

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2008**  
**5:30 p.m. – Maple Room**

Board members in attendance were, Karen Reimer (Chair), Amy Vlastic, Mark Mergen, Doug Stevens, and Rod Crawford as well as Council Liaison Jim Rawlings. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Jeff Peterson, Brock Shafer, Brian Anderson, Cody Kennedy, Lindsay Youle and April Bishop.

Chair, Karen Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Mark Mergen made a motion to approve the September 9, 2008 meeting minutes and Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Introduction of New Board Member**

Karen Reimer formally introduced new Board Member Doug Stevens. His first meeting was the Community Center work session so this was somewhat overlooked. Doug gave the board some background information about himself and his family. He is extremely pleased to be on the board and is looking forward to working with everyone.

**II. Bicycle Friendly Community Presentation  
Alicia Jennings – Green Initiative Task Force**

Chris introduced Alicia Jennings and Camille Crotto of the Green Initiative Task Force. They presented information on the desire to become a Bicycle Friendly designated community as a part of the green mobility initiative. There are four levels of recognition: Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Shawnee and Lawrence are both at the bronze level. Each level has different requirements. There are only two platinum communities that they are aware of; one in Boulder, Colorado and the other in Davis, California. They distributed a map that is put out by M.A.R.C. Alicia pointed out that there are two types of lanes usage; one is an actual bike lane such as the one on 123<sup>rd</sup> from State Line to Mission Road, and the other is a lane where “share the road” signs are used to educate drivers. There are also the non-traffic routes such as the city’s trails.

Alicia went on to explain that there are five components of known as the five “E’s”: Engineering, Education, Enthusiasm, Enforcement, and -----.

Chris inquired as to whether or not there is a strategic plan of the committee that incorporates this piece.

Jim Rawlings pointed out that the city is experiencing some challenges on 143<sup>rd</sup> street with utilities and ROW, which prohibited some of the options for a trail.

Rod commented that he is a cyclist and is frustrated by the way some of the cyclists ride around the city (in big “packs”) and thinks that bike lanes promote that riders stay in the lane. He would prefer this where possible.

Brian commented that there are two applications: one basic and one enhanced. The selection panel determines where you fall.

Rod made a motion that a recommendation be made for the Parks and Recreation Department to apply to become a Bicycle Friendly Community, with a future plan for further development/enhancement to follow by continuing to work with the Green Initiative Task Force. Amy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Brian pointed out our ability to work with developers, such as the Mission Farms trail connection that they paid for, off the 435 spur to the trail that leads out of/into City Park. Chris agreed that we should try to do more of this in the future, if the potential is there.

### **III. Staff Reports**

Jeff Peterson reported that it has been a busy month at the Challenge Course at Ironwoods Park. There is one more open climb on Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants must be 9 years or older to do the Carolina T-Wall. He also reported that the cabin rentals were very busy in September and they have received many positive comments from people on them. There are some new animals in the Nature Center including an albino snake, two lizards and a new skink. The butterfly garden has really taken off also. There is an Eagle Scout doing a section of the garden and another scout has erected four new bat houses near the trail.

Lindsay reported that Freaky Fall Fest is coming up on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-9:00 p.m. We will have four tractors this year instead of two so the lines should not be as long. We moved the stage near the tractor line, so people who are waiting in line can see and hear the entertainment. She also reported that Holiday Lighting is Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and will include a short fireworks display to close out the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Cody reported that the rentals continue to be strong moving into the holiday season. We are also sprucing up the Maple Room so it will look better. The last Live Healthy Leewood dietician session is set for next week.

Brock reported that the Labor Day Run was a great success and the weather was perfect for the event. The Tennis program also closed out with near record numbers and had the largest participation in the metro for JTL (Junior Tennis League) with 82 kids. He also reported that we will be starting a new tennis program for the younger kids in the early spring called Quick Start Tennis. It will be for 4, 5, and 6 year olds and will be held inside the lodge using sponge balls and soft rackets. The program was launched last year at the NRPA Congress in Indianapolis and is a project supported strongly by tennis legend Billy Jean King.

April reported that the school house has been very busy this fall. Lots of scout and elementary school groups have come through and participated in one program or another. There is an upcoming special event about the “Jayhawker” and the next art show will be November 14<sup>th</sup>. She also told the board that the art piece “Growing” that used to be just to the east of City Hall has moved to the new “sculpture garden” on Tomahawk Creek Parkway (site #5) and the process for lighting it will be underway very soon. The arts council is hoping that Porch Lights can be dedicated in November sometime. No date has been set. The locations for the two Jorge Blanco pieces (runners and soccer players) have been sited in City

Park. She finished by saying that the Amphitheater preliminary interact meeting with the neighbors of Ironwoods is scheduled for October 21 at 6:30 at the Lodge.

Kim reported that she is teaching Brock how to input his programs into RecTrac and she is doing the others for the Winter/Spring program guide. She is working with Chris on 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and finishing up proposed 2009 fees.

Brian reported that the staff has seeded around the amphitheater where the turf was disturbed during the lake renovation. Sod will be used near the lake edge on the north side and will be put down later in the fall. The lighting of Lllooppi is still an issue and he is working with an electrician to try and figure out what is causing the melting issue to occur again. Bobcats are being seen in Ironwoods Park. There are at least two adult females and several kits in the park. He also said that staff had replaced the old swing sets at Tomahawk Park. Some of the equipment was donated by a family in remembrance of their child who passed away last year. Chris asked Brian to get the pertinent information to the Mayor in case she would like to send a note of appreciation to the family for their generous donation.

Chris gave an update on the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> party, parade and post parade event at Park Place that are to take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of November. The party will be at the lodge on Friday night, the 7<sup>th</sup> and tickets are \$25 per person. Lots of great food will be served and there will be entertainment and dancing as well. Civic groups are also being encouraged to set up information on their history around the perimeter of the room for people to look at as they mingle with others.

The parade will be on Saturday at 10:00 along Tomahawk Creek Parkway and it is being organized by Lion Gary Flick. There are 35 unites signed up thus far. The post-event party will take place at Park Place on Saturday from 11:30-4:30. There will be music, ice skating, face painting, a caricature artist, and food vendors. Police and Fire will have vehicles there as well.

#### **IV. Update On Gezer Park**

Brian gave an update on Gezer Park. The first phase contract should be awarded on October 20<sup>th</sup> and includes the rough grade, the parking lot, and bringing in of the utilities to the site. Phase II will bid soon after. The schedule shows a completion date of mid April of 2009.

#### **V. 2009 Fee Recommendations**

Kim passed out the fee recommendations as developed by the Recreation staff. Recommended changes were pointed out. The group discussed the Lodge in length, and comparisons to other facilities. Rod commented that perhaps the rental fees are too low, especially since we allow rental parties to bring in their own alcohol and food. Jim Rawlings said that we should especially look at the prime time fees (weekends), where demand is so high. At the conclusion of the discussion, it was recommended that staff bring the comparative spreadsheet used to assist in determining Lodge fees to the next meeting for final review. Rod made a motion to accept the fees, with the caveat that the Lodge fees be reconsidered and brought back for review at the November meeting. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **VI. New Business**

##### **A. Discuss Ordinance Revisions for November Meeting**

This item was tabled to the November Meeting.

Amy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department