



ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2007

5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Karen Reimer (Acting Chair), Mark Mergen, Amy Vlastic, and Jacquie McKinney. 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.

Mark Mergen called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the December 13, 2006 meeting minutes and Karen Reimer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Kim reported that WebTrac, the On-line registration component of RecTrac was working and will be put to the real test once we start taking on-line swim lesson and camp registrations. She also reported that returning staff letters for the pool were mailed out and she is working on the pricing policy and end-of-the-year report. Mark asked Kim if she attends AFO – Aquatic Facility Operator Training programs and she told him she had attended in the past, is certified, and repeats the training every three years. Mark voiced his concern about on-line registration because he has not had any success and Kim said she would check and make sure his household is properly set up.

Brian reported that he has hired 2 new people to his full-time staff to fill vacancies. More than 850 trees were recycled at the tree drop off sites; soccer goals are being repaired; checking on the intake pipe at the city pond because we may have some silting problems; and checking into a resident's request to plant trees on city property behind his house at Ironwoods Park. Brian explained that he didn't want to encourage this planting because we are very specific about the type and size trees we plant. Amy said she thinks we should let people plant within limits and Jacquie agreed because she would like to encourage the beautification of the City. Jacquie added that we should let them plant even if it's for their own benefit/privacy.

Brian explained that if we do let residents plant on City property the maintenance of those trees lies with City staff. Chris said the City would have to have some standards. Brian said those standards would be the size of tree to be planted, the type of tree planted and properly spacing the trees to encourage growth and screening. Maybe develop a system to accept tree donations and properly planting those trees. Brian also mentioned there are encroachment problems that will need to be dealt with. Chris suggested that Brian talk with Pete out at the golf course as she recalled we had a similar instance in years past.

Amy asked if this gentleman was the only one to have made this request and Brian said yes it was the only request he knew of.

Chris suggested that photos of the site in question be taken and we report back in February once we learn more.

Jacque suggested we come to some decision this evening on this matter and not table it.

Chris said that if someone wants to plant a tree they should plant it on their own property or at least minimally have some guidelines in place. Jeff added that if we do let residents plant on City property it should be with a plan in place. Amy added that it's obvious that staff feels strongly against letting residents plant on City property.

Chris told the board that because she just learned about it this afternoon we should look into it more before we go further.

Lindsay reported that she is working on Senior Luncheons, end-of-the-year reports, and Daddy/Daughter Date Night, which is coming up on February 3.

Jackie reported that she is getting ready for camps and lining up the counselors and working on The Lodge and Community Center reports.

Dan reported that soccer registrations are starting up again. He is planning on attending the Shawnee Mission School District soccer field use meeting and busy trying to arrange for summer sports camps.

Brock is finishing up from holiday camps, working on the Program Guides, and year-end reports for classes and camps. Karen asked if the numbers for holiday camp were up or down and Brock replied that they were down a bit but we did have lots of first timers. Brock said we seem to do better with spring break camp because it is held for five days in a row unlike holiday camp which doesn't always run consecutively.

Jeff reported he was working on year-end-reports and the upcoming program guide. Also talking with Spring Scouting groups and hiring of seasonal staff. There have been more fish donated to the nature center and there will be a water garden class offered this summer.

Jeff also shared with the group that Rob (Outdoor Recreation Specialist) resigned to take a position in Raytown at the YMCA. Jeff then told the group about a book that he recommends entitled "*Last Child in the Woods*", a book depicting the phenomenon of today's children and their limited exposure to outdoor activities and the impact it is having on their health and lives.

April reported that she was working on the Kansas Day Lecture and the Leawood Historic Guide prepared by the Leawood Historic Commission. The dedication of the sculpture by Dennis Smith, entitled "Prairie Lessons" will be held on May 19th. The first art show of the year will be Friday, February 9th at M&I Bank.

Chris reported that she was waiting on the bonds and proof of insurance from SM Wilson so we could get things underway at Ironwood but because they missed the deadline to turn these things in it had to be pulled from the City Council's agenda. It will be on again on the 16th.

They started on I-Lan's parking lot yesterday and Chris said she had been wondering if they shouldn't shut down the whole park for a time. There is a lot of activity in the area. Amy asked how long will the construction take and Chris thought it should take about 30 days if weather cooperates. Brian added that there is a lot of rock work to be done.

Chris reported on the PFC meeting held yesterday regarding the cost recovery for the department. They are in the process of making revisions and then on to Scott for his review.

II. Project List

Chris handed out a draft copy of a listing of Projects Currently in Progress for Parks and Recreation. A copy of the project list is attached.

Chris said she had been informed by the City Administrator "to put the GEZER park project back on the fast track." Chris said she will get the committee together in early February to get going on the project.

III. Presentation of the 2nd Draft – Pricing Policy for Fees and Charges

Kim passed around the revised draft of the Pricing Policy that she and Chris have been working on. She highlighted some of the major points in the draft including how they determined the Cost of a Program factoring the Life-cycle of the program, the number of participants, and the direct and in-direct costs of a program. She also highlighted the Resident Discount Policy and the Refund Policy explaining that these needed to be revisited because our current policies were not in keeping with some of the surrounding communities.

Chris asked the board if they would review the policy and get back to her with any comments they may have. There will be a work session on the PFC study and the Pricing Policy which will then go to City Council for approval.

IV. Misc.

Chris said the board members are always welcome to make changes or request additions to the meeting agenda prior to the meeting.

Karen Reimer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department