



## **ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2006**

**5:30 p.m.- The Maple Room**

Board members in attendance were Steve Martens (Chair), Dick Fuller, Mark Mergen, Karen Reimer, and Council Liaison, 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, and Lindsay Youle.

Steve Martens called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Karen Reimer moved to approve the February 21, 2006 meeting minutes and Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### **I. Staff Reports**

*Staff reports were kept to a minimum due to the fact that the group had just met less than two weeks ago. March's meeting was scheduled around local school district's spring breaks.*

April – Reported that the first Gold Bank Art Show will be held March 24 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Karen asked the artists participating and April told the group that Julie Johnson, Gil Rumsey and Jill Sweeny will all be exhibiting their work.

April also reported that she met with Ilan Averbach concerning the sculpture planned for Gezer Park and everything went very well. Brian added that since we were discussing art he would give the group an update concerning the artwork Lllloopi, located in City Park, and the problem with the lighting. Brian said the problem was the same as what they had experienced before and that they were looking into a long-term solution.

Karen Reimer asked if there was any organized baseball as part of the parks and recreation programs because she saw teams down playing on the ball field at the park. Kim replied that we rent out the fields to teams for practice use.

### **II. Discuss Future Community Center**

Chris proceeded to hand out maps depicting potential sites for a Community Center. She asked the group to please use discretion in sharing this information because it was compiled based on the premise that at some point these locations may become available.

Mark talked about the Mayor's comments concerning the possibility of partnering with a private group in getting this community center going. Chris shared with the group that she didn't know the specifics of that.

Mark asked about a wish list for a community center. Steve said, "Once again a feasibility study or needs assessment would answer these questions."

Mark asked if a center could be built on existing park grounds.

Steve asked if the council had already made up their minds concerning a community center.

Chris said she thought that some of the council members maybe in agreement with the need for a study. And she shared with the group the City's *Road Map to the Future*.

Mark said he thinks the community center is going to happen it's just a matter of what features will be included.

Chris talked about being able to determine what should be included based on which programs we currently offer and their success. After having the citizen's input and the success of our current programs we will be able to determine what features the center should have. This should also be shared with the council.

Chris also added that she would still propose it as an enterprise fund.

Greg said the he believes there will need to be a feasibility study done on a project of this size – a project that needs to be bonded.

Steve asked if a feasibility study was done for the amphitheater and Chris said that the amphitheater was included as part of the 1998 bond issue.

Brian suggested that the group to narrow down this discussion and determine what needs to accomplished during the upcoming work session.

Greg added that two questions need to be addressed:

- Do we want a center?
- And for how much money?

Greg said we can't come from the meeting with just \$5 million and we will need to have picked a site.

Chris questioned whether the Justice Center site could be used for both a justice center and a community center?

Greg said he liked that location because it was centrally located and included the residents from northern Leawood.

Chris added that having the center in such close proximity to the Justice Center, City Hall, Park Place, Town Center, and the major businesses in the area would encourage synergy for the facility. The community from both the southern and northern parts of Leawood would utilize the facility and the police and fire departments could use the facility for training, etc.

Dick Fuller added that the center could take advantage of the Justice Center being so close. Security would be provided and the fire department could use the center for training, as well as provide a 24 hour presence.

Steve suggested we go into the work session prepared to say: "We as a Park Board would like to see a centrally located community center for the City of Leawood".

Dick asked what is the construction schedule for the Justice Center. Chris said the design should take place in 2007, with construction in 2008 and 2009. Dick said do we suggest the Community and Justice centers be packaged together and reap the benefits of constructing them at the same time?

Steve asked if the feasibility study is worth pursuing? And how much would a study cost? Chris thought maybe around \$25,000 but will check with a couple of consultants.

Dick said we need to be prepared to stress during the work session that we want a community center and we really need to move forward with this.

Chris then referred to the brochure on the seminar in St. Louis later this year concerning the building of community centers. She, Brian and Kim plan to attend. It is a great conference with excellent information on construction as well as tours.

Logan added that presenting the council at the work sessions with pictures of neighboring centers would be good and possibly even some tours. He went on to say what a dramatic impression the Lodge makes on people once they see it in person.

Chris said before the work session she would provide the group with:

- Minutes from this meeting
- Minutes from the Work Session on January 17th
- Excerpts from *Road Map to the Future*
- Preliminary costs and timeline for a Feasibility Study

### **III. Miscellaneous**

The next meeting was set for April 11, 2006.

Karen Reimer made a motion to adjourn and Dick Fuller seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department