

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were, Karen Reimer (Chair), Amy Vlastic, Mark Mergen, Doug Stevens, Rod Crawford, Bob Wright and Jacquie McKinney as well as Council Liaison Jim Rawlings.

Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, 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 November 11, 2008 meeting minutes. Jacquie McKinney seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Discuss Issue of Profiting from Park Facilities

Chris reported that there have been more instances of people utilizing the parks for organized business ventures. The boot camps that were being held at I-Lan were advertising and collecting significant fees. Chris is especially concerned about the liability issues with such an operation.

Chris also reported that other instances where are parks are being utilized without prior authorization is the tennis courts at City Park. There are people, and some (instructors) that will monopolize the tennis courts teaching classes that are not affiliated with the city. Chris reported that this can also be a problem at Tomahawk Park with baseball. They will charge children to practice using our facilities.

Chris reported that it is two-fold. It is a question of whether the council wants to accept people being able to profit from public facilities. When they do this, it typically takes away from the public. This is especially relevant to tennis when people want to play a game and the courts are tied up for hours with instructors.

Brock Shafer reported that the problem is when adults come into the park and utilize several courts at one time. He doesn't see anything wrong with someone teaching a lesson if they are only using one court, but it will be hard to distinguish who is paying for instruction and who isn't.

Chris reported that she went on the KRPA website and asked other agencies what policies they might have on this issues. She received six responses. Some said they would allow certain things by permission, but none would allow any business ventures for things that are already done by the department.

Chris reported that in regards to the boot camp, she and Scott, the City Administrator tried to contact the person in charge but were never able to touch base with them. The city might be open to a "partnership" with an instructor that could provide such a service if certain criteria could be met.

Councilman Rawlings reported that he's seen them during the spring and summer months, usually at 6:00 A.M., utilizing the picnic tables. Councilman Rawlings reported that this is not the intent of the park. The taxpayers did not pay to build the parks and shelters for this purpose. As a councilman, he thinks we should clamp down on this matter soon.

Chris reported that she may be willing to work with some people and offer them a special use permit if this is the direction the committee wants to go.

Chris opened the floor for discussion.

April asked how the city recoups any damages if the boot camp damages the tables or benches in the park. They should sign a waiver in the event this happens.

Mark Mergen agrees but asked how this would be enforced.

Chris reported that there would have to be an ordinance. The police are really good to work with but they need something to go on to be able to issue a ticket.

Rod Crawford reported that he shares the concern. If someone uses the tennis courts at the same time every day, they tend to form a sense of ownership. This could be frustrating for someone wanting to play occasionally.

Chris reported that if the committee agrees, she will meet with Patty, the City Attorney and draft an ordinance and bring it to the next meeting. After the committee meets again, it will then be presented to council for their consideration.

Amy Vlastic asked if the city has thought about offering a boot camp. There is a big demand for this. It is a nice service and worth offering. If you kick the camp out of the park, the people that really enjoy it are going to lose out.

Chris reported that the particular boot camp in discussion is charging \$280.00 per person for six weeks and are using our parks for free. She is open for compromise but there needs to be communication between the city and the people offering the class.

Jacquie McKinney reported that she would like to see a boot camp offered through parks and rec rather than people using the park and destroying the taxpayers' money. Jacquie reported that the city should be reimbursed in some way.

Doug Stevens reported that a city ordinance would be good for liability issues. It is a matter of defining what services are approved. An application should be completed for park use.

Amy Vlastic made a motion that a draft should be prepared for an ordinance policing and controlling organized group activities in the park. Jacquie McKinney added that the motion should include group activities that are paid for and not authorized through the parks and rec department. The draft should be brought back to the February meeting for discussion.

Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Gezer Park Update

Chris reported in Brian's absence, he is attending a shade tree convention in Topeka, Kansas.

Chris reported things are going along well. We are in the process of transitioning from the first contractor Miller Paving. They did the rough grade, some of the survey work and put in the pond but Mega Industries will take over soon. They have one hundred fifty days to complete the work. This is tentatively scheduled for June 1 which is a little later than we'd like, but should work out fine.

Chris also reported that the council authorized some additional funding to address a couple of things. The initial estimates were low and not well understood as to what needed to be done.

Chris reported that the watee is in and rough graded out. The pumps have to be put back in and recirculation of the water.

C. Public Art

April reported that the Averbach piece was installed in November at Gezer. Once the lake is finished, the piece will be complete. Its intent is to reflect in the water because it sits so close. It will be dedicated upon completion of the lake.

April also reported that the Blanco pieces in City Park were installed in December. They will be dedicated during the spring soccer season. The artist picked two names for each piece, and children will be able to vote on the names. The dedication will probably be in April which is the middle of the spring soccer season. It will be nice to have children involved.

April reported that Porch Lights is near completion. The landscaping, clean up and the lights need to be attached.

April also reported that Todd Hanush, a member of the Arts Council donated a piece to the City of Leawood called "My Mind". The city voted to accept the piece. The Parks & Rec. Advisory Committee will need to vote on its location. April passed around photos of the piece for the committee to suggest a location.

Amy Vlastic asked if "Growing" will be moved back to the library once the renovation is complete. April reported that it will not be moved again, Tomahawk Creek Parkway is its permanent location. It was a good move, and is more visible now.

D. Bicycle Friendly Community Application Update

Chris reported that Brian convened a sub committee. They met and discussed where to research and gather information. The committee members will use their areas of expertise and bring the information back to the committee.

Chris reported that initially Scott wanted to make sure that when it's presented to the council that they are aware of the potential financial ramifications that may come from it.

Chris reported that the recycling containers are gradually being placed in all of the parks. These will be great to have during the soccer season to start collecting and keep things cleaner.

II. New Business

A. Discuss Proposed Location of Donated Art-Ironwoods Park

Chris reported that they have tried to meet on several occasions to discuss the proposed locations of the art piece. Chris reported that Brian had a few concerns in regards to the footings and irrigation conflicts.

April passed around a picture of the piece. It won't be a big installation. This is a smaller piece. The proposed area would need to be easy for the park staff to maintain. The suggested areas are, the back side of the lodge in the garden area, the east side in the nature center garden, or the hillside of the nature center. April asked the committee if they had any questions or suggestions of where it should be located.

Jacque McKinney reported that in the future we need to be extremely careful about what we accept, even if it is donated. She can potentially see a lot of people trying to donate things.

Bob Wright asked if the Parks Board committee has any voice on whether the city accepts a donated piece.

April reported that it would generally come before the Parks Board first for its placement but the city approved it prior to the knowledge of the board because Todd needed it done before the end of the year for tax purposes.

Chris reported that if it weren't for its placement, it wouldn't come to the committee at all, but the committee has an input on this particular piece because it is being proposed to go in the park and will be a permanent structure.

After a discussion, a motion was made by Bob Wright to place it in front of The Lodge area. Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Discuss Community Center Action by Council

Chris reported that there was a work session with Jeff King. He presented 85% of the market analysis. We initially asked council for additional funding of \$12,000. It was tabled and has not been put back on the agenda.

Chris reported that at this current time, there isn't any funding, nor is it on the C.I.P, and there isn't any action on it.

Chris reported that Jeff sent the final analysis with the summary that included a couple of second tier. She will present this to Scott and ask him what, if anything will be the next action.

Councilman Rawlings reported that council had a goal setting session last night and discussed short term and long term goals. This item was discussed and in regard to the economy and not having any funding on the radar and the initial survey of 1/3 of the people saying they don't want it, 1/3 don't know, and 1/3 for it but don't want to pay much for it. Moving forward with a community center is not on the horizon in the near future as far as the council is concerned. If the economy turns around, it may come back up but the council has to be fiscally responsible for the citizens of Leawood and realize that the demand is not there.

C. Discuss Tree Donation Policy/Donation to Tomahawk Park

Chris reported that a very active citizen of our trails contacted Brian and wants to donate \$10,000 for thirty trees in addition to the \$5,000 she donated last year.

Chris also reported that the tree donation policy states that donations should be valued at \$600.00. Chris would like a recommendation from the Parks and Rec. Advisory committee to ask council to waive this amount in lieu of the significant amount of this generous donation.

Chris reported that Brian has been working with Suburban and found species that will work great and do well on the trail.

Jackie McKinney made a motion to allow us to waive the requirements that were approved in our tree donation policy to accept these trees in whole recognizing that individually they will be less than the \$600.00 stated on the policy. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Staff Reports

Kim reported that she will meet with soft drink vendors Coke and Pepsi next week. She is also busy working on the program guide. Kim reported that soccer deadline is February 4th.

Jeff reported that he's working on program guide information. He has also been busy working on end of year reports and performance proposals. He has received a lot of calls for cabin rentals; they are taking reservations from April through October.

Jeff has booked several birthday party rentals. He has also been busy hiring new and returning staff.

April reported that the first art event of the year is an arts seminar located in City Hall. It is the basic of collecting art. If you don't know anything about art, you are still welcome to attend and have a good time.

April also reported that she will be teaching a Write Your Life Story class for six weeks on Wednesday afternoons at the schoolhouse.

Cody reported that grand fathering the times at the lodge has turned out to be a huge success. He's received a lot of calls inquiring about this. This was extremely successful at the end of the year to encourage patrons to go ahead and book dates and receive the 2008 prices. This really worked in our favor.

Cody also reported that he has been busy securing vendors for the Fourth of July event.

Cody reported that he has been working on summer outdoor camp and making changes to the program to improve it. He is currently taking applications.

Lindsay reported that she is preparing for Daddy Daughter Date Night. This event is January 31, 2009. This years theme is 50's. Registrations are being taken for this event.

Lindsay reported that she taking applications for the pool. She has received a lot of applications so far.

Lindsay also reported that she is working with Brock on a tennis grant and hopes to have this wrapped up in the next couple of weeks.

Brock reported that he is busy with summer program guide information and getting all of the instructors lined up. He is also working on information for tween camp.

Brock is also working on end of year activity reports. He reported that in regards to classes we are where we were last year. Participation is up in some areas but the overall revenue is the same.

Jacque McKinney asked Brock to research boot camp instructors since there is a high demand for the program and try to incorporate it into the parks and rec classes. Brock reported that he will look into this.

Tonia reported that she is busy with shelter reservation calls. Inquiries began on January 2, and have been busy extremely busy.

Chris reported that Lindsay is working on a list of calendar events, upon completion this will be sent to the committee.

Chris also thanked the staff who worked on the 60th event. The 60th committee had a wrap up meeting last night and agreed that a time capsule will be done. It won't be buried but will include items from the 40th, 50th, and 60th events.

Chris reported that there are still Garden Club cookbooks available for \$10.00 and 60th Anniversary black bags for \$3.00.

Chris asked the committee to let her know by the first week of February, anything they would like to include on the agenda for the next meeting. The next meeting will be February 10th.

Rod Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jacque McKinney 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