

Park Board Meeting
March 1, 2021
5:30 p.m.

Park Board members gathered in the Tennis Club House. Those present were Jim Hogan, Alex Moore, Mark Coder, Mardi Long, Anita Chappuie, Alix Oreck and Val DeFever as well as Park and Zoo Director Angela Anthony.

Minutes from the February meeting were approved by the group.

New Business:

Angela reported hiring was underway for ride operators, concessions & ticket sellers thru Kansas Works. Nine individuals will be hired to mow – applicants can apply thru Express Employment Placement.

She also reported that she met with city leaders and staff for a full day, 3 weeks ago, to work on the strategic plan and identify the visions for the park, zoo and cemetery.

In additional new business, Angela informed the board members that the Mausoleum repairs are severe enough that she has upgraded it to top priority. Board members requested they tour these two buildings at the April board meeting.

Director Anthony informed the board members that the fencing along Wells Dr. that encloses the Hoofstock area will need attention this year to insure we are able to secure accreditation. Initially it scheduled for next year.

Over the past weekend park staff cleaned out the basement of the Shelter House. During the recent hard freeze pipes in the bathroom broke and flooded the area. It was decided to shut the water off permanently since there were much newer bathrooms directly north of the structure. The basement space will be used solely for storage.

Angela recently participated in a conference call with Emporia Zoo to gather information about their highly successful fund raising effort (\$4.6) to be used for their upgrades. They used a consulting firm from Wichita. She also talked about the need to get some of our animal permits updated.

Old Business Reports:

Director Anthony reported on efforts to determine repair needs for Logan Fountain. Travis Blankenship is trying to figure out whether there is a problem with wiring. It is hoped the problems will be solved by the park opening on April 10th.

TLC is writing up a concept for the Koi Pond. It is hoped we can move the existing pond over enough that park vehicles can pass thru to go to the area behind.

The planting of oak trees along Oak St. is nearing completion. The older trees that were in sad shape have been removed. Stumps have been pulled out and 15 saplings have been planted.

Downtown Tree Beautification/ Arbor Day Planning is scheduled for April. Weather has delayed the plan to prune them earlier.

Angela reported on recently conducting 3 Zoom Calls with area students, and Zoo zoom field trips are planned. The students seem very happy to be a part of these creative features. She is hoping to do more of these in the future to stir up interest. The director will also be attempting to reach out to the home schooling community to provide them with similar programs.

Further Angela reported that KOAM TV was coming the next day to do a segment for their Good News program featuring our zoo. Board members lamented that we would not be able to view the program since cable doesn't allow us in their viewing area.

Director Anthony told board members that this week would kick off her Bi Weekly write ups for the Daily Reporter which are intended to help educate the public about the many facets of the park, zoo and cemetery.

Respectfully submitted by
Val DeFever