



ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – April 11, 2006

5:30 p.m. - Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Steve Martens (Chair), Dick Fuller, Mark Mergen, Councilman Scott Gullede, Amy Vlastic and Jacquie McKinney. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Sara Dinkel, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Logan Wagler, Jeff Peterson, and Lindsay Youle. Also in attendance were Dennis Reynolds and Ann Kenney of APPI.

Steve Martens called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Dick Fuller moved to approve the March 7, 2006 meeting minutes and Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Brock – Brock reported he is busy with the soccer season underway. Spring registration has started and we are offering a new computer camp. He reported he was also busy getting staff into place.

Lindsay – Eggstravaganza was a huge success and we may have had as many as 2000 or 3000 people. The event was expanded with participation from the Leawood Kiwanis. Mom and Son Sports night is a go on April 21, after two years of trying. Dick asked if it was being held at the Lodge and Lindsay said yes. Lindsay also reported that she was in the process of interviewing interns for the summer. We will hire two.

Logan – Reported that he has finished his budget and now working with summer registrations for camps. The Lodge remains booked every Saturday until next July. The Oak Room flooring renovations will go before the council 4/17. Dick asked if we have seen a continued increase in Lodge activity during the week. Logan reported some increase and we are trying to accommodate the business client.

Jeff – Expanded the Nature Center hours and conducting lots of scout programs. New animals for the Nature Center include a Great Plains Rat snake and an aquatic turtle, both of which are native to Kansas. Amy Vlastic asked if we were interested in a Boa snake and Jeff stated to the group that we are trying to stay native to the region in our selection of animals for display. Jeff reported the Challenge Course is busy and they are gearing up for summer camps and program planning.

Mark asked if it was possible to have another Park Board Meeting at the Challenge Course like in the past. Chris said yes, when the weather stabilizes we should plan to meet there one month.

Dan – Reported that the soccer season is three weeks underway and so far we have had no rainouts. He reported working on T-ball and sports camps including basketball, soccer and lacrosse. Dick asked who coached the Lacrosse camp and Dan the SME lacrosse coach will be teaching the camp for the second year in a row.

Jacquie then asked the group why do we have a rat at the Nature Center and Jeff explained that it was a Great Plains rat “snake” and not a rat. She then asked if we might consider a red tail hawk? Chris said maybe in the future we will have birds of prey.

April – Working on taking symphony reservations. Sam asked what was the concert theme and April said the concert has a “Pops” concert. Jacquie said she’s amazed how they have moved the “Pops” series out south.

April said Sunday was call backs for the summer LSC production of Oklahoma and we have 40+ cast members. April reported that the ballet will be back this September and that the Bank Show had more than 400 people attend. Tea with Shakespeare is also completely sold out and we had enough requests for seating to fill it twice. She will talk with the Shakespeare group about offering it for two days in 2007. April then reported on an Art in Public Places initiative encouraging students from the Kansas City Art Institute to place their pieces on loan at three different locations throughout Leawood. One possible location could be the City Hall lobby, replacing the Matt Dehmers piece (due to come out in late June) with some of the student’s work.

Chris for Brian Anderson – Working on repairing or replacing I-Lan roof. Two roofers said that the original roof wasn’t installed correctly. The price for the new roof is \$4,000.

The consultant DesignSense is on the agenda for approval at the 4/17 council meeting. This project is for the new restroom/showers, playground restroom, and maintenance building at Ironwoods Park. Dick asked about the location of the other restroom and Chris explained that the facility would be near the playground. Chris also reported that the Lodge drive is progressing well and should be done in 30-45 days. Chris said a press release would go out to alert people about the pedestrian bridge replacement and subsequent closure at Mission Road. Chris also reported that we are considering a gate to keep folks from driving into the amphitheater area as there is some undesirable activity going on in that area.

Chris for Kim – Working on lane line touch-up painting at the pool and will begin to fill the pool on May 1. The swim team is full again this year. These are mostly Leawood residents, which we continue to see an increase in participation from.

Chris – Reported she had her budget review with Scott and requested a full-time building attendant to clean the Lodge, cabins, and nature center. This would provide for a much better job, quicker service, and save the city money by not using an outside contractor

Mark asked about dredging the ponds along Tomahawk Creek Parkway and Chris said not yet because we need to look into it further. The ponds have a bentonite lining and going through it to increase the depth may prove too costly with little benefit. Chris said she would keep the board posted on future discussion in this area.

Karen asked about the split-rail fence out at Ironwoods and if it is permanent. Chris said yes and Karen said she doesn't really like the way it looks. Chris said for consistency purposes, we used the same materials as what was use in the rest of the park. This also keeps people from driving through the grass strip and across to the trail.

Dick asked about the Leabrook connection and if there is a plan to take the road all the way through to Kenneth Road? Chris said the plat that would address that has not come in yet but she will check with Mark Klein of the planning department to see if he knows more.

Steve asked Chris if she had any follow up to the work session? She said she hadn't received any feed back to date. Dick added that he left the work session with the understanding that the community center was 5 to 6 years off. Amy added that she thought the decision whether to have one would be sooner than that. Scott said he thought the city park was a better site for a community center than next to the Justice Center.

Steve said he left the work session with the understanding that Scott wasn't sure if the justice center site was the best site for a community center. Steve also added that he thought further research and polling the citizens to determine their wants was necessary.

Scott added that he thought this discussion was all over the place.

Chris went on to explain that community centers can be different in many ways from fitness clubs such as Bally, Health Plus, Prairie Life, - including philosophy, atmosphere, costs, use, etc. They are very much different animals.

Scott said we should discuss "what defines a community center", because what we currently have is a room in the basement of city hall.

Chris said there is a need for citizen input whether it be a needs assessment or feasibility study. The feasibility study differs from the needs assessment in that it will actually help determine if the City can actually support it through users.

Steve asked if it was in the budget for a needs assessment and Chris "no" a feasibility study defining the economic impact and can our community support it has been proposed for the 2007 budget.

Scott said if it is an affordability issue the council will want to see what we already have and if it makes money.

II. Presentation of Proposed Art in Gezer Park

Ann Kenney, chair of the Art in Public Places Initiative (APPI) explained to the group the process involved in placing Art in Leawood. The proposed art for Gezer Park has the following:

- Jewish Themed
- Monumental
- Universal Appeal

- Short listed 4 artists
- Selected an Israeli artist living in New York
- Much of his work has a water element

Art would be situated on the ½ acre lake planned for the park.

Dennis shared his thoughts on the piece and said it is 22' tall and will be visible when you drive by- possibly lit up at night.

Steve asked about the neighbor's reaction to the structure. Would it be too tall and present controversy like the Price Chopper did?

Chris and Dennis said the plan has not been public yet so we don't have neighborhood feed back.

Jacque asked about kids climbing up the structure and Dennis said jokingly that they will get wet if they climb it but seriously mentioned that the first rung is about ten feet off the ground and virtually impossible to reach.

Chris said the idea of putting it further down 133rd street is to draw people into the park and there may be plans for more art in the future for this park, probably along the mission road side.

Steve said we should probably look into any concerns about the height.

Ann said she thought because of the elevations in the park the piece won't be that visible from outside the park. The piece still needs to go through the planning committee and then before the Council.

Chris reminded Ann that the artists needs to do a model to take before the Council.

Dick said the water feature will require a pump and a constant need for water maintenance.

Jacque said she likes the piece and thought it was meaningful.

Dick asked if it will be named "Calcutta Ladder" like in the book and Ann said she thought the name could change.

Mark asked the cost and Ann said \$100,000.

Chris asked if he has pieces in the Midwest and Ann shared a picture of a piece the artist placed in Denver.

Dick asked about the artist's education and Ann talked of the artist's background.

Karen made a motion that we approve the location of the art at Gezer Park and Jacque second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Miscellaneous

Steve Martens appealed to the group for some one to step up and take over as Chairman of the Advisory Board. Chris said it might be a good idea to wait until June after the Mayor's appointments have been finalized. Chris announced that next month's meeting will be Dick's last Advisory Board meeting.

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, May 9 in the Maple Room.

Jacque moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department