



CITY OF NORMAN, OK CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS & COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING

Municipal Building, Executive Conference Room, 201 West Gray, Norman,
OK 73069

Thursday, September 07, 2023 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

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CALL TO ORDER

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Grant, Nash, Peacock

ABSENT: Councilmember Ball

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Holman
Jason Olsen, Parks and Recreations Director
Captain Tony Riddles, Norman Police Department
Ms. Lisa Webb, Administrative Technician IV
Ms. Sandra Simeroth, Administrative Technician III

AGENDA ITEMS

Item 1, being:

UPDATE OF SECURITY CAMERAS AT PARKS FACILITIES.

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, opened discussion by stating, quite a few break-ins have occurred at Westwood Water Park over the summer as well as a large increase of vandalism at all the other parks. He said currently there is no surveillance at the parks just the Facilities.

Mr. Olsen explained he has received feedback from City Council on what they have observed throughout the City of Norman.

Currently, the City has cameras at Facilities at the front door with a basic key FOB entry for access control to the Recreation Centers. The City is wanting to make sure that the FOB correlates to the person it has been assigned to.

Mr. Olsen said Staff is wanting to tighten up security as much as possible with Whittier and Irving Recreation Centers entries to and from the schools. Currently the public can enter into the schools from the gym area and it has always been seen as a soft security issue in the past. Staff believes we have tightened up security with SRO's at the schools.

Whittier, Irving and 12th Avenue Recreation Center security issues have been updated with a Covid Grant (Hopes Grant). He said Little Axe came on line later as they have child care out there for Little Axe Schools.

Mr. Olsen said there is only one camera at Westwood Water Park parking lot and it is limited to what can be seen. The majority of other views are inside the park, 19 cameras in total. We have over 100,000 visitors every year to Westwood Aquatic Center. The City has updated some of the park rules requiring children under 12 years of age be accompanied by adult. This supervision cut down a lot of the problems this year.

He said there have been a lot a break-ins in vehicles in the parking lot effecting golfers and swimmers. He said with the parking lot full and only one camera, Staff is unable to tell who is casing the vehicles and who is just going to their cars, it is only taking a few seconds for thieves to bust out a window and steal whatever they desire out of that vehicle.

Councilmember Holman asked if that is where most of the incidents are taking place.

Mr. Olsen responded, yes that is where the majority of the break-ins are accruing. Last year we had a lot of issues inside the park also, but with the age requirements that has greatly improved inside issues this year.

Councilmember Grant asking if there was any messaging to the public about leaving valuables in vehicles break-ins when we became aware of what was happening, and could we have messaged the public more.

Mr. Olsen responded that communication was lacking until it was brought to the City's attention that this was happening. The park does have signs alerting the public that they are on Camera and being recorded.

Councilmember Grant suggesting more messaging along with more Surveillance.

Councilmember Peacock wanting to add signage that says we have lockers available inside for valuables.

Councilmember Holman wanting to know what time of day the break-ins where accruing.

Mr. Olsen responded broad daylight when there were a lot of vehicles in the parking lot.

Councilmember Holman asked Captain Riddles if they knew who is responsible for the break-ins.

Captain Riddles stated that auto robberies are the number one crime on the list across the City and they do not know who is responsible.

Mr. Olsen also replied that the Chief said, he was trying to catch people on Facebook and other media sources and has increased patrol in that area.

Councilmember Peacock asked if we would get better information with better, equipment.

Mr. Olsen said we are currently unable to see facial features or license plates, with more cameras and better equipment we would likely get better recognition.

Mr. Olsen presented the current facilities that have cameras and they are YFAC- 75 total cameras, 54 inside and 21 outside; Adult Wellness and Education Center with 17 total cameras 6 inside and 11 outside; Westwood Golf Course has 14 cameras, and there are numerous cameras at the Park Maintenance Facility.

Currently the City does not have cameras at the parks. He said most of vandalism has happened at Andrews Park and Staff is talking about putting cameras there now.

Councilmember Grant asked how long videos are stored on the cameras.

Mr. Olsen said, about two weeks unless Staff goes in and manually saves it.

Councilmember Nash asked if data was only used in case of an incident and asked if the information is shared outside of City staff.

Mr. Olsen said there has to be a crime that happens of some sort or request to help find a possible lost wallet. If there is a crime the video is only shared with the Police Department.

Councilmember Nash ask who has access to the videos on a daily basis.

Mr. Olsen said only staff at the Administration Level and those people have to be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department Director to have access, Managers and Site Supervisors and IT staff.

Councilmember Nash agrees that we are in need of cameras in parking lot at Westwood that it would help be a deterrent if we could identify people that are breaking into vehicles and be able to prosecute them.

Mr. Olsen said, Staff has received clear direction on how to use Special Use Revenue Maintenance Facility, we are covered everywhere but at Westwood. He said, Staff will follow up

with Council on how to get cameras at the Parks and what direction we want to take in the future for our parks.

Councilmember Grant asked for a budget overview on costs to upgrade cameras.

Mr. Olsen said, the City already owns the software we just need to add a license. Also with every camera purchased the license fee is included in the price of the camera. The better the equipment the more the cost, and each one will have licensing fee and a cost for connections.

Councilmember Peacock, Thank you for your presentation and if there no other comments this meeting is adjourned.

Item 2:

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 4:28pm and had No Quorum