



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2007
5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Amy Vlastic, Karen Reimer, Bob Wright, and Jacquie McKinney and Council Liaison Mike Gill. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Brian Anderson, Jackie Buser, Tonia Morgan, and April Bishop.

Chair, Karen Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the August 14, 2007 meeting minutes and Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Jeff reported that the cabins are full for the month of September and October and there are only eight nights available. He has received a few requests for November and December but understands that they are hard to fill when it is near freezing and this is past our advertised rental season.

He also reported that the nature programs are very busy. Thirty people attended the Night Skies event this week. Members of the Powell Observatory and the Astronomy Society of KC came with a 20” telescope for sky viewing.

Brock reported that he has been helping Dan with soccer as the season officially started last Saturday. The four and five year olds and kindergarteners make up 120 teams in all divisions.

He also reported that the fall classes started this week. The new pilates class currently has 13 students enrolled. He’s receiving a lot of calls regarding the Manners and Financially Alert classes. He is anticipating a lot of registrations.

Jackie reported that she has been very busy with the lodge. We recently hosted The NRPA/MPRA Facility Design School, as well as a large event for Avila University.

She is hoping to increase rentals during the week, and feels that this will happen once we change some strategies in our marketing. The ads in Wedding World have also proved to be bringing in additional rentals.

April reported that The Oxford school house has really taken off. She has 2-3 scout programs scheduled each week throughout the fall.

She also reported that the Jazz series was well received. Ballet in the Park, and the recent Art Show were also a big success.

She invited everyone to attend a free event featuring The Wild Women. They've agreed to come back Sunday, December 16 and perform a jazz concert at a discounted rate at the lodge.

April also reported that the next big thing the arts council is working on is to find an artist to display a sports related piece at City Park. Sixty artists submitted their work and they have narrowed it down to three. Interviews will start very soon.

Jacque McKinney asked, "Why was City Park chosen?" She feels that it will be tucked away and not exposed to the majority of Leawood residents. April replied that Councilman Rasmussen was in favor of this location, and with it being a sports related piece, City Park is the best choice. It will be visible from the highway, and 140,000 visit the park each year. Jacque said she feels it is too close to Llloopi also.

Kim reported the pool is officially shut down. There were 283 dogs at the Doggie Dunk event the day after it closed for the season. The pool has been cleaned out and will be painted soon.

She also reported that she has two staff members who are not present tonight, Dan and Lindsey; they are attending the KRPA Tomorrow's Leaders Conference, in Linwood Kansas.

In Lindsey's absence, Kim reported that the Labor Day Run had 403 participants and she is currently working on Freaky Fall Fest which will be October 19, from 5-9 p.m.

Mike Gill asked, "If there are any major capital expenditures that we should plan for regarding upgrading the pool?" He also suggested that we should make sure that the pool is state of the art or close to it in regards to other pools.

Bob Wright commented that relative to competition of other pools, and he being a father of four children under the age of ten, Leawood has a good facility. He added that a second slide would be nice as other pools have a lazy river, and zip slides. But, for the money our pool is a great value.

Brian reported that he has been involved with Chris and Kim on the Ironwoods lake renovation, the new buildings at Ironwoods Park, Gezer Park, and "Porch Lights" projects lately which are keeping him very busy.

Amy Vlastic informed Brian that she drove by Gezer Park last night around 7 p.m. and a team is conducting full pad football practice in the park. The park was full with a team wearing black jerseys. She reported that this is not the first time she has seen them practicing.

Brian says that he will drive by, but wondered if anyone knew exactly when the team is using the park to practice. Several park board members have noticed practices on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings.

A question was asked about the policy for organized practice at the park? Chris reported that we do have a policy regarding organized play but is not sure this would apply. She will review it to verify the specific wording.

Chris reported that she met with Dennis Reynolds regarding Gezer Park. We will begin with a survey and soil samples. The proposed design “team” was also at the meeting and details of each amenity in the park was discussed.

The progress on the new buildings at Ironwoods Park was also reported. We are waiting for the permit from Johnson County Wastewater. Once that is received construction will begin.

II. Discuss Feasibility Study Approach and Timeline for Potential Future Community Center.

Chris handed out the Request For Proposal for the Feasibility Study for the proposed Community Center, and reviewed the information packet with the board. She discussed the list of potential consultants. She asked the board to look over the packet, closely review the project description and get back with her with any suggestions/concerns.

After a brief discussion regarding the proposal, a motion was made by Jacquie McKinney to move forward with the RFP. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacquie McKinney seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department