

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

Board members in attendance were Amy Vlastic, Karen Reimer (chair), Bob Wright, Mark Mergen, and Council Liaison Jim Rawlings. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Jeff Peterson, Brian Anderson, Brock Shafer, Tonia Morgan, Lindsay Youle and April Bishop.

Chair, Karen Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:52 p.m. Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the June 10, 2008 meeting minutes and Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Staff Reports**

Kim reported that she's been busy with 4<sup>th</sup> of July cleanup. She also reported that she has been working on the program guide.

Bob Wright complimented the staff on a job well done with the fourth of July event. He thought it was a fantastic event and appeared to go off without a hitch. He also reported that his brother-in-law also attended the event and commented about how nice the soccer fields are.

Lindsay reported that the pool is going great. She is working on weekly reports and will have exact figures soon. She also reported that attendance has also been great due to the good weather we've had lately. She reported that the swim banquet will be held next Friday, July 18.

Lindsay reported that the first session of the Live Healthy Leawood program had 77 people sign up, which is a great number for the first session. There are currently 64 signed up for the next session. These are really great numbers for a new program. Awards will be mailed out soon. If a participant signs up for all eight weeks they receive bonus points.

Brock reported that he is preparing for the fall classes. He also reported that the tennis program has been very busy this summer with more attendance than in years past. He also reported that the tennis courts have been extremely busy. There have been several occasions when all six courts are being used which is great. Brian reiterated that he's also noticed this.

Brock also reported that he has been busy preparing for the Labor Day Run, this will be the first year he is coordinating the event and is looking forward to it.

Jeff reported that the challenge course had its annual maintenance which went well. He also reported that there are three more weeks of summer and nature adventure camps. The camps have been going great and the children appear to be enjoying themselves.

Jeff also reported that the cabin rentals have slowed down tremendously due to the heat. This is normal for this time of year since the cabins are not air conditioned.

Jeff wanted to publicly thank Jack Lawless for the numerous hours he has spent volunteering and donating over 500 plants to the nature center outdoor garden. He has worked tirelessly getting the butterfly garden to where it is today. Things are beginning to bloom, especially the herb garden. If anyone needs any herbs, feel free to stop by.

## **II. Update on Projects**

Chris reported that the golf course will open to the public on Friday. The VIP golf event will begin Thursday at 12:30p.m., with a lunch served from 11:00a.m. – 12:30p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 or 6:00 p.m.

Chris reported that she is excited and anxious about opening day. She also reported that the heavy rain we experienced last week filled the lake at Ironwoods but didn't flood the golf course again.

April reported that Mary Tearney is coordinating donations to the Kauffman Foundation. If any group with any affiliation with Leawood would like to make a donation to the Kauffman Foundation, it would be greatly appreciated. So far there are 16-17 groups that have committed. If the Park Board would like to participate you can either contact Mary by phone or send April an e-mail.

Brian reported that the lake renovation at Ironwoods is going well. It has both catfish and bass and there are already kids fishing. Brian also reported that the ground has been seeded and the straw layer put down.

Brian reported that the silt fence around the stage has been removed but the rest of the fence will remain to prevent erosion. The job is pretty well complete except for getting grass established.

Brian reported that the park buildings are near completion. They are installing plumbing in the restroom by the playground. The painters will begin soon, weather permitting. Brian also reported that there was a glitch regarding the electricity. He is anticipating getting the easement back from KCPL and hopes to have it approved by the council to get the power hooked up soon. The entire project should be complete by the end of August.

Amy Vlasic asked when open climb is. Jeff reported that it is the fourth Saturday of each month.

Brian reported that he is working to get a design from Schutte Lumber regarding an additional shelter. A proposed site for the new shelter is near the cabins up on the hill.

Brian reported that someone ran into the KCPL box on July 3, at Ironwoods. It didn't do any damage to the box but it may necessitate a guard rail and/ or add additional rocks to protect this area.

## **III. Update On Gezer Park and “Porch Lights”**

Chris reported that Councilman Rasmussen is on vacation at this time but asked her to set up a meeting with the architect. Chris reported that she and Patty met at 1:30 today with the architect.

Chris reported that the porch lights contractor has had experienced some medical conditions that has prevented him from aggressively working on the project. Chris has asked Brian to keep in contact with him in order to keep the project moving.

Chris also reported that it has been hard getting the cut stone from the manufacturer. Several calls have been made to them with hopes to get it in soon. Chris asked Brian to obtain something in writing from Sturgis. We need to get some valid information from them.

## **IV. Community Center Citizen Survey Results**

Chris reported that there is actually nothing to report on the survey results at this time. Per Scott's request he would like to review the results first and then hold a joint work session with the council in the Oak Room August 4 at 6p.m. The council meeting will follow the work session at 7:30p.m.

Chris also reported that eighteen hundred surveys were distributed and we were promised 400 returns. We actually received 710 returned surveys, which was a return of over 40%.

**V. New Business**

Chris reported that at the last meeting it was discussed to possibly not have an August meeting due to school starting, vacations ending and the busy schedules that are normally in the month of August.

Bob Wright reported that this was a good idea not to meet unless there are any necessary voting actions that must be acted upon.

Councilman Rawlings reported that it may be a good idea to meet at 6:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. He asked about the meeting guidelines that Chris was going to provide the committee.

Chris reported that she sent the volunteer guidelines as an attachment to the committee. Bob Wright reported that he received it but couldn't open it.

Chris reported that the guidelines she was able to locate were really generic, but were worth looking at. She reported that she will resend them.

Brian reported that the shelter and buildings at I-Lan Park were recently repainted and looks really nice.

Councilman Rawlings asked what's going on at 6:00 a.m. in the morning at the park shelter. There are people jumping on the table as if they are using it for a stair table for and exercise class.

Amy Vlastic reported that she is uncertain what type of class it is, but has a neighbor that is meeting there at 6:00 a.m.

Chris reported that she will alert the police department. If they are having an organized class there, it cannot continue.

Amy reported that it appears to be some sort of boot camp or a hard core work out.

Chris reported that the fireworks display was beautiful as usual, but for some reason debris blew on cars as well as in the crowd in certain areas. This was due to the light wind coming out of the east, which is very unusual.

Chris also reported that the 60<sup>th</sup> committee has a couple events coming up. August 17 is the Party in the Park from 2:00 to 6:00 pm at Ironwoods, as well as the first Jazz in the Park concert. If you don't have any plans, please stop by for an enjoyable time.

Jacquie McKinney asked a question about buying banners from previous years. Mark agreed that this would be something nice to be able to have if they are available. Chris reported that the 60<sup>th</sup> committee will have banners available at the end of all of the activities scheduled throughout the year.

Amy reported that if there are any 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary banners left she would like to have one.

Mark Mergen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department