

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were, Karen Reimer (Chair), Amy Vlastic, Mark Mergen, Doug Stevens, Rod Crawford, and Bob Wright.

Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Cody Kennedy, Lindsay Youle, Tonia Morgan, Dan Mahanke, and April Bishop.

Chair, Karen Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m. Brian Anderson made one correction to the minutes. On page five, it was reported that Brian was working with Suburban, but it should say Rosehill Nursery, in reference to the landscaping company. Rod Crawford made a motion to approve the January 13 meeting minutes. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Draft of Ordinance – Profiting from Park Facilities

This agenda item was tabled until the March 10 meeting.

B. Gezer Park Update

Brian reported that everything is going well. The weather is playing a huge factor, and allowing them to make significant progress. The main water line was put in underneath the street. The footings and the slabs are poured for the restroom building and shelter house and the rough grading of the “wadie” has been completed. The concrete part of the structure has been built by the eight inch water line that goes from the pond to the west end where the small falls will come down into a starting pool.

Brian reported that he is in the process of getting an easement on the north property line to bring in the power. The plan is to replace a transformer that services approximately four residents in the Waterford sub-division.

Brian also reported that the fountain (pond) sub soils are heavy clay that will expand if wet and contract if dry. The plan called for an eight inch layer of clean rock underneath, on top of the material, and a concrete slab over it. Brian reported that eight inches isn't going to be enough. He is afraid that the slab will raise and lower, which will not be good. He met with the contractor to look into this. He found that there are several options. Once the final numbers are in, it will be presented to Council for approval of the change order. The amount could be \$30k or more.

Karen Reimer asked if this will delay the work. Brian reported that if the additional cost requires Council approval, this will take three weeks.

C. Public Art Project Updates/Dedications

April reported that the Blanco sculptures in City Park will be dedicated April 18 at 2p.m., during spring soccer. Everyone is invited to participate in naming the sculptures. Ballots will

be available in the program guide next month as well as given out to the kids playing spring soccer. Ballots are also available at City Hall. The artist, Jorge Blanco, will attend the dedication. It should be a lot of fun.

April also reported that in regards to Porch Lights, people are openly sharing comments about it. April reported that it is a cooperative piece, so she is working with Prairie Village to determine a dedication date. Hopefully it will be dedicated in May or June.

April reported that it was discussed at the January Park Board meeting to install the art piece, "My Mind" in Ironwoods Park. Since the meeting, the City Administrator thought the location was too close to "Prairie Lessons" so he didn't approve of it. The committee met and decided on a new location of the northeast corner of College and Tomahawk Creek Parkway. Hopefully this location will be approved. It will be very visible.

Bob Wright made a motion to accept the recommendation of the new location. Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Green Initiative Task Force Update

Chris reported that task force has met for the past four months. Initially there wasn't a representative from the Parks Department and things were being discussed and then relayed to the department. Chris and Joe discussed this and both felt strongly that it was imperative to have representation on the committee since most of the recycle actions would come from that department.

Chris reported that she and Brian attended the last meeting. There will be an initiative at Shawnee Mission South on April 25- an E-Shred/Recycling event. Computers, cell phones, and printers, etc, will be recycled for a fee. They are looking for volunteers.

Chris also reported that they will also work on a letter to encourage mandatory composting in Johnson County. These landfills are filling more quickly than others.

Bob Wright asked, in regards to composting, what the City of Leawood does with the Christmas trees. Bob questioned if it is chopped up and reused.

Brian reported that he has used it in the past, and put it around trees and medians as needed. Brian reported that it wasn't a high demand for it this year, but it was taken to a recycle yard and will be composted and reused.

Brian reported that he's thought for awhile about having a recycle location for limbs etc., but the problem is space. There isn't an area that he's aware of, that is out of the way and city owned to be able to accommodate this.

Chris reported that the recycling containers will be placed in the park next to the trash cans before soccer season begins. Brian reported that you will be able to recycle aluminum and plastic. Chris said that the golf course will also begin participating in this effort as well as the pool this summer.

E. Discuss Potential Dog Park

Chris reported that this came up again in the short term goals at the Council goal setting session in January. Chris reported that she met with Brian and discussed possible locations. If you recall, we discussed the area behind the 20/20 building across from Ward Parkway about a year ago. No movement on this yet due to the continued vacancy of the building. There is also a

strip to the East of City Park that could potentially be used for this. It is currently owned by another entity. It is a little over 6 acres. It would be nice to find a location to perhaps move this initiative to the forefront.

Karen Reimer asked when the wastewater plant west of City Park is closing. Brian reported that he is uncertain when, but heard that a fence was installed to access the manhole to test the overflow into KCMO. Brian heard that they are not planning on closing it anytime soon.

Karen Reimer reported that she thought it was 2010 and this would be a nice area for a dog park.

Amy reported that if the dog park is adjacent to City Park, an additional parking lot would not have to be used.

Chris agreed and reported that the East parking lot is barely used other than soccer and this would be great to utilize this for the dog park. She further reported that she is working on getting more information to see if Council would like to pursue any further research on this in the near future. Chris reported that it would be nice to list this in the gift catalog and give someone the opportunity to donate land.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

April reported that the adult Life Story writing class will begin tomorrow. The class has reached its maximum. April reported that she will split the class or move it. She has a one day general writing class for kids, which should be a lot of fun.

April reported that there will be a two woman dramatic reading theatre production in the Oak of “Mary and Myra” that will be interesting. This is a free program.

April reported that the Arts Council is doing a studio tour in the Crossroads District on March 21. They will travel by bus. Board members are invited to attend but reservations are needed.

April also reported that the auditions for *Brigadoon* will be at the end of March. They are in need of actors, singers and dancers. Men are encouraged to audition. Tea with Shakespeare will be held April 26. Reservations are needed and it fills quickly. April passed out handouts for the program.

Jeff reported that he has been working on the 2010 budget with Kim. He has also been working on the summer guide and securing programs.

Jeff reported that he met with Dennis Patton of the Kansas State University Extension Service for the butterfly garden. They developed a low maintenance plan moving forward. He has been busy cleaning animal cages and has received a lot of cabin and programs calls, as well as planning the nature and challenge adventure camps for the summer.

Brock reported that he’s been busy with the summer program guide and that Spring Break Camp will be March 16-20. He is in the process of finding counselors to work the camp.

Brock reported that he went to the state conference the end of January in Hutchinson. He attended a quick start tennis session and received a \$300 grant to purchase equipment for our new program. He also reported that he has researched the option of having a boot camp this

summer, but ran into a few difficulties getting this started. He will continue to work on this and hopes to make this available in the fall.

Cody reported that he also attending the KRPA Conference in January. He learned a lot of valuable information that he hopes to implement in his summer camps. He also continues to receive numerous calls about the Lodge for 2010. He is looking to increase weekend rentals at the community center as well as business rentals during the week at the Lodge. He is also working on staffing summer camp and creating an itinerary for the outdoor camp.

Dan reported that he's busy with soccer. The deadline was last Wednesday. The season starts March 21. He updated the summer baseball website information today and has received a lot of calls. He also recently set up the two week summer soccer Challenger Sports program.

Kim reported that she has been busy working with RecTrac and WebTrac for summer programs.

Kim reported that shelter inquiries can now check availability on line. This will provide a better level of service to the public. They are not able to make a reservation but will be able to see what's available.

Kim also reported that the department has been utilizing the blast e-mail a lot. This has been a bonus and a success in getting additional registrations for classes.

Kim reported that there was a boot camp instructor who inquired about teaching and had a meeting scheduled but had to cancel. Hopefully this can be offered in the fall.

Kim reported that the pool inspection will be conducted this week. She hopes to be in compliance with the Virginia Graham Baker Act in regards to drains and sumps.

Rod Crawford asked if it will be completed in time to open.

Kim reported that there won't be a problem opening. The one thing where there's trouble is the items are not available for sale yet.

Rod reported that the Homeowners Associations are having the same problem with purchasing parts.

Kim reported that she is working on a bid for a UV system. Kim hopes to have one installed in the pool to treat the water. She is excited to be one of the first pools in the area to have this.

Kim reported in Lindsay's absence tonight, that Daddy Daughter Date Night was a success. There were 270 people in attendance.

Lindsay has been busy working on seasonal hires; she has interviews scheduled for the next three weeks.

Lindsay reported that there are two new programs they are working on. They are working with Park Place and will host movie night April 24. An inflatable screen will show E.T. in Barker Square. On June 5, a dive-in movie of Finding *Nemo* will be shown. The movie will start closer to 9p.m. to wait for the sun to go down. The rainout date is April 25.

Brian reported that the donation trees that were approved at the last meeting were planted today. They are nice trees and are bigger than expected.

Brian also reported that Mike Noll, the Landscape Supervisor who worked for the City for over 20 years retired in December. Brian reported that he's been busy interviewing for this position. He's narrowed it down to making a selection. The new employee should be on board the beginning of March.

Brian reported that a lot of tree pruning has been done recently. Staff has been busy working on mulching as well.

Chris reported that she also attending the KRPA conference. She attended a session on the budget crisis among parks and recreation agencies. Chris reported that this was an interesting session along with many other informative ones.

Chris reported that the most significant thing currently going is the legislature's consideration of the recommendation of the Governor to take the alcohol tax. This is collected locally and is administered by the dept. of alcohol.

Chris reported that 1/3 of the money goes to general fund, 1/3 to the D.A.R.E. program and 1/3 to Parks & Recreation, which usually results in about a million dollars. They are projecting to take 1/2 of it in 2009 and all in 2010. This will have impacts on some of our pending projects and new initiatives. Chris reported that she will meet with Scott tomorrow and will learn more about this.

Chris also reported that there is a freeze for replacement and new full time positions at this time. The arborist position has been delayed until July. The City of Leawood is not in any severe financial situation like many other city's/parks departments who are taking a lot of cuts.

Chris reported that the Golf course had the fees in early because of them going to Council, but a lot of other facilities lowered their fees; as a result it will be brought before Council at the meeting Monday to lower our fees to be competitive. A newsletter will be launched in March that will be available quarterly.

Chris reported that the program guide is set to drop March 8. Residents should receive it the week before Spring Break.

B. KCMPRDA Park Board Banquet

Chris reported that the banquet will be March 26 at The Starlight Theatre. If you are interested in attending, please let her know.

Karen reported that she was on the web-site recently and noticed that it hadn't been updated with the new Park Board members. It still shows the old members.

Kim and Chris reported that they will look into this and see that it is done.

Rod Crawford made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

