



LEAWOOD
Parks & Recreation

LEAWOOD PARK BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2007

5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Amy Vlastic, Bob Wright, Steve Martens, Mark Mergen, Jacquie McKinney, Karen Reimer and council liaison Dr. Greg Peppes. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Brian Anderson, Lindsay Youle and Jackie Zinselmeyer.

Steve Martens, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m. Mark Mergen made a motion to approve the March 13, 2007 meeting minutes and Karen Reimer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Ironwood Greens Report

Chris reported that all of the Greens at Ironwoods have been cored out. Six of the twenty-one greens will have the sub-base back in by the end of the week. We are still good with the completion date of June 15. They are working on the creek bank stabilization also. The North Levee will start on the 15th of May. The South Levee will commence in June.

II. Interact Meeting Dates

Chris shared that she would send an e-mail regarding the upcoming interact meeting dates for public interaction and neighborhood reviews of the plans for Gezer and Ironwoods Parks, sometime at the end of April. Amy Vlastic commented on the condition of the park and of the interest in what is happening in the park from the Cherry Creek subdivision. Chris mentioned the Planning Commission date is scheduled for May 8, 2007. The Park Board meeting will need to be moved to follow that meeting.

III. Updated Park Improvements

Chris reported that staff, met with the architect and construction team on March 29, to take some revised design ideas into consideration. We are currently \$70,000 over budget. They agreed to move the plans forward after more value engineering was done, and agreed to get it out to bid in hopes that the project would come in lower. Bob Wright asked if dollars could be found in other places. Chris commented that there may be some additional funds available but we are pushing the team to design to the price and that we will see where we are when the bids come in.

IV. Park Impact Fee

Chris discussed the Park Impact Fee ordinance, page 16- item 317 and 318. Fees are currently set at \$.10 cents per sq. ft. of finished floor area will be commercial, similar to Public Art. Art increased to \$.15. Parks impact fee has been primarily used to pay the debt on Ironwoods Park. Chris said that she did not see a need to increase the fees at this time. We are required to give a report each year to the council on the ordinance, primarily on the fee amounts. As the ordinance is written, funds need to be used within five years or refund can be requested. They may be short on Ironwoods balloon payment that is due in 2009 but this will come from the city's contingency fund.

Steve Martens asked Chris if anything changed from the previous year. Chris replied "no". Bob Wright asked if we needed to make a change to use of the funds for potential development of a proposed Community Center. Chris said that it could be considered. Bob replied that we should use the funds for development of existing land and facilities. Steve Martens asked where the money goes now. Chris said it is collected by finance and then goes into a separate account. Steve Martens asked what the balance is at this time. Chris disclosed the balance on the balloon to be \$500,000 and that she is not sure exactly how much is in the account now. Amy Vlasic said that it is unlikely that we will be acquiring more land so we should improve what we have. Bob Wright asked what about maintaining. Chris answered and said that it cannot be used for general maintenance. Amy Vlasic asked if it could go to the new park or Gezer. Steve Martens also asked if the Recreation/Community Center had been mentioned in the city's Master Plan?

Bob Wright made a motion to recommend that we amend appropriate sections, to allow improvements to the existing parks or; develop existing land, such as for the community center. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bob Wright made another motion to recommend that we approve the Park Impact fee schedule, pertaining to fees at the current rates as defined in the ordinance. Karen Reimer seconded the motion. This motion was also carried unanimously.

V. Agenda Items for May

Mark discussed the potential of term limits for Chairman and Members, as well as meetings potentially being held every other month. He also suggested other members attending the NRPA conference.

Jacque mentioned attending the Boards and Commissions appreciation banquet held at our Lodge and how nice it was.

VI. Staff Reports

Kim reported that Web-Trac is doing quite well; it surpassed \$12,000.00 the first day of use. She has completed hiring for the pool. Swim and Dive team has had its first meeting. The Swim team 10 and under was completely full the first day of enrollment.

Brian reported that he is hiring temporary workers to fill vacancies. The Greenway workers will work the Greenway and trail. He has hired (2) this year and will hire (2) next year. Brian has also hired a building custodian for the buildings at Ironwoods who will start on April 30, 2007.

He then reported that a trail is being constructed around City Hall. While this construction was going on, a resident had asked him to clear the brush. He then relayed how much rock is being selected by the contractor, approximately 350-400 pounds. There will be a stream bank that will be planted with vegetation. The trail construction at Roe has had a weather delay. They have been able to remove the trail. He also gave the update on the south side of Tomahawk Park. Brian reported that I-Lan parking lot will be completed next week. They will sod when it is completed. They will also re-sod the Amphitheatre seating area within the next month to get ready for summer production.

Lindsay reported on the activities for Eggstravaganza, which took place on April 20. There were 2500 people attending. The Kiwanis provided the lunch and made a profit, of which the proceeds will go toward children's books, handled by the National Bank of Kansas City. Bob Wright reported that this bank was kid friendly and he is glad we are working with them.

She also gave the report on the upcoming Mom & Son night activities, which will take place on Friday, April 20 at the Lodge. We expect about 150 people for this.

Jackie reported that the Lodge rentals are completely booked for all Saturday's for the remainder of the year. There are only (2) Friday's available for rental as well.

Registration is still in progress for camps and is going well. Two of the Balloon Tree camps are already full.

Dan reported that the soccer season was moved back one week due to Spring break. The teams all played last Saturday.

We are still accepting sign-ups for T-Ball. T-Ball will start June 2. He also reported that Soccer and Basketball camps will start taking registrations. Due to a lack of coaches available, there will be no Lacrosse camp this summer. He will look for a new coach/instructor for next year.

Brock reported that Spring Break camps were full four out of the five days scheduled.

He is in the process of hiring Summer Camp staff. All other classes are ongoing and doing well.

Jeff reported he was working with scouting programs and has three scheduled this week. In regard to Community service, they have had (2) Eagle Scouts, and (1) Gold Award.

The Cabins are completely full for April and May, and through mid-June, with about 80% being rented by Scouts.

He is in the process of hiring and training staff, including, the Alpine Tower training. Jeff reported that he hired Dana Lehman, to fill the position of Outdoor Recreation Specialist on March 25, 2007. This totals (16) that he now has on staff. He will be losing two or three in the future.

Jeff also shared that the Trail Cleanup endeavor was attended by sixty people this year, which was lower than last year's attendance of 100.

April's report was given by Chris Claxton. She reported that April has several activities presently occurring. April has been supervising the casting of Music Man. They still need one of the main characters, Harold Hill, but all other characters have been cast.

The dedication of the sculpture at Ironwoods Park (next to the schoolhouse) by artist Dennis Smith, entitled "Prairie Lessons" will be held on May 19, at 10:00 a.m., as well as the festivities to follow. It will last until 2:00 p.m.

She also shared about Weather Myths & History and the Bank Show that are upcoming. Jacquie mentioned that the shows were "great".

Amy Vlastic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department