

Park & Open Space Planning Work Session

Planning Commissioners: Joel Skelley, Catherine Patrick, John Morgan and Rick Pruden.
Kevin Kokes, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, H.W> Lochner Inc. Planning Consultant and
Patty Hagg, Recording Secretary.

Guests: Gayle Parker and Brad Eccles, Tonganoxie Recreation Commission.

Kevin Kokes, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, City Planner with H. W. Lochner Inc., reviewed the City Park and the Metro Green Regional Park maps and discussed the Work Plan Schedule.

The group discussed the vision, current needs and the process to include community input and the tools to provide funding for the project.

Brad Eccles with the Recreation Commission stated they are also working on a Master Park Plan and they are also working on a community survey. They have applied for grants to help with costs for a playground at the new baseball fields. He stated the baseball program is at capacity now. They had more than 600 players enrolled for the 2011 Summer Program. Brad stated their committee meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The group discussed ways to distribute the surveys; suggestions were using Facebook and Twitter accounts; the Rec Commission, City and Chamber websites, having surveys available at the Rec Office, the Library and City Hall, using Church bulletins and reminders on the water bills.

The group also discussed other stakeholders that may be interested in providing input for the project such as the School district, the Historical Society, the Police Department, local civic and high school groups. A suggestion was to present material to the various organizations at their monthly meetings.

The work session also included discussion regarding the needs in future park areas such as; more baseball fields, additional soccer fields, shelter houses/community meeting places, community center, additional gym space, activities and amenities for older residents and a park space in the southern part of the community.