



ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2006

5:30 p.m. - Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Mark Mergen, Jacquie McKinney, Amy Vlastic, Sam Turner and Council Liaison Dr. Greg Peppes. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Sara Dinkel, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Lindsay Youle, Brian Anderson, April Bishop and Jackie Zinselmeyer.

Jacquie McKinney called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Sam Turner made a motion to approve the July 11th meeting minutes and Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Lindsay – Lindsay reported on a successful Labor Day Run saying we had 393 runners and beautiful weather. The next event on the schedule is the Freaky Fall Fest planned for October 20, 2006. Lindsay said they have to revamp the popular Hayride attraction because of the area recently being cleared of branches and brush (by KCPL) that were decorated for this event. The September senior lunch is scheduled for this Thursday and will feature a poetry reading. Lindsay reported that the *Best of Times* publication is coming to do an article about our monthly lunches.

Brian – Brian reported that the heavy rain we had couple of weeks ago flooded the park and his staff was busy cleaning up for almost a week. He reported that they are working on landscaping near 135th Street and will meet with Hermes Landscaping tomorrow. A water feature was budgeted as part of the project. The Lodge drive is finished and we recently completed some irrigation and as well as some sod and landscape work. The new trail at Mission Farms, which costs the developer approximately \$60,000, is almost complete. They included a stop sign, a warning sign and possible a crosswalk light. Jacquie McKinney asked Brian “Who is it going to cost to do this work?” Brian told the group that the developer paid for the trail connection.

Dan – Reported that soccer is keeping him busy. The fall season has started and so far the weather has been good with no rainouts. This Saturday has been scheduled as team picture day.

Jackie – summer camps have come to a close and enrollment in both the half and full-day camps were up. Enrollment in the outdoor camp was way up and the camps went well. The Lodge is booked every weekend so efforts are being made to accommodate these groups, if possible, here at the Community Center.

Brock – Brock reported that like Dan he is busy with soccer. He also reported that enrollment in the golf programs, tennis programs and tween camps were all up this summer. Brock said the tennis program has doubled in size since 2004 and all the golf programs were full with students being put on waiting lists. Brock reported that the new fall session started up this week.

Jeff – Both Boy Scout and Girls Scout programs are very busy and the Nature Center attendance is up. Cabin rentals are up and we have four Eagle Scouts working at the Nature Center. The challenge course is very busy and we have two open climbs scheduled for September 29 and October 28.

Kim – Kim reported on a very busy pool season that ended with the Doggie Dunk last Tuesday with 225 dogs attending. Both Leawood Animal Control and State Line Animal Hospital were present at the doggie dunk. Amy asked if anyone brought a pit bull and Kim said they weren't aware of any pit bulls being present.

Kim reported that she is working on Webtrac and on-line registrations and that we went ahead and purchased the brochure module that will incorporate our program guide as a part of the program. Kim said Kettering, Ohio a community we have benchmarked our department against, does more than 80% of their registrations on-line.

Chris reported that we had a sink hole down by field #9. Brian said it was caused by a sanitary line running from the pool that had settled and leaked causing the sink hole.

Chris – Getting ready to expand the parking lot at I-Lan in approximately 10 days. Chris said we are thinking about posting some signs or having the contractor post them, so people are aware of the up-coming construction activities and the impact they will have on the park. Brian said that at the preconstruction meeting he warned the contractor as to how busy this park is. Brian also said that after the parking expansion at I-Lan he would like to irrigate the park so we can grow grass better.

Chris also reported that the amphitheatre task force was preparing to do complete the scope for an RFP on a master plan leading to architectural plans for the amphitheatre.

The golf course is scheduled to close 1/1/07 and will affect the junior golf programs we will be offering next summer. Hopefully the course will be reopened no later than Memorial Day 2008. Mark asked Chris what types of greens were going in at the course and Chris told the group the greens will be built to USGA standards as opposed to the California greens that are in now.

Chris also reported that the Mayor received an award on behalf of the city for the dedication of the piece of property, Gezer Park to the.

April – April reported that the Ballet will be at Ironwoods this Thursday and we are expecting a big crowd. The performance starts at 6 p.m. and lasts one hour. She also reported that the jazz concert series was going well and the last one is scheduled for this Sunday night. Two temporary pieces of art are being installed, one in front of City Hall and the other in the Lobby. There will be a dedication ceremony/reception on October 16, at 6:00 p.m. for the artists, prior to the 7:30 Council meeting. April also reported that the Council approved the sculpture planned for the Oxford School House, the sculpture proposed for Gezer Park, and the porch lights planned for northern Leawood at Lee and Somerset Boulevards.

Jackie asked how long the temporary pieces are on loan and April said one year and that both the artists are art students at the Kansas City Art Institute. This program provides a great experience for all involved and that the space in front of City Hall could become a permanent-temporary site.

April reported that the Music Man is the selection for next year's summer performance at Ironwoods Park.

Dr. Peppes asked if we could take a minute and discuss Gezer Park. He wanted to know if the Advisory Board was going to be given the opportunity to review any design plans for the park. Chris said yes, if any changes are proposed. Dr. Peppes also told the group that what the council originally agreed to budget for the park and what is presently being proposed are two different things. He said that he thought by this date we would be further along with design plans for the park, but the design as to the approved budget remains an issue.

II. Fee Study Consultant

Chris reported that there should be a preliminary report from PFC, the group conducting the cost recovery analysis, by the end of November with a final report by mid December. Chris said she would like to see both reports moved to early November and early December so there will be an opportunity to get a policy in front of the board by the first of 2007. Dr Peppes asked Chris if PFC will do a presentation to the Park Advisory Board on their findings and Chris said we will ask them once they come up with a draft of the report.

III. Recommendation for Use of Trail for Organized Events

Chris said that as a group we had discussed organized events on the trail but never came up with a formal recommendation. Chris then summarized what had been previously discussed and provided the group with a recap of what neighboring communities were doing. Overland Park allows organized events but does not close the trail, require a permit that they can obtain for \$50, and if it involves any streets they notify the police.

Johnson County allows for its trail to be closed two times a year, give priority to their events, and charge \$1 per person participating, they require 60 days advance notice, and post the date and time of upcoming events 14 days prior at every trail entrance.

Sam Turner then made a motion that the City of Leawood not close the trial system for organized events.

Amy asked if we could open this issue for discussion and wanted to discuss limiting the events just to the Ironwoods Park trail,

Both Kim and Jeff told the group that they need to be aware of all the activities already being conducted out at Ironwoods Park.

Greg asked if it is possible to keep the public off the trail during an event and Chris said with all the different entry points that would be very difficult to do.

Chris also told the group that she has been fielding a number of requests for even larger groups to use the trail.

Sam said he was concerned with people going out to the park to walk, etc. and find the trail being occupied by a group.

Dr. Peppes then asked “If we take this recommendation to the Council and it passes what is the penalty for holding a special event or run on the trail anyway? Amy asked “How do you stop it from happening?” Chris replied that we will need to use our own discretion as each situation arises.

Mark asked if this is an occasional thing. And Chris said yes. Brian added that groups get permission from surrounding communities and they just cross over on to our trails.

Chris said if we develop a formal policy then we will inform the surrounding communities of that policy.

Chris also told the group that it is important to keep in mind that once you give one group permission to use the trail for an event it is hard to say no to other requests.

The motion made by Sam Turner not to close the City of Leawood’s trails to organized events was seconded by Mark Mergen. The recommendation passed unanimously.

IV. Miscellaneous

Chris shared with the group copies of the March 2 Work Session Meeting Minutes concerning a Community Center. Chris said she was unable to attend this session and was hoping to get a better feel for what the directives were for the canvassing project.

Chris also mentioned that she would be touring a community center under construction, as part of an off-site institute, while attending the NRPA conference in Seattle, Washington and would report more on this when she returns.

Chris congratulated Mark Mergen on his appointment to the Citizen’s Advisory Board for the Midwest Chapter of the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Because of the up-coming travel scheduled, Chris asked if we could reschedule the next Park Board Meeting to October 17. It was agreed we would meet the 17th.

Amy Vlasic moved that we adjourn the meeting and Sam Turner seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department