

City of Hays
City Commission
Work Session Notes
February 2, 2010

Present: Ron Mellick, Christopher Channell, Barbara Wasinger, Troy Hickman, Henry Schwaller IV, John Bird, Toby Dougherty

City of Hays/Hays Recreation Commission Joint Meeting

The annual joint meeting between the City of Hays and the Hays Recreation Commission (HRC) was held during the work session to discuss general operations.

Items discussed were the rates and hours of operation for the swimming pools. It is planned to open the Hays Aquatic Park on May 24th and close on August 18th. Wilson Pool will open on May 31st and close on August 15th. Admission fees/season passes will not be raised this year and the hours of operation will be the same as in past years.

Discussion was held about a contract with the HRC as it relates to the new Sports Complex. The proposed contract would require HRC to provide a revenue/expense report for the Complex to help analyze the impact of the new athletic facility of future budgets, identify who pays electrical utilities as well as how the concessions operations will be handled. A draft document will be presented for review at a future work session.

Netting for Larks Park/ Hays Aquatic Park

Administrative staff was contacted by the Hays Recreation Commission (HRC) regarding the need to eliminate foul balls from entering the Hays Aquatic Park (HAP) during business hours. In the past, netting was placed on the west side of Larks Park to help prevent balls from entering the HAP; however that has

not solved the problem due to inadequate net heights. Options for resolving the problem include the installation of a higher net, either on the west side of Larks Park or the east side of the HAP, the installation of a 60-80 foot tall backstop at Larks Park, or changes made to game times and pool hours to eliminate conflicts.

City John Bird stated that the City does not have any liability; under Kansas law, the City would have recreational immunity. The tort claims act states that unless the City is grossly, wantonly or intentionally negligent, this is not a risk the City has to worry about.

Chairperson Mellick feels that the current net that is there should be repaired and also he would like staff at the HAP keep track of how many balls actually get in to the HAP. He suggested the Commission revisit this issue next year.

It was also suggested that signage be posted warning of possible danger.

The Commissioners were in agreement to follow the suggestions made and to monitor the situation.

Add-on: Larks Park Seating

Curtis Hammeke, Fort Hays State University Athletic Director, requested permission to install 200 chair back seats at Larks Park. The new seating will help reduce glare for players in the outfield and middle field. Additionally, FHSU would like to replace the park's existing chain link backstop with netting by next year. The Fort Hays Athletic Association is paying for the seating; the Parks Department has budgeted \$10,000 for the backstop.

The Commissioners approved Mr. Hammeke's requests.

Ordinance Authorizing Creation of Community Improvement District (CID)

A public hearing regarding the creation of a Community Improvement District (CID) will be held at the February 11, 2010 Commission meeting. Following the public hearing, the Commissioners will be requested to approve an

ordinance to legally approve the boundaries of the district as well as allow for a CID sales tax to be collected in the proposed district.

48th and Roth Avenue CID Development Agreement/Resolution to Approve the Development Agreement

Following the public hearing and approval of an ordinance authorizing the creation of a Community Improvement District (CID), it is necessary to utilize a CID Development Agreement. This agreement defines the rights and responsibilities of each party and directs the collection of the CID sales tax, as well as the disbursement of it, for eligible cost of the project back to the developer.

The Commissioners will be requested to approve a resolution authorizing the development agreement at the February 11, 2010 Commission meeting.

Review of City's Trap-Neuter-Return Program

Police Chief James Braun gave a presentation on the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) Program, which was implemented by the Hays Police Department in 2007 as an alternative to the customary trap and euthanize method of feral cat population control. To date, the city has established 42 TNR colonies containing 167 feral cats within the city of Hays. Expenses paid to the Humane Society of the High Plains and local veterinarians have been on the decline. Dollar amounts paid for these services were \$48,624 in 2007, \$41,832 in 2008, and \$36,647 in 2009. The Police Chief stated that it is difficult to pin point the exact reason for the decline in expenses, but felt it could be attributed to enforcement practices, educational efforts, the TNR program, and better compliance by city residents.

Fly Hays Marketing Group Update

In 2006 and 2007, enplanements at the Hays Regional Airport exceeded 10,000 boardings per year making the airport eligible for Federal Aviation

Administration entitlement monies of \$1,000,000 per year for capital improvement projects. The ARFF building and ARFF fire truck are being purchased using the entitlement monies. In 2008, enplanements were 8,212, falling short of the 10,000 goal. In July 2009, a new group was formed called the Fly Hays Marketing Group in an effort to promote the airport, airlines, and increase boardings.

Brenda Herrman, Public Works Director/Airport Manager, addressed the Commissioners about efforts the Fly Hays Marketing Group have undertaken to promote increase boardings.

King's Gate Addition Annexation

At the February 11, 2010 Commission meeting, the Commissioners will be requested to approve the annexation of the proposed King's Gate Addition to the city limits of Hays. The area proposed to be annexed is located along the north side of 41st Street west of Madison Drive and is contiguous with the present city limits.

King's Gate Addition Preliminary Plat

This agenda item has been moved to the February 18, 2010 work session.

Tallgrass Phase IV Resolution for Improvements

Tallgrass at Hays, Inc. has submitted a petition to the City for improvements to a portion of the Tallgrass Addition. Improvements would include the development of infrastructure which would include streets, water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer necessary to service 19 new residential lots.

Two petitions and resolutions have been submitted for approval. One petition/resolution allows for water and sanitary improvements to be financed over a period of 15 years with the developer paying 30% of the costs up front. The other petition/resolution is for the street and storm sewer improvements to be assessed over a 10 year period with 100% of these costs being financed (no payment up front).

The Commissioners will be requested to approve the resolutions at the February 11, 2010 Commission meeting.

The work session was adjourned.

Submitted by: _____

City Clerk