



ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2006

5:30 p.m.- The Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Steve Martens (Chair) Dick Fuller, Mark Mergen, Amy Vlastic, Karen Reimer, and Councilman, Dr. Greg Peppes. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Sara Dinkel, Kim Curran, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Logan Wagler, Jeff Peterson, Brian Anderson, April Bishop, Jeff Peterson and Lindsay Youle.

Steve Martens called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Mark Mergen moved to approve the January 10, 2006 meeting minutes and Dick Fuller seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved.

I. Staff Reports

Jeff – Jeff reported he is working on supplemental programs for the nature center including camps. The cabin reservations are going strong and the new road leading to the cabins is finished and looks good. Jeff reported they have been conducting lots of programs for Cub Scout groups. He added he was keeping busy with administrative tasks such as developing the budget, preparing staff manuals and hiring. Jeff also reported that he was working on securing a partner to adopt the Nature Center's library, and was talking with Barnes and Nobel and Borders Bookstore. He is also working with the Kansas City Water Garden Society to see if they are willing to donate time and resources in developing a water garden behind the Nature Center. Jeff also reported that they are in the process of trying to develop an astronomy program.

Steve asked Jeff about the placement of the water garden? Jeff said it may be located by the back of the building, 15' x 20' in size with a rock feature and a small waterfall.

Dick asked about the Nature Center and what they were doing to encourage the senior population of northern Leawood to visit and participate in programs? Dick referenced the exhibit of artifacts that was on display up in the main lobby of City Hall (display case). Chris said she was not that familiar with this particular display Dick was referring to but thought she could learn more from Alice Hawk.

Brian – Working on replacement of the old Mission Road pedestrian bridge. It will be 12' wide and 120' long. The Lodge drive will be improved as it was approved by the council last night. Brian also reported he was in the process of bidding the mowing and traffic median maintenance contract. He also reported that the Public Works department was putting a guardrail up out by the new sidewalk on Mission Road at Ironwoods Park.

The Police department was approving the signage going up out at Ironwoods and the Parks Department was finalizing the design of a new, lighted, entry sign at the park.

Brian mentioned to the group that he was looking for an excavating business to dredge the north lake along Tomahawk Creek Parkway to make it deeper.

Dick asked who dredged out #11 at Ironhorse Golf Course? And Chris replied that she didn't think #11 was ever dredged. Chris referred Brian to Brett Haugland at Continental Engineers for information on this issue.

Brian also said the Parks Maintenance Department was applying for an outdoor land and water grant to potentially offset costs of improving the lake. He will report further at a future meeting.

Logan – Reported that the new Recreation Attendant started and her name is Amanda Gaunt. Logan also reported that he was working on developing his budget and getting summer camp staff in place. The Oak Room flooring and wallpapering is scheduled and we purchased a new projector for the room to assist with power point presentations and other technical presentation needs. Logan said he was researching the prospect of a virtual tour of the lodge, cabins, and nature center on the City's web site. He also reported that the Lodge is booked way out and he is working on updating staff manuals.

Dick asked how far out is the Lodge booked? and Logan said July 2007. Mark asked about repeat customers and Logan listed Sprint and Demdaco as repeat customers.

Dick asked what was the average size group using the Lodge and Logan answered at least 150 to 200 people.

Steve asked about the parking and Logan said it's only been an issue once.

Brock – Brock reported holiday camp attendance was down some from last year. This may be due to the fact the all the camps were held after the holiday. Gearing up for a new round of classes. The Spanish class will be meeting on Saturday for children and on Thursday evenings for adults. Also working on End-of-Year Reports.

Kim – Reported that the January 22 Salaam -Shalom dinner had 500 participants. She reported she was working on hiring seasonals and that she has filled all the spots for the Pool's Concession stand. She reported she is in the process of looking for a concession food vendor. Working on program registrations being available on-line this July.

Lindsay – Lindsay reported that Daddy/Daughter Date night was a success and sold out. The next event to be held is the Mom/Son sports night where the format has been changed to include a sports theme instead of just a date night theme. Mark asked the ages for this event and Lindsay said ages 5-11 years.

The Eggstravaganza is scheduled for April 9 at City Park and planning is underway. The National Bank of Kansas is underwriting the event so it will be free of charge to participants and a nominal fee will be charged for the hot dog lunch. The Kiwanis have committed to do the lunch for the event.

Lindsay also reported she is working on the 4th of July, getting performers and vendors booked.

Brock – Introducing new classes for the summer including KC Computer Camp, Scribble Workshop for little kids, and Bark-a-doodle. March 13-17 is spring break camp. Attended the second year of Revenue School in Colorado in early February.

April – Reported that the Stage Company selected a director for the summer production of “Oklahoma”. Auditions will be held April 1 and 2. Mark asked April if the same people come out to audition for these productions and she said this production will probably draw a different crowd because of the need for all ages in the performance. She said people decide if they will audition based on if the production is being held outside or indoors. Karen asked what time were the auditions and April answered 1-6 p.m.

April said the KC Symphony event is coming up on April 28 and that Country Club Bank is hosting a pre-reception at their new bank on 135th Street. Tea with Shakespeare is scheduled for April 23 and there is another Gold Bank Art Show scheduled for March 24.

Dick inquired as to why the artwork Lloopi lighting seems to be fading in brightness. It used to light up the artwork and not just the strand of lights. Karen said it doesn’t look as pretty as it used to. Brian said in the past they had the artist out to help with a problem they were having with bugs burning on the lighting and they developed a screen to keep them out. This allows for the lighting to remain brighter and better illuminating the colors at night.

Dan – Dan reported that there are a total of 143 teams signed up for spring soccer or 2,100 kids. This number may go as high as 2,250. T-ball registration is coming up next which usually has about 41 teams and a total of 650 kids. Amy asked Dan what is the age for T-ball and Dan said ages 4-6 for t-ball and ages 6-8 for coach pitch.

Dan reported he was also working on a Youth Task Force Committee and a KRPA recreation branch committee.

Karen asked Dan when are the first soccer games scheduled and Dan told her March 25. Dick asked if soccer numbers have dropped off and Dan said they have leveled off. Dick asked Dan the ages for soccer and Dan replied K-8 grades.

Amy asked if there has been interest in LaCrosse and Dan said we will do our camp again this summer.

Chris – Chris thanked Jacquie, Karen, Mark, and Amy for coming to KRPA sessions on Sunday, January 22. Chris reported that she, Brian, Kim and Dan met to discuss the potential of hosting the Will Shields flag football event in the city park this coming October. The event raises approximately \$40,000 to benefit Safe Home. Chris said there two main concerns with us hosting the event, the first being damage to our soccer fields (the rain or shine issue) and postponing our league schedule for a week. Mark asked the ages of the participants and Chris said it is for adults. Karen and Mark both raised concerns about what football cleats would do to our fields. Chris went on to emphasize that this was a preliminary meeting. Dick asked how many fields they would use and Brian replied maybe 5 fields. They could put two of their fields on one of ours. Chris said she would find out more about the event from Johnson County Parks and Recreation, who had hosted the event in the past, before we proceed any further. We will report back to the advisory board once more information is obtained.

At 6:35 Councilman Peppes joined the group.

II. Off-Leash Dog Park

Chris reported to the group that she has yet to see the petition for an Off-Leash dog park, but both Mark and Karen commented that they have seen it. Mark asked Chris how many signatures do you need to have and Chris said there is no minimum number required, but it does give us some understanding about the number of citizens who are reporting it. The conversation then turned as to a location for the dog area and Chris mentioned the acreage at I-435 and State Line that may be given to us soon by Hallbrook. She also mentioned other potential sites, such as the area north of the 20/20 building that we talked about in the fall of 2005. Dick mentioned the wooded area to the east of the treatment plant. Amy asked if the area needed to be fenced and Brian said not always but it could be considered. Mark asked if there was some action that needed to be taken by the group but it was decided that this was for informational purposes only, so not at this time.

III. CIP: Public Art and Amphitheater

Chris distributed to the group a sheet outlining the CIP Program – Art Program for 2007 – 2011. The document explained about the various art pieces planned and their locations. Greg asked about the \$1.2 million price tag associated with the proposed GEZER Park and Chris said to get everything potentially designed by the architect, and discussed with the planning group, the City Administrator felt this was a more realistic number, thus the potential cost went to \$1.2 million. She went on to explain that this includes several shelters, the laying of sod instead of planting grass seed, and at least one water feature. Chris said there is a quite a bit of expense associated with the water features, as potable water must be used. Dr. Peppes said he wasn't sure he wanted to support \$1.2 million for GEZER Park. Chris said that this park is a major component of the park system and will be more of a gathering place that probably even the neighbors realize.

Chris went on to say that in 2007 there was a request for \$95,000 for the master plan design of the amphitheater area and the consensus of the governing body was that this number was likely low, based on a potential construction cost of \$2 Million plus. The council elected to place \$500,000 into the CIP for the 2007 budget of which \$200,000 might be used for design, with the other to potentially proceed with building the restroom, concession, storage facilities at the top of the hill.

Chris said she will provide the group with the updated CIP pages from last night's council meeting.

Mark then asked about the money set aside for the dying greens at Ironhorse and Chris replied that Scott will be deciding on that expenditure soon and whether we will do it and; if so how many greens might be redone.

IV. Governing Body Work Session on March 20th; Potential Community Center Location and Amenities

Dr. Peppes said that at last night's council meeting the question was raised if we want a community center and where it is going to be located and what should it include?

Mark said he didn't feel that the council was in favor of a community center.

Greg said that may stem from the fact that there are so many options out there.

Chris mentioned that she would be unable to attend the March 20th work session due to a family vacation, but said that according to the City Administrator, one of the main issues to be discussed will be what amenities should the center have? Especially, whether or not it should have an aquatic component. She then shared with the group some of the information she has been gathering over the last 4-5 years regarding other new community centers in the metro area, including square footage, amenities, construction costs, etc. Chris went on to say that she has learned that most facilities are constructed major component wise: one-third for a gym, one-third for a fitness center, and one-third for an aquatic center.

Dr. Peppes said that he thought that since Chris could not attend, the work session should be moved back.

Chris told the group that Kim and Brian will represent the department if the date does not change. Park Board members are welcome to attend as well, however generally do not participate in conversation unless asked for input by the Mayor.

Mark asked if we could send out a reminder for the work session to all the park board members.

Then the discussion turned to resident vs. non-resident use and the consensus that the council is concerned about subsidizing another facility that is supported by non-resident use. Dick added that he didn't think the council minded the non-resident use of our facilities as long as the residents get a price break when they use our facilities.

Chris said she would like the council to have an opportunity to experience some of these other facilities before deciding whether it would be good for Leawood.

Greg asked how you pay for a community center.

Chris said that she would propose to operate it as the second enterprise fund for the City, with the first being the golf course.

Mark asked about possible location?

Chris talked about some possible locations and that after working with Mark Klein from the planning department there were 9-10 that had been identified. She turned the map of potential sites over to Scott Lambers for his consideration. She went on to say she would get copies of the map that outlines possible property available and get it to the park board members.

Mark asked if there were any possible school closings.

Chris said not that she knew of at this time. At one point several years ago, Mission Trail was mentioned but that discussion never went anywhere.

Dr. Peppes asked the group to come to some consensus before going to the March 20 work session and is it the group's charge to carry suggestions to the work session. He then shared with the group that as of now the council is setting aside \$5 million for a community center and that's not much money for a community center.

Amy asked if it could be a revenue generating center. Chris said it could support itself but feels that without the pool component, it would be much more difficult to make that promise.

Mark added that he thought as many park board members as possible need to be in attendance on March 20 and that as a group we need to have a consensus.

Greg added that he thought the March 20 session will result in not only whether the City needs a community center but also what the center should consist of.

V. Next Meeting Date

The group was undecided when the next meeting would be held because of spring break. Several dates were discussed and it was decided to meet prior to the work session so that the Community Center could be discussed further.

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, March 7 in the Maple Room.

Karen moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mark seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department