

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – November 11, 2008
5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were, Karen Reimer (Chair), Amy Vlastic, Mark Mergen, Doug Stevens, Rod Crawford and Jacquie McKinney as well as Council Liaison Mike Gill. Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Dan Mahanke, Brock Shafer, Brian Anderson, Cody Kennedy, Lindsay Youle, Tonia Morgan and April Bishop.

Chair, Karen Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. Rod Crawford made a motion to approve the October 7, 2008 meeting minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Discuss 2009 Lodge Fees

Chris reported that at the last meeting everything was approved except the Lodge fees.

Kim passed around a memorandum and a 2009 proposed fee schedule for the committee to review.

Kim reported that Cody did additional research regarding rental fees from hotels, neighboring community centers and similar other facilities to compare the rates. It was found that the Lodge fees are still comparable and somewhat lower than other facilities.

Cody reported that the proposed increase would be completed over a two year period. It would be raised \$50-\$60 per hour in 2009 and then again in 2010.

Cody also reported that if rentals decrease in 2009, he and Kim will take a look at the numbers and perhaps not raise them again until 2010. He said that one asset of the Lodge compared to other facilities he researched is that we allow you to choose your own caterer, bring in your own food, and provide your own alcohol.

Rod reported that he is appreciative of the research and feedback. It is a first class facility for a great deal on the price. Rod also reported that you devalue yourself if you don't stay competitive.

Rod questioned the Leawood civic rate and the non-resident rate on the memorandum. Rod pointed out that the memorandum reflects that the Leawood civic rate shows \$1,900.00 and the non resident Leawood civic rate shows \$1800.00 for the proposed 2009 fees which is incorrect. Rod also reported that the Leawood civic proposed 2010 fees report the 12 hour rate at \$2,040.00 which should actually be \$3,040.00.

Kim said the numbers were flipped and that she will correct them and sends out a new one.

Jacquie McKinney said that we have to be careful with raising the prices with the economic crunch.

Rod reported that he likes the idea of increasing the fees in two steps.

Cody reported that the biggest challenge is increasing it too much, too fast.

Amy reported that she agrees and the fees should remain a good deal.

Cody said that we are an attractive place with fees slightly lower than other competitors. We also do not charge per head like some of the hotels- charging \$30-\$60 per head.

Rod made a motion to approve the 2009 Lodge fees with the necessary corrections.

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

B. Update on Request for Change Order and Work Session for November 17th Market Analysis) – CC Feasibility Study

Chris reported that there is a continuance, not a denial of the additional \$12,000 request for more information from the consultant. A work session is scheduled for 6:00p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2008. The market analysis will be presented by Jeff King of Ballard*King and Associates. Chris invited committee members to attend.

Mike Gill requested that the power point presentation be sent out to the council prior to the meeting.

C. Update on Gezer Park Construction

Brian reported that Miller paving has been busy working on Phase I. The project is going well. They have 60 days to complete the work.

Brian also reported that the “Stone and Steps” art piece footings will be poured tomorrow. Councilmember Gill asked if the work session on the 17th could be used as a time to also discuss Gezer Park instead of the Market Analysis as Mayor Dunn is really committed to this project being completed.

D. Update on Arts Projects

April reported that she has been extremely busy with Artists and their impending installations. April reported that porch lights is being worked on and that Ilan Averbuch who is doing “Stones and Steps” is scheduled to begin in the near future. Jorge Blanco, who is doing the art pieces in city park are also coming soon. She passed around an enamel pin replica of one of the pieces for everyone to have.

April also reported that a plaque for Prairie Lessons is being done that will list the names of the top donors of \$1,000 or more.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

Brian reported that he has been busy putting things away from Freaky Fall Fest. It was discovered that there is a leak in the pool building under the floor of the concession stand. Brian reported that the negative news is that the floor will have to be cut and concrete

removed to allow for a 6ft deep trench. But, the positive news is that the pool is closed and the work will not affect the pool season.

Kim reported that she has been busy working on the 60th events. She has been working diligently getting things ready for all of the upcoming events and looks forward to a great weekend. She invited the board to attend one or as many events as they can. She has also been busy with RecTrac, making sure everything is running properly for the next session.

Dan reported that he's been busy with soccer. He reported that he has been working on payroll to get the soccer officials paid. Most of the coaches picked up their trophies at the last game but there are still a few that may come to City Hall to pick them up this week. Dan reported that he is in the process of preparing for the 2009 spring soccer season.

Lindsay reported that Freaky Fall fest was held on October 24, despite the miserably cold weather. She reported that those that came were appreciative that we had it and didn't cancel. Lindsay also reported that she is preparing for the next two holiday events. On Monday, November 24 is holiday lighting at 6:00 p.m. There will be fireworks at the conclusion. This will be the last of the 60th events. There will be three choirs performing; The Leawood Singers, Brookwood Elementary and the Church of the Nativity. She is in the process of purchasing an electric keyboard instead of taking the piano out this year, which is extremely heavy.

Lindsay also reported that she is preparing for Breakfast with Santa on December 6. Registrations are going pretty good so far. It will be split into two sections again to accommodate 250 people per session.

Cody reported that he's been busy sending out Live Healthy Leawood prizes from the past session. He also reported that surveys were sent to program participants to get their review of the program and any suggestions they may have.

He researched 24-25 locations for receptions and got information on their prices to compare to ours. He is also managing the upcoming Lodge events. There is a big event coming up with 45 vendors that will be held the majority of next week. This event is sponsored by the Johnson County Young Matrons.

Brock reported that he is busy with the program guide information for classes that will begin in January. He has acquired putting the information into the computer from Kim.

Brock also reported that Holiday Camp is coming up. He is in the process of finalizing field trips for the camp. The two new classes that will begin in January are: an adult ballroom dance class (Thursdays at 6:30 in the Oak Room.) and a math class offered to help children increase their math skills.

Brock reported that there will also be a Quick Start Tennis program offered in the Lodge this winter/spring that will introduce kids (4-6) to tennis.

Tonia reported that she is anticipating another busy shelter season. Shelter reservations begin January 2 of each calendar year. Inquiries will begin calling at 8a.m.

April reported that Friday evening is the last art show and reception for the year. Reminders were mailed out and should have been received by now. April also reported that David Basse, who has been really great to Leawood, wrote a song for the 60th anniversary and has recorded a CD that features the song "Leawood Long & Green". April reported that it is a really good album and can be purchased online.

Saturday she will host “Weather Myths & History” with Doppler Don Harmon from Fox 4. The presentation will be held at the schoolhouse and will be fun for children and adults. The last time he was there everyone had a great time.

April also reported that there will be a Holiday Event at the Schoolhouse the same day of Breakfast with Santa on December 6.

The stage company is trying to expand their season in simple ways that do not cost much. A group of performers will put on a holiday show called “A Christmas Carol Gone Amuck” at the Lodge, December. 7. April also reported that in March there will be a two woman dramatic reading. These are new ways to expand the season without expanding the budget.

April reported that the summer musical for 2009 will be “Brigadoon”. She is excited that they may be able to get new people to come out to the productions. She was unaware and recently found out that there is a Highland Dance Studio in Leawood. Some of the Scottish and British groups are excited about getting involved. It is a classic love story with great music.

Chris reported that the staff worked so hard, nearly year round for the 60th events. Many words of thanks and appreciation go out to the staff. Chris also reported that working with Mary and Alice was a lot of fun along with the other 60th Committee members.

Chris reported that the Friday night gala was a lot of fun and the group was very diverse. Everyone was dancing; the entire floor was packed, which was a shock.

The parade was not as well attended as we had hoped due to the extremely cold weather. The 40 units however were wonderful and we have lots of pictures.

Chris also reported that we partnered with Park Place across the street for an after the parade party but again; the weather had a big effect on this. The ice rink opened on Friday. The cyclists that Brian recruited were handing out free ice skate rentals coupons for free skate rentals for the day. The squirrel Parks and Recreation mascot was there and there was a contest held to name it. The winner will be picked this week.

There was also a caricature artist there who worked for free. She was great. There was also a cotton candy vendor and a face painter.

Chris passed around extra seed stakes with zinnias on them from the event. They will be handed out at various other events.

Jacque McKinney reported that she would like to congratulate all who worked on the Friday night function. It was an outstanding event. The comedian was really good. The whole program was excellent. The staff is really to be congratulated.

Chris thanked her for her compliment and reported that Mary and Alice were in charge and the staff followed their lead.

Chris reported that typically in the month of December we have a meeting and a little party along with it following business. She said that it can tentatively be scheduled for December 9, which will be the normal meeting date. Chris asked committee members to e-mail her any suggestions they have for the party.

Amy asked if the event will be held at City Hall. Mark Mergen suggested having the meeting at the golf course. Chris reported that this is a great idea and she will check with them to see if the date is open.

Karen Reimer reported that it would be nice to invite Dick and Steve and some past committee members.

B. Discuss Issue of Profiting from Park Facilities

Chris recommended that this agenda item be tabled to a future meeting because it could take a while to discuss.

Chris gave an overview of this issue. Chris reported that there were situations over the last couple of years. For example, people using the tennis courts and teaching lessons for hours at a time for personal profit. There is also the boot camp issue in I-Lan Park.

Chris reported that this is worth reviewing in the near future. She doesn't like to say no to everyone, but there need to be guidelines in place for certain instances.

Chris reported that the main question is how we address these issues. Chris also reported that she will come up with some information for discussion purposes.

Mark Mergen asked if there were liability issues that go along with it.

Chris reported that she would rather partner with people and have an opportunity to know what's going on in the parks. She doesn't want these opportunities to go away for our citizens if they are even participating. She would like it to be managed in a different way.

Amy reported that the boot camps meet at 5a.m. She doesn't think they are doing any destruction of the park. She asked if they were using the benches for step-ups.

Kim reported that there is a website advertising it and also a You Tube video of our park and the participants using our picnic tables as stair steps. This is not good and there may be some liability issues. She also reported that the instructor charges an expensive fee to participate and the city doesn't benefit from the program.

Chris reported if you want to operate a business, it should be done properly. Chris reported that these are issues that will be discussed at next's months meeting.

Rod Crawford made a motion to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jacque McKinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department