



LEAWOOD
Parks & Recreation

ADVISORY BOARD Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2007

5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Steve Martens (Chair), Karen Reimer, Mark Mergen, Amy Vlastic, Bob Wright, Sam Turner, and Dr. Greg Peppes. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Lindsay Youle, Brian Anderson, April Bishop, Jackie Zinselmeyer, and Renae Haffener.

Steve Martens called the meeting to order at 5:55 p.m. Mark Mergen made a motion to approve the January 9, 2007 meeting minutes and Karen Reimer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Kim reported that she is working on hiring people for summer positions. She is preparing for swim team registration for the summer, which begins March 5 for Leawood residents. She is also working on WebTrac to make sure it is working properly for online registrations.

Brian reported that he is working on the budget. His crew has been working on snow storm clean up. He has had police patrol the parks after the snow fall to make sure people are not tearing up the park with their cars, as there have been problems with this in the past.

Jackie reported that she is keeping on top of The Lodge and Community Center rentals. February 26th there will be a celebration for the Lunar New Year at the Lodge. It is the Year of the Pig. She is also getting ready for summer camps-doing interviews and securing supplies.

Lindsay reported that Daddy/Daughter Date Night was sold out again this year. They had a western theme. She is working on the next two events in April. April 1st is Eggstavanza, which is a free egg hunt for the kids. This event is sponsored by National Bank of Kansas City. There will also be a hot dog lunch that they will provide for a fee. April 20th is the second annual Mom and Son Sports Night, which will be held at the Lodge.

Dan reported he is busy with soccer registrations. The deadline for soccer registrations is tomorrow, February 14th.

April reported that the Kansas Day Lecture was cancelled and has been rescheduled for Thursday, March 1st. She reported that despite the cold weather, there was a huge turn out for the Art Show that was held on February 9th at M&I Bank. April 22nd is "Taking Tea with

Shakespeare”, which will likely be sold out again this year. The Leewood Stage Company will be holding auditions for “The Music Man” March 31st and April 1st.

Jeff reported he has been interviewing people for seasonal positions and working on the 2008 budget. There have been a lot of challenge course reservations and a lot of calls for cabins. Weekends in April and May are pretty full for cabin reservations. Jeff has been working with KC Nature. He has also been working on branding the Nature Center, possibly with a squirrel. He will be working on a Nature Center brochure in the next month or two. The Nature Center now has a bird list brochure to be used by bird watchers.

Brock reported that he is working on Spring Break Camp, which will be held March 19th – 23rd. Flyers will soon be sent to area schools.

II. Update on Construction Project at Ironwoods

Chris said that she has been pleased with the communication on the construction project with the contractors of SM Wilson.

Brian reported that he met in Ironwoods Park with the contractors to view the facilities and to show them around to see what they are working with. They are deciding on an area for the new buildings.

Chris said the crew will have schematics at the next Park Board meeting to look at.

III. New Events

Chris said they are working on possibly having events for the 60th Anniversary, pending approval of the Mayor and City Administrator. Karen suggested a swing dance class or other dance class, since it is so popular right now. She also suggested having a dance competition.

IV. Presentation of Draft for Proposed Tree Policy

Brian handed out a proposal of the tree donation policy to go over. The person donating the tree would go through the Superintendent of Parks. The species of the tree must be agreed upon so that it is a tree that we will not have problems with. The site must be agreed upon for appropriateness.

Chris asked about neighbors in the policy. She asked if neighbors of the site needed to be contacted. Brian said he will add a statement dealing with neighbors. Tree size will be at least 2 inches in trunk diameter. Tree staff will do the planting and upkeep. Brian proposed the cost of the tree donation will be \$600 per tree plus the cost of the memorial plaque if wanted. Bob asked if we are limiting this to \$600 if someone wants to get a more expensive tree. Brian said he might change this amount in the future if needed, but thought it was an appropriate amount at this time. The price of the memorial plaque will vary upon what is on the plaque.

Amy Vlastic asked if we will have a gift program as well. Chris said we are starting with the tree program and will do a gift program in the future. Brian said we already have some

donated benches in a few locations. No special ornaments will be placed on or around the tree to keep the park looking nice. If a donated tree dies, it will be replaced for a period of 10 years. Dr. Peppes asked if 10 years is too long. After discussion by the group, it was decided that 5 years would be more appropriate. If the plaque is vandalized or damaged, it will be repaired or replaced for a period of 10 years. Sam Turner made a motion to accept the proposed tree donation policy with the modifications of adding a statement about neighbors and changing the tree replacement period to 5 years. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chris said that it will be presented to the City Council for their approval at a meeting in the near future.

V. Meeting with Consultant on Recreation Center (Feasibility Study)

Chris had a meeting with Bill Yarger from Yarger Design Group. Chris handed out a project approach for the feasibility study. Yarger Design Group would do a survey to find out different things like what residents might be interested in seeing/using and how much they would be willing to pay for it. Chris said Bill Yarger is willing to come to a Park Board Meeting to discuss what his company's approach is in doing a feasibility study and explain the components of such a study. This would be a good opportunity to learn more about the study and for the group to ask questions. Dr. Peppes said he thinks Bill Yarger should come and talk to the Park Board Meeting and that we should use the money set aside in the 2007 budget for the feasibility study. Amy Vlasic made a motion to have Bill Yarger come to the next meeting. Sam Turner seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chris will contact Mr. Yarger to confirm availability.

Karen Reimer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department