

**Minutes**

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Special Call Meeting at City Hall, 4800 Town Center Drive, at 6:00 P.M., on Monday, June 16, 2008. Mayor Peggy Dunn presided.

**Councilmembers present:** Lou Rasmussen, Gary Bussing, Jim Rawlings, Debra Filla, James Azeltine, Julie Cain, and Dr. Gregory Peppes.

**Councilmembers absent:** Mile Gill

**Staff present:**

Scott Lambers, City Administrator  
Chris Claxton, P&R Director  
Mary Tearney, Arts Council Chair  
Ann Kenney, APPI Chair  
Pam Gregory, Deputy City Clerk

Patty Bennett, City Attorney  
Joe Johnson, Public Works Director  
April Bishop, Cultural Arts Coordinator  
John Stewart, APPI Committee member  
Deb Mansfield, City Clerk

**Others present:** None.

**Presentation of Master Plan for Public Art**

**1. Opening Remarks**

Mayor Dunn expressed her appreciation to the Arts Council and the APPI Committee for the wonderful work they do for the City.

Mary Tearney stated that 16 Leawood organizations have donated to the Kauffman Performing Arts Center. The City of Leawood is the only city in the region that has spearheaded any donation plan. When the brochure is printed, there will be 16 organizations that begin with 'Leawood' that will be listed. Mayor Dunn extended her gratitude on behalf of the City for Mary's efforts.

Ann Kenney distributed a map of the public art master plan that depicts proposed art sites along with the Tomahawk Creek Parkway Sculpture Garden, which would involve 7 new sculpture sites.

Mayor Dunn asked about the proposed No. 5, identified as 'Growing.' Growing will be moved to a permanent location yet to be determined. No one artist has been selected for any of these sculptures or sites. The first piece will be placed in or adjacent to the southern most lake, near the intersection of Tomahawk Creek Parkway and Town Center Drive.

The second piece will be located in the southeast corner of the intersection of College & Tomahawk Creek Parkway. The third located across the street from Women of the World, located west of the north lake, near the shelter and parking. Currently, the ownership of Women of the World is in question. There is no documentation as to who is the rightful owner. Ms. Kenney stated it needs some work done to it also. The fourth installation would be viewed from the walking trail, and possibly an interactive piece. Councilmember Filla asked if 'interactive' piece could be defined. Ms. Kenney stated similar to the DeHaemers art piece, where you could write memories and install them, or somehow change the piece when one interacts with the art piece. The 'Growing' piece will be placed in the fifth proposed site. The sixth sculpture would be small scale and modest, located in or near the north end of the north lake. The seventh would be located on the south end of the Sculpture, near the soccer complex at 119<sup>th</sup> & Tomahawk Creek Parkway, which would attract vehicular, as well as park participant attention.

Ms. Kenney said they are very excited to have these sculptures located along Tomahawk Creek Parkway. These sites are concentrated in Ward two; however, Ward Two is the City's center. There are proposed sculptures in the other wards also. Ms. Kenney welcomed any suggestions. Councilmember Filla asked about the empty lot located in Ward One. There was leakage problem from some old gas tanks. There was some discussion some time ago that BP may be interested in donating the lot to the City or the County, following remediation. Perhaps it could be used as a pocket park.

Councilmember Filla asked about the lot across from Ward Parkway shopping center. Ann Kenney discouraged placing any sculptures on property that the City doesn't own. Scott Lambers stated the Mayor and he have toured Ward One extensively and there is really is no land available to use as a site. The Mayor stated it will be important to have lots of people, motorists, pedestrians and bikers, view the sites.

April stated when visitors stay at Park Place, they will be able to catch this trail, walk right past city hall, walk down the trail, view the art and take the trail all the way into City Park. So someone from out of town will be able to experience all of this.

Mary Tearney stated there will be a map identifying the location of the art pieces along Tomahawk Creek Parkway. Ms. Kenney stated they are working on a program whereby you dial a phone number and you receive information on the artist, and the sculpture and other information about the art piece; similar to the Art in the Loop downtown.

Councilmember Cain asked about an audio system set up in Gezer Park. Mayor Dunn confirmed, because the Lions Club work with the sight-impaired, they are hoping to have some type of audio system set up.

Ms. Kenney confirmed with Mayor Dunn that the Gezer Calendar will be placed in the middle near the parking lot. Mayor Dunn stated that the piece is ready to be shipped and will take approximately 2 months to arrive after she advises them to ship it.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated he approves of the proposed Tomahawk Creek Parkway Sculpture Garden and the locations of the other art pieces of the Master Plan.

Councilmember Filla asked about funding for the art pieces. Mary Tearney stated it takes approximately 18 months from start to finish for art pieces.

Mayor Dunn received a consensus from the Councilmembers that they were in favor of the proposed plan. This will be approved at a future governing body meeting for formal approval.

Mary Tearney talked about the City's future master plan. All of the members of the Arts Council were asked to submit their ideas. The Arts Council is recommending that the Amphitheatre be a priority. The City needs a better facility for the stage company and is currently spending a lot of money for temporary supplies, equipment, lighting, and trailers. This is money that could be spent more wisely. The second suggestion is a community center. They are suggesting the name be changed to community center and cultural arts center. Many residents will be looking for a cultural activity center.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated the amphitheatre started out in the rear of city hall. Currently, it is approximately a \$2 million project. There have been some delays, because of the lake. He wants to be sure that the \$500,000 earmarked for this year will be carried over until next year. There is some private funding raising activity also for this project.

Mary Tearney stated one of the reasons for the time delay is because the consulting group, along with April and Chris went to view other amphitheaters sites and they learned a great deal of information of what to do and what not to do when building an amphitheater. This will end up saving the city a great deal of money, because they won't make the mistakes that these other cities have made when building their amphitheaters.

Mayor Dunn stated she applauded everyone for their costs saving efforts. She stated she would ask Chris Claxton to speak at the regular meeting regarding how they are going to move forward.

Councilmember Gary Bussing asked that any reference to the community center be removed from this plan. He feels it is premature at this point to include the community center, as it has not even been determined if a community center is going to be built. Ms. Tearney stated she would have no objection to removing the community center from the document, as she agrees with Councilmember Bussing.

April Bishop stated if the community center were to be built, the Arts Council doesn't view it as an exercise center; they see it as a public facility for the arts; if it were to be built. Mayor Dunn stated a survey is currently being conducted and should have the results shortly.

Councilmember Bussing stated once the document is accepted, it becomes a public document and it takes a life of it own, and he is opposed to it.

Scott Lambers stated the Council will be accepting the plan and the map.

Ms. Bishop stated they viewed the plan as an educational document not a document that was going to be approved or accepted by the Council. Mary Tearney stated this is a 10-20 year plan.

Councilmember Filla stated she had the same thoughts. She was wondering if the Committee was to place on their future wish list a plan that revamped the community center as a cultural center or as a multi-functional arts center.

Scott Lambers stated the amphitheatre is the focus. Even though the construction season is lost for this year, starting in 2009, the City will have a true plan. The amphitheater master plan will be discussed in a work session this fall, however, the focus right now should be the amphitheater.

Mary Tearney stated perhaps the plan should be split in sections and prioritized to satisfy the Arts Council and Councilmember Bussing.

Lou Rasmussen stated he hears comments from his constituents all the time that they feel they are already paying for a community center, referring to Blue Valley Recreation Center. They ask why should they pay taxes twice. Mr. Rasmussen stated Councilmember Bussing is not alone with his concern on this issue.

Mr. Lambers stated the Public Art Plan will be accepted at a future Council meeting. There will be a work session in the future to discuss the community center issue.

Councilmember Rawlings extended his thanks and appreciation to Ann Kenney, Mary Tearney and April Bishop and the entire Committee for their hard work, vision, and dedication. Councilmember Cain echoed Mr. Rawlings comments.

There being no further business, the Work Session was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

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Pam Gregory, Recording Deputy City Clerk