



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2008
5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Amy Vlastic, Karen Reimer, Rod Crawford, Bob Wright, and Council Liaison Gregory Peppes. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Jeff Peterson, Brian Anderson, Dan Mahanke, Jackie Buser, Tonia Morgan, Lindsey Youle and April Bishop.

Chair, Karen Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:58 p.m. Bob Wright made a motion to approve the December 10, 2007 meeting minutes and Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Staff Reports

Jeff reported that the cabins have been busy lately. He began taking calls for rentals January 2. He hasn't received any complaints about the price increase. He is currently recruiting staff members, he needs 30 staff members to be fully operational. He also reported that he is working on new and returning. He is working on trees that were required by the contractors for the development of 119th Street. The wildflowers and bank stabilization work has also been completed.

They moved the of crab apple trees from Gezer Park to the ball diamond area at 119th to save them. He also reported that he visited with a local citizen that contacted him about donating money to re-landscape the creek bank edge. She agreed to pay \$4500.00, the cost to move the trees, and will also donate \$5000.00 to add additional trees ion 2008.

The Ironwoods building project is moving forward. They will break ground soon.

Kim reported that she's wrapping up things for the end of the year. There were some changes in the credit card holder data protection, which resulted in updating a lot of policies and going through a lot of files. She will also send letters soon to returning pool staff as the hiring process will begin next month.

She also updated the budget forms and will start using them at the end of January, and is currently working on revamping the End of the Year Activity Report form.

Lindsey reported on the two recent holiday events. Holiday Lighting was November 26, and they kicked off the 60th anniversary with a fireworks display. Lights were added on the trees in front of City Hall, and will be kept each year from now on. Two elementary schools performed as well as the Leawood Singers. There were approximately two hundred people in

attendance; most were parents of children in the choir, but it was a nice crowd and the weather was excellent.

Breakfast with Santa was held December 1. Four hundred people attended and were split into two different sessions. This was a really fun event for all.

Karen Reimer asked if this was maxed out. Lindsey replied that actually these numbers were slightly lower than last year, it normally sells out at 500 but it was a nice crowd because it makes more room for everybody. This could be a result of the Church of the Nativity doing a similar event on the day after ours.

Chris added that since everything is paid for on a per person basis, the overhead was still covered even with the lower numbers and everyone in attendance really had a wonderful time.

Jackie reported that she is wrapping up 2007 and getting ready for 2008. She is getting information regarding any changes to patrons who rented for next year. She is also preparing letters to send to summer staff to hopefully get them on board for 2008 summer camps. She also reported that she is finalizing things for holiday parties, making sure sidewalks are clean etc. for the rentals.

Brock reported that he is getting ready for holiday camp. It will be seven days this year, which is an increase from five days as in years past. The camp field trips will include, a puppet show, The Coterie Theatre, Power Play, the new College Basketball Experience at the Sprint Center, Pump It Up, a trip to the Lawrence Aquatic Center and The Nature Center at Ironwoods.

He also reported that he has two new classes that will start next year. A Mad Science class will start in January, and a children's computer class will start in the summer.

Jeff reported that he is finishing up programs for the year. He's been busy the last two weeks with birthday parties, story time, and wilderness survival Saturday.

The Nature Center received a donation from a Leawood resident of a mounted turkey. It has been mounted on a wall at the nature center and it looks like it is in flight. He is very appreciative of this donation.

He also reported that the bed covers and backs of the chairs have been cleaned at the cabins, and he is working on year end reports.

April reported that the schoolhouse had its holiday event the same day as breakfast with Santa and they were very busy, which was great.

They've had a lot of scout groups in the last few months but have slowed down until the first of the year, which is a nice breather.

The Leawood Stage Company will be interviewing directors for "Annie Get Your Gun", the 2008 LSC summer theater production, next week. Hopefully they will have a director before Christmas.

She also reported that The Amphitheatre Steering Committee has been officially approved by the Mayor; they met for the first time on the 27th Of November. A sub-committee of that group met to interview the three architecture firms that will propose to do the master plan. They will meet again on the 20th of December to make the selection.

She reported that they are working on a temporary art piece that will replace the one that is currently in the lobby of City Hall. The new piece will go in after the first of the year. The current one will be moved to the Lodge with hopes to eventually move it to The Justice Center once built.

The Arts Council of 2007 will have their last event of the year Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6:00 p.m. They will host a Holiday Jazz Concert featuring The Wild Women of Kansas City. It is a free event, but donations to Harvesters Food Bank will be appreciated.

Chris reported that we are moving forward with the lake as planned. Hopefully it will be completed over the winter months. They met today on the CIP, and are trying to work out phasing with The Amphitheater and the restrooms.

She also reported on the golf sale that was held here this past Saturday. It went well, people that came did buy items, but the weather was a bit of a deterrent. They will probably have another sale in the early spring. Mark Mergen added that it was a nice idea to have it advertised on the Chamber web-site.

II. Discuss Feasibility Study Interviews/Recommendation

Kim reported that the interview committee consisted of Karen Reimer (Park Board Chair), Rod Crawford (board member) Mark Mergen (board member) and Dr. Peppes (council liaison). Staff members were Chris Claxton, Brian Anderson and Kim Curran. Jackie Buser and Brock Shafer, of the recreation division, also sat in on the interviews.

Chris asked each member of the committee to share their personal thoughts with the board. Kim passed out the ranking sheet, and explained that the committee was responsible for ranking each consultant on a percentage of points they could receive.

According to the ranking results, the Ankeny Kell/Ballard King team scored the highest. Kim asked the committee members to expand on the presentations and share what they thought about each group.

Mark Mergen, thought it was a nice group. They all had similarities and a lot of history on similar projects, but some stood out more than others.

Rod Crawford added that one of the big things that stood out for him from an approach stand point was the first two were architects leading the project as a group and built their own team. And, GreenPlay was more of a consultant with an independent approach that would allow you to pick your architect and pick some of the people you want to work with and help coordinate the effort. He was more impressed with the two groups that had their team put together, and shared who they were most comfortable working with, and who they'd worked with in the past.

Chris asked Kim if she received confirmation about who the direct contact person would be for this team. Kim responded that she never actually received a direct reply but did receive an e-mail regarding Ken and Mark Wensel, the two main principles for the Ankeny Kell team. According to the e-mail, they will overlap about 30% of the time, and Ken will attend 40% of the meetings.

Chris added that this shouldn't be a reason not to recommend them, but we need to be cautious as well as a little more demanding of how often we see Ballard & King and Darren from Columbia. He has a lot of experience in the field but may not have much experience being on the other side, as a consultant.

She also reported that Ballard & King, have a lot of experience and are nationwide. The other component is the survey tool, which is Ron Vine of ETC's piece of the work. He'll work with any of the three, but the big piece for us is getting the survey. Mark Mergen added that it was nice and important to have him there. According to Chris they guaranteed four hundred responses.

A comfort level is we'll have a big input on the questions they will ask. They will also divide the samplings into equal parts of the city, which is important to make sure all parts of the city are represented through the samplings.

Rod Crawford added that it is good that they suggested dividing it into four quadrants, as opposed to only the North and South areas of Leawood.

Kim spoke with references regarding GreenPlay and Ankeny Kell. Everyone had good things to say. She spoke with the former facility manager at Legacy Community Center in Lee's Summit who worked with Ballard King & Ankeny Kell and despite a few very minor design and aesthetic issues there were no major concerns. They designed Legacy in Lee's Summit, The View in Grandview, and are working with Gladstone on their new center, which is to open soon.

Rod added GreenPlay was structurally set up different. When he really looked at their B structure, he felt that they were more expensive. Although we would pick our own architect, or different pieces, they included mark up against those services. At face value this would be o.k., if you were full service, you would mark other services. But in comparison to the other two, where they were providing the same services, either they weren't marking them up near as much, or marking them up at all and passing the cost on to us.

Dr. Peppes reported that the presentations meant a lot to him. He heard that there was reservation regarding a member of the Ankeny Kell being so young. But he feels if you went on strictly presentation and knew nothing at all, their presentation assured him the gut feeling that he felt they could meet the scope we proposed.

Chris added that she feels we have to do more diligence that what they are proposing to deliver is what they actually deliver.

Dr. Peppes added that he felt really good about the questions that were asked and the answers that were given from them more so than the other two. His personal opinion would be, from one who has no background in architecture, they convinced him that that they are organized. He felt that GreenPlays' organizational presentation was not good,

not to say that they didn't have the experience or the knowledge, but this was not presented.

Amy Vlasic asked how old the gentleman was from Ankeny Kell. Greg Peppes added that based on comments they made when they introduced him, his experience level is under a year or two years and he will be the lead.

Jacquie McKinney and other board members are concerned about Darrin's experience level as well.

Dr. Peppes added that it should be in writing about Darrin and our concerns about his limited experience. Let them know that a recommendation will be made once they agree that someone with more experience will be the lead person.

Mike Gill suggested if there are reservations, this should be expressed to the company. If they want the job, they need to have him sit in the second seat as a co-pilot. Chris and board members agreed. He would suggest to state in the contract that one of the principals should be the lead project person.

Chris reported that this is scheduled to go before the council on December 17th.

Bob Wright reported that he feels it is a clean sweep across the board; by all seven evaluators they were number one. Chris added that this was done independently of each other and turned into Kim who tabulated them.

Dr. Peppes asked Kim if in talking to Lee's Summit if anything jumped out that made her feel uncomfortable. She reported that they only discussed very minimal items, nothing that really stood out. He asked how many years they've been on line. Chris reported that it will be four years in January. He asked if they feel that they are going in the right direction with what they did for them. Kim spoke with the Assistant Director at Lee's Summit as well as the past facility manager for Legacy, and the conversation she had with both of them was candid. According to them, they were great to work with and they would work with them again.

Bob Wright made a motion to recommend the team of Ankeny Kell/Ballard King to do the feasibility study for the community center.

Jacquie McKinney seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

III. Misc.

Chris reported that she would like to at some point reschedule the trip to the Matt Ross Community Center, maybe the January or February meeting.

Chris invited board members to join staff for a holiday lunch. The lunch will be Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. in the Oak Room. If you are able join us, you are welcome to do so.

The city will also host a blood drive Friday, December 21 in the Oak Room. If you would like to donate blood, please come by. The police department usually organizes a blood drive every six months and it is open to all donors.

Mark Mergen asked Chris to follow up on Gezer Park and the Lion's Club concerns. Brian reported that Chris asked him to check on push button historical audio stops. He received information as well as a vendor contact. He also received tips and advice on the durability on these devices. He will move forward with this in terms of pricing. Chris asked Brian to make sure he lets Dennis Reynolds know what he has found out.

Chris reported that you should see stakes up at Somerset and Lee for the "Porch Lights" project. This project will begin soon. The same with Gezer, everything is staked out and they will begin the geotech on it. The piece that holds the art on the lake had to be moved a little to the West because it had a sanitary line under it the way it was drawn.

She also reported that there are quite a few projects going, and will be busy for the next three weeks. She will provide the board with a new list of projects at the January meeting.

The trail at 123rd and Mission should be fixed in the spring of the New Year. They met with Terracon once, but would like to meet with them again to make sure the numbers look good. It ended up being less than what we initially thought. We were thinking \$250,000 and it ended up being \$100,000. We have been working with the public works Director, Joe Johnson, to garner his engineering knowledge.

Brian added that we haven't received actual bids back with an exact price but the consultant has talked and gone over at length with someone whose has worked for them and this is how he has given us this preliminary estimate so we know what we are getting into. Chris reported that he estimated it at \$80,000, so she made it \$100,000 to allow for contingencies. She understands that the Mayor gets a lot of calls as well as some council members, and there is a big desire to re-open this.

Chris reported that there some failures on the North and South of college on the main trail that will need to be addressed in the future to keep the trail use safe.

Chris has asked Brian to work on a 5 – 10 year plan in hopes to stay ahead of the C.I.P. and make sure that we are not having a big issue and to be pro-active and not reactive to some of the problems we have with the trails in to the city.

Mark Mergen expressed his appreciation for a good, interesting year.

Chris also reminded the board that both delegations are coming from our sister cities in 2008. The Gezer Region will visit in May. The first phase of Gezer Park is anticipated to be open by then. This includes the tablet, the pond with art piece, the wadie and the parking lot. The I-Lan delegation will be visiting in August

Chris reminded the board that next year will be the 60th anniversary of the City. Continue to check the website for upcoming events. Banners have been ordered and will be up the first week in January. The color theme is black and gold. There are also anniversary ribbons available to wear at all events. If you would like to receive blast e-mails about each event, please let Chris know and she will include your name on the list.

Jackie McKinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department