's not an influx of cash coming through the parks. Last season we had about 75-80% sign up online; this year everything is 100% online to streamline the process. We've been approached about starting adult flag football leagues and we're also seeing about other things that we can offer to the citizens of Moore that would possibly expand the park. I plan on being here for another 12 years; have kids currently playing or will be playing in the future. We have had a couple of issues in the past with paperwork, but like Mitch said we can get everything fixed and moving forward and we hope to get everything going in our partnership with the city of Moore.

- Mr. Walters thanked Sue and the Parks Board members for allowing MYFA to speak at tonight's meeting. We have had challenges along the way; Mitch and Eric are not accounting or finance experts and were never aware of the expectations and some of the deficiencies that were brought to our attention as of late. All of the volunteers have many other responsibilities away from football and contribute out of a sense of community. We look forward to continuing to improve ourselves as leaders and continue the 50-year tradition of those who have gone before us. I ask that you approve the lease with the MYFA this evening and we would be glad to answer any questions that you may have.
- Board member Vickers asked about the insurance and if it covers all of the kids, including those that play tournaments here in Moore.
- Mr. Allen stated that MYFA players are covered by the insurance whether they're playing in Moore or somewhere else, but is not sure of teams that come in to play in tournaments in Moore. Mr. Walters stated that they will do a full review and make sure everything is in compliance.
- Board Member Vickers asked Mr. Walters if he is participating with a child in the league or just hired to help MYFA and if so, if the MYFA were to stop using his services would he notify the city of Moore in writing immediately that he is no longer representing MYFA. He also asked if his role in this is to consult with the MYFA and ensure that all their financial reporting and tax filings are okay.
- Mr. Walters responded that he is just a hired CPA and that MYFA owns all of their accounting records, but the challenge is getting the person that has them to release them. He also stated that he will definitely let the city know if he is no longer involved with the organization. He also stated that he is a "fixer" and they will establish new processes, procedures and requirements, which will be documented.
- Board Member Vickers added that when he was a part of MYFA they tried to get someone in the younger age group to be his backup so that

whenever he stepped down there was someone who could take his place, who in turn would have a backup to take his place down the road. He also stated that they need to get something in place as far as training someone else to take over in case something happens.

- Mr. Allen responded that that is definitely something they are working on; new policies and procedures where it is easier for a new regime to come in and take over. He does not plan on staying for 20-plus years like the former president, so he definitely wants it to be a smooth transition for the next person to take over. He stated that although the former president did great things and taught him and other coaches and board members great things, there were some gray areas on how things are done.
- Vice Chairman Arvin stated that when he was playing there was only one team for each elementary school; however, this is a large organization now that needs to be viewed as a large organization and that as a board member they are not a “coach” or “dad” anymore. He added there are trainings for board members to help understand their responsibilities as far as what they’re supposed to be doing and how they’re supposed to be doing it. He added that it’s hard as a dad and as a coach to be a board member and it will take a lot more effort on their part than it would someone like himself, because they don’t work for the parks.
- Mr. Allen responded that it is definitely something they have noticed since taking over when the former president stepped down. It’s a lot more than we anticipated and there were times when myself, Eric and other board members were at the park until 4:00 a.m. trying to paint the fields or get them mowed before a tournament the next morning. It was definitely overwhelming at times, so we sat down after the season ended to talk about making changes.
- Vice Chairman Arvin added that there have been no complaints about the way the football league is run; we don’t have any questions about the financial information that we haven’t gotten in a while. You guys have no idea where you are when you’re in that; you don’t know if you’re making money or losing money. Those are the kinds of things that are hard to do while you’re coaching and doing everything else. I do applaud you for hiring a professional CPA to help you with those things; that’s going to go a long way. We understand it’s difficult, but it still has to be done.
- Board Member Mattocks asked whether MYFA’s bylaws outline the duties and responsibilities of the different officers in the organization.
- Mr. Conner responded that they are getting bylaws put into place with the help of Mr. Walters; restructuring the duties and responsibilities of MYFA board members and getting training put into place as far as

what everyone's defined role is and how long you have to be here to step into that role.

- Chairwoman Milum thanked the MYFA for their presentation.
- Mr. Loren Koertner, 904 SE 38th St., Moore, addressed the Board regarding the Moore Youth Football Association lease renewal. I've lived in Moore for about 30 years and was introduced to MYFA in the spring of 2019 playing football in the park with my sons. A gentleman approached us and signed them up; my youngest was put on the man's team and my oldest on another team. It was probably a little unethical for him to put my boys on their teams; it was supposed to be general signups, but stacking talent onto teams has been an ongoing thing with this league. I'm not here to tear into everyone in that league. I know it's been here a long time and I'm sure that it's been very good at times, but with any league I'm sure there are problems. First year was a good experience with MYFA, but also mortifying at times to witness referees dipping and spitting on the field; nearly every one of these (MYFA) board members behind you dip or smoke on the field. They're going to stand up here and tell this song and dance about how they're working on fixing these problems; I'm here to tell you the truth with documentation. I hired two videographers and a private investigator last year and the things that I can show you tonight ought to make you sick to your stomach. At the end of the 2019 season I met with Chuck Lewis and Mitch after witnessing a lot of things that were very ugly. I watched a referee being held back by another referee because a dad probably took a cheap shot; to hear this referee call that dad the "MF" word, wanting to fight in the middle of the field in front of all of the parents and kids was disgusting to me. It was brought to the attention of Mr. Lewis, but two weeks later that ref was still out there because they were short refs. These things shouldn't be allowed in the city. Met with Chuck and Mitch after summer session 2019 and told them I wanted to get involved. Never got a phone call; when I called to offer to help it was politely declined. I told them then that I had three options: I could help improve this league, move my kids out of Moore and play in another league that's more professional, or I can start my own. In the fall of 2019 there was more of the same behavior; the tournament director and the football director got into fights on the field, wouldn't shake hands at the 50-yd line. The tournament director was even kicked out at one time, but none of that hits the board. I heard you make the comment that you haven't heard of any problems; they're there. They just stop at Chuck; they don't get turned in and don't get filed in the records. I was sitting with Chuck at the Superbowl at Moore High School and after the game a lady from the football director's team slung a cowbell at the tournament director and a fight started. There were hundreds of people in the middle of the

field, but they did nothing. I was asked by board members to get involved and help build up this dying league. A lot of teams have left because of racial slurs, racial comments, not letting them in for one reason or another. There's a lot of OKC teams and some of them are represented here today. The head football coach at Westmoore High School, a good friend of mine, will tell you the same thing. He hates the MYFA because of racial comments made to him by board members, which is why they started their own program and why they're trying to start their own league for next year. So, I helped the league build up their numbers since I had access to a lot of coaches. There was no spring football season in 2020; we resumed in summer. Two weeks prior to the season the football director for 7-on-7 called me trying to get names and numbers for coaches to get rosters turned in; I helped him set up a Group Me account. I sat in on two MYFA board meetings; not one time were minutes read or roll call taken. They are registered with the state as a 5013C company; non-profit. They are also governed by their own by-laws, by the Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, but they don't follow them. In 2014, MYFA was suspended as a non-profit organization. In 2017 it was revoked; they are no longer a non-profit organization. They had their status as non-profit revoked for failure to perform as a non-profit. Anything this group has done since 2017, they are personally liable for. I tried to talk to this association on two different occasions. After bringing this to their attention I asked for their P&Ls and got brushed off. Through the Freedom of Information Act I got a copy of the lease, other documents and bank statements, and pages were missing. I've met with Sue and Brooks Mitchell and since then every time I check with Sue she says, "Well Mitch hasn't done it for very long; he didn't know and he bit off more than he could chew." However, Mitch Allen signed the old lease, from March 2019 to March 2021. Bookkeeping that was submitted to the city for approval – no taxes were filed since 2013 according to the government. They're required to provide monthly profit and loss statements and tax returns. Maybe the city was given copies, but they were never filed. I highly doubt the city got copies because I don't believe that Sue or Brooks would ever be dishonest people. The city does not have the documents. Fifty requested documents, of which we may have gotten 15. No tax returns; they weren't filed. Why is that? I do not believe they are holding them from me. So then they refer these questions over to MYFA; the response in that one instance was, "All financial documentation was given to "Chris V." I've never met a "Chris V." You all know who Chris Villani is; I don't. I can't tell you if he's a good guy or bad guy; what he's done right or what he's done wrong. Every time I would talk to Chuck that was his shield; he would always bring up, "Chris let us do this." I knew the guy existed, but I

never met him. That is a written response from this association saying that Chris has it, so now you have another problem. As a municipality, he was a city employee; what this association is telling you is that he gave all of these documents to this "Chris V". Now if the city doesn't have them you'd better get the city attorney on the phone because now you've got a city employee that has stolen a bunch of city documents, or the documents didn't exist and you have an association that's lying to you and to the city. Either way, there are a lot of things going on here that none of you have been aware of. I requested documents nearly two months ago; I received stacks as of last Thursday. So my investigation team isn't done. Have any of you read their P&Ls? Do you know what profit margins are in concessions alone? 400% to 2000% markup. Their P&L shows they bought \$22,000 worth of concession expense in 2019. Gross sales for concessions was \$25,000, but you're only going to make three grand profit? They actually lost money after they paid the concession help. How do you lose money in concessions in a league that size? That should raise some questions, because it's all cash. You get \$10,000 cash in concessions - how much did we spend that month, \$2000? Here's \$2300; put that in the bank. Guess where the rest of it goes? Who knows? So how do you prove it? You hire videographers; you set cameras up, people watching concessions. Watch every pretzel, every nacho, every coke every water that comes out of that place. Then you compare it with their P&Ls that they're required to turn in every month. That place should bring in over \$100,000 in concessions alone. I tried to help them fix this; they didn't want my help. Now I know why; I don't blame them. They stand here and tell you that other people were handling things. Don't forget, Mitch Allen has been involved in this for 4 or 5 years; so has Eric. Mitch has been the acting President for well over a year and vice president prior. He signed this lease; he knew taxes have to be turned in annually because the city requires it. They haven't had insurance since April 2020. I wouldn't be surprised if there are some people indicted when this is all done. Now you're right; running the fields and being a coach is completely different than running an organization. That's why you hire the right people to run those things, not a CPA, granted I have no doubts in his credentials. You can't undo the damage that was done and the blatant lying and disregard for their contract with this city, and it goes back years. So as great as the MYFA has been for 50 years, for the last 20 years, per their own admission, it was run by Chuck Lewis and now they're going to dump it on Chuck. I'm not saying he's not to blame, but don't let them fool you, they are too. Nobody's digging; maybe nobody wants to dig. Corruption runs deep; deeper than I think. I don't know; but I am retired and I'm going to continue to find out. The part that scared me the most was after I

presented this to the city, offered every last ounce of proof, they're still willing to consider leasing to those people. I'm going to withdraw my lease proposal, but my investigation is just beginning and yours should too. So the city has two options: you can either lease it to people that have violated the lease at least 36 times and violated city, state and federal law. I'm taking myself out of it. They say I'm doing it for the money. You can ask Sue Woods; the lease proposal I sent her charged the kids zero league fees. Nothing; I'm retired, I don't need it. If there's a shortfall, I'll cover it. It meant that much for me for the city; for these kids. So please, before you make your recommendation, because this is going to go before the city council, please due yourselves the favor to do your due diligence. There's a lot to uncover, more than you can uncover in two weeks.

- Chairwoman Milum thanked Mr. Koertner for his presentation.
- Sue made a recommendation to table the MYFA agreement; Chairwoman Milum noted the recommendation.

Vice Chairman Arvin motioned to recommend approval of the lease agreement with Moore Youth Baseball Association; Board Member Vickers second. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Vice Chairman Arvin motioned to recommend approval of the lease agreement with Moore Youth Softball Association; Board Member Vickers second. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Vice Chairman Arvin motioned to table the lease agreement with Moore Youth Football Association; Board Member Vickers second. Motion passed unanimously.

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

B) CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens present that wish to be heard.

C) ITEMS FROM THE PARK BOARD

- Secretary Porter stated his appreciation to the City Manager for tabling the MYFA lease agreement and to those present at the meeting. Speaking for myself on this board I graduated from Moore High School and have been here my whole life; I was out at the fields when they were basically fields and that was it. I've been through all this; I've been involved here, with city government and volunteering. I was also a council person at one time. I remember the deal 10 years ago with baseball; it was a sad deal. However, we're not a jury; we're not the corporate bosses. We're the first step; the council has a board like this to hear and try to resolve things and the council makes the final decision. I had no idea that this meeting was going to turn out like it did. I thought we were going to hear some proposals; this is the first time I've ever heard about anything regarding Moore Youth Football having a big brawl, fights and things like that. The world is sad with a lot of this stuff going on and I don't want this town turning into that because we can't all come to common ground and figure out how to fix this. It breaks my heart to even think that we deal with racial slurs or anything like that. I wasn't there; I can't comment on it. I'm not a CPA; all that stuff comes through the city and I don't know what the process is as to why they didn't get it. We have a different Parks director now; she came in here after someone was here for a long time and now they're gone. I know that everybody here is compassionate and the main thing here is the kids so we have to figure something out, because I've heard a lot of things and I'm more confused than I was before. I think we're going to have to do something; the city council, city management, to look further into this and investigate it. I don't know what kind of investigation, but when we have accusations come up we can't put them to the side and walk out the door like we never heard them. By both sides' admission there are things that could have been better. We have one group trying to fix things and another person who is compassionate about it and wanting to be part of that, but it seems like we're not on the same page. We have to figure out what's happened in the past and make sure it doesn't happen again and move forward to the future. We'll get through this and we'll come together; we've been through tornadoes and tragedies and I'm proud to be a resident of Moore. I know Moore schools include Oklahoma City so we're all together; we don't stop at the boundary line. I love this city and the people and I think we can come together and get this taken care of.
- Board Member Vickers added being a blue-collar guy I had to hire people to do financial things in my business. I can do my job, but I can't do somebody else's job. I know a lot of times as a volunteer I

might've been pressured or had seen other people pressured into doing things not necessarily correctly, but they just did it because nobody else would step up. I don't want to see anybody, unless they did it intentionally, get harmed in this. I see a lot of you, just volunteers, want to help all the kids play whatever sport. You have good hearts and intentions, so don't let anything take that away from you because that's what's happening in the world right now. We're not getting along because we're not talking to each other and we're not helping each other out, although I think you all are trying to help each other out.

Agenda Item Number 4 being:

REPORTS

There were no reports from Parks and Recreation staff.

Agenda Item Number 5 being:

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairman Arvin motioned to adjourn the regular meeting of the Moore Parks Board, second by Board Member Vickers. Motion passed unanimously.

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

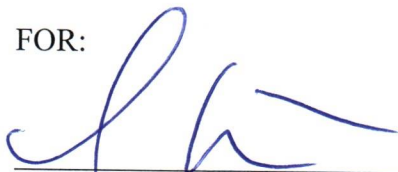
The Moore Parks Board meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

RECORDED/TRANSCRIBED BY:



RITA CHADRICK, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant

FOR:



SID PORTER, Secretary

These minutes passed and approved as noted this 6th day of April, 2021.