



ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2006

5:30 p.m. - Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Mark Mergen, Karen Reimer, Amy Vlastic, Jacquie McKinney and Bob Wright. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Sara Dinkel, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Lindsay Youle, Brian Anderson and April Bishop. Parks & Recreation Department summer interns, Matt Crase and Eric Conrad were also in attendance.

Steve Martens called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Jackie made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes and Amy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Brian – Brian reported on current park projects. The Mission Road trail bridge was set in place on Friday but still needs the asphalt installed leading up to it. Brian also reported they are working on completing a trail ramp on the east side of Roe at 127th Street, as a result of resident requests. He also mentioned the possibility of a trail link with the Mission Farms development. The back entrance drive at Ironwoods is nearing completion. He gave an update on the Llooppi sculpture at City Park reporting that he is working with the manufacturer as to why the lighting overheats and that currently the light bulb remains out. Jacquie asked Brian if the replacement deer had been installed and Brian said yes. He also informed the group that it was reinforced with steel rods. We plan to have the artist do the same to the other two soon.

Brock - Brock reported that camps have started and so has the tennis program. Registration for Tween camp has been closed as registration is full. The current Art-in-the-Park registration is low but the next two sessions are almost at capacity. Tween camp enrollment overall is up and two sessions of the tennis lessons are full. We were able to assemble a 13 and under girls team for the Junior Tennis League, which will compete with other facilities over the summer.

Lindsay – Saturday was National Trails Day and we had approximately 100 total participants. Mark Mergen was thanked for attending the event. The Mayor and City Administrator also participated. Lindsay also reported that she is currently working on planning the City's 4th of July event and filling in for facility rentals at The Lodge and Community Center. She also reported that senior lunch this month is free and we currently have 53 people registered to attend. We will use this opportunity to market other programs and to talk with the seniors about future programming.

Kim – Kim reported that swim and dive teams have started and pool pass sales are strong. Lorin Stewart has resigned after 8 years because of health issues and we have a new

Recreation Technician for the front desk- Sally Harper. Logan's replacement Jackie Zinselmeyer will start on Monday.

Dan – The T-ball and coach pitch leagues started tonight and we have 35-40 teams participating.

Jeff – Nature Art class starts tomorrow and we had a birthday party today at the Nature Center. The Challenge Course is busy and the cabins have been busy but are starting to slow down some because of the heat. The Nature Adventure and Climbing Camps are getting full. There are some new animals at the center including some turtles and a ring neck snake. Plantings are going on in the garden. We have also been busy training camp counselors. Jacquie asked what the nature art camp is. Jeff said pencil, colors and clay renderings of plants and animals.

April - Reported the stolen deer has been replaced. Rehearsals for Oklahoma have started and we are planning some fun events in conjunction with the production, which will possibly include a Sprint sponsored night and a Chamber sponsored night. April also reported that July 20 is opening night with the Gala happening on the 28th. April said groups donating money to the Stage Company can in return receive recognition in the program.

The next Art Show is scheduled for this Friday night at M&I Bank, featuring four artists. She also reported that the Kid's Concert series starts this Thursday and the Oxford School's Book Club starts Wednesday.

II. Discussion of Organized Events on Trail System

Chris reported on the topic of allowing organized events on the trail. Olathe shared with us that they have no policy in place but they will not shut down the trail for an event. Johnson County evaluates each individual request and charges \$1 per participant but reserves the right to refuse any request. Chris said before she goes any further with this she hopes to get information from Overland Park and Lenexa. Chris also stated that she is concerned with safety when there are that many people on the trail, in light of the many curves (causing blind spots) and the mixed use including walkers, runners, dog walkers, strollers, roller bladders, and cyclists. Karen asked Chris if she was comfortable taking this to the Council? Chris said that it would be okay to go to the Council but first she would also like to look into possibly holding these types of events on the trail out at Ironwoods. There is limited access, that can be controlled, and the trail does not connect from inside the park. Bob said so at this point the policy is "No organized events on our trail?" Amy asked if the police do a bike safety event on our trail. Kim explained to the group that the bike safety class actually uses a shelter and the parking lot.

Amy then asked the group "When will we get more parking at I-Lan?" Chris said we will probably wait until September when use slows down.

III. Update on Progress of Improvements at Ironwoods

Chris reported that she, Brian and Kim met with DesignSense last Tuesday and worked on the RFP. We discussed the city's preferred contract and they returned it to us last Friday. We have a meeting scheduled this Friday to go over the contract and Chris has asked Joe Johnson to set in as well. Karen asked if we had come up with some kind of schedule. Chris said we will know the schedule by next meeting and we hope to interview firms in August

with the project to be completed by next spring, maybe May. Chris also said we will hopefully master plan all the areas of the amphitheater, and not only the restrooms.

Amy then asked what the status was of Gezer Park and Chris said its' design has been postponed until 2007 and construction postponed until 2008. Chris also mentioned that she hopes the needs assessment for a community center will happen next year. It has been requested in the budget but still must receive Council approval before moving forward.

IV. Oak Room Renovation

Chris reported that we discussed with the contractors the option of renovating the Oak Room now or in November and we went with now. They could not hold prices and some materials had already been delivered for the project. We did have to do some rescheduling of events but the work will start June 12 with the demolition. The following week will be dry wall repair and then new flooring. Bob asked why Parks and Recreation is responsible for this project in the community center. Chris said because we rent it out, receive the revenue and are the primary user. Chris also stated that the room is more than 10 years old and is really showing wear.

V. Miscellaneous

Chris reported that the Council will have their budget sessions next week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. The Parks and Recreation budget will be addressed from 8-9:00 p.m. on Tuesday. Chris then mentioned the article in today's paper discussing and ranking area municipalities and what level of efficiency each one operates.

Jacque then shared with the group that when she shows houses to prospective residents and tours our park and trail system with them.

Brian stressed that he thought the article overlooked the quality of service that was being provided by each municipality.

Chris also stressed that there are no recreation services provided to the residents of south Kansas City by the City of Kansas City, Missouri and how Leawood Parks and Recreation helps fill this need.

Mark then asked how many, per fire code, can use the pool? Chris said the capacity inside the fence is 3500.

Jacque said she feels we have safe parks, outstanding staff, and is very proud of Leawood's Park & Recreation Department and services offered. Jackie then offered to write a rebuttal letter. Bob asked "Do we care about public perception of the article?"

Chris then went on to say that next years parks and recreation budget is up approximately 1% and of \$44.5 million, Parks and Recreation represents 21% of that figure. The 21% also includes the golf course. Mark asked if we take the golf course out of the budget then what % does Parks and Rec represent.

VI. Miscellaneous

The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, July 11 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 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department