

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Gezer Park

Board members in attendance were, Doug Stevens, Amy Vlastic, Karen Reimer, Mark Mergen and Bob Wright.

Council Liaison in attendance was Jim Rawlings.

Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brian Anderson, Brock Shafer, Jeff Peterson, Cody Kennedy, Lindsay Youle, and April Bishop.

The meeting was called to order at 5:55p.m.

Doug Stevens made a motion to approve the July 14, 2009 meeting minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Gezer Park Construction and Dedication Information

Brian reported that part of the park will have sod replaced, staff is spraying to kill the weeds and will be re-seeding next week.

Chris reported the landscape architect has put together a schematic of the tablet placement. She will be emailing the document to all park board members. Expenses have been cut from the original design by placing a liner in the bottom of the pond as well as eliminating the underwater lighting.

Brian stated that the park is nearing completion, a few items such as striping the parking lot, installing parking blocks and hanging fixtures in the restroom still need to be completed.

Chris mentioned possibly having staff and committee members on site on a weekend day in late September or early October to meet with community members to conduct tours of the park and answer questions.

Chris also reported committee members and private donors are being contacted about donations to the park.

Jim Rawlings asked how many parking spots will be available in the parking lot.

Brian reported the lot has 28 parking spots, including handicapped.

Jim Rawlings inquired about any possible discussion with the neighbors. Have there been any concerns or negative feelings raised by any of the neighbors or neighboring businesses?

Jim Rawlings asked if any of the staff or committee members have approached Price Chopper about the use of their parking lot for overflow parking for the park.

Amy Vlasic Inquired about the possibility of a crosswalk being installed across 133rd Street from Price Chopper's parking lot to Gezer Park.

Brian responded that Public Works will be installing the crosswalk in the near future.

Karen Reimer reported that the Gezer Park committee will be talking to business owners across from Gezer Park and inviting them to the opening event.

Chris spoke about the tablet and said the front of the tablet is in Hebrew and does not have any writing on the back. A kiosk explaining the meaning of the tablet will be placed near the structure.

Doug Stevens inquired about the donations to the park. He asked if it was a general donation or for specific items.

Chris replied that the committee has chosen specific items for donations with dollar amounts estimated. If an individual or group donates 51% of the cost of the larger items, they will have naming rights.

II. Old Business

A. Staff Reports

Jeff reported visitation at the Nature Center is up for the year. They recently received a donation of bird feeders and seed from an individual. It is approximately a \$300 value.

Jeff reported cabin rentals are slow but indicated the number of rentals will increase once the weather cools down and scout groups start organizing at the start of the school year.

Jeff said the rain garden class will be held on Tuesday, August 25 and is sponsored by the Stormwater Management Advisory Council and the Blue River Watershed Association. The class is free to attend and can accommodate 20-25 people.

Brian mentioned the rain garden at Brook Beatty Park and said it is doing well and they have only lost a couple of plants that need to be replaced. A plaque will be set in the near future at the site.

Lindsay reported the pool starts operating on half-days on the weekdays starting Monday, August 17 and the pool closes for the season on September 7.

Lindsay reported the Doggie Dunk will be held on September 8 at 5:00 pm.

Lindsay reported the last three after-hours pool rentals of the season are this week. There have been a total of 16 after-hours pool rentals this year as opposed to 6 in 2008.

Lindsay reported she attended a pre-bid meeting on the building lights for holiday lighting. The option of LED lighting is being explored.

Lindsay reported she is starting to prepare for Freaky Fall Fest.

Cody reported the Lodge is booked Friday – Sunday during the last three weekends in August. He also reported the interior of the Lodge has been painted and dusted thoroughly.

Cody is trying to increase the number of rentals at the Community Center and presenting it as an option to groups when if the Lodge is booked for the date the group is requesting.

Cody reported all summer camps have ended for the season and he is compiling reports and evaluating changes for the 2010 camps.

Brock reported all classes and camps have ended for the summer and he is working on his end of activity reports.

Brock said the number of participants in tennis increased again this year. He reported there were a total 105 participants in JTL for 2009 as opposed to 88 in 2008. He stated 100 participants is the ideal number.

Brock reported he is working on preparations for the Labor Day Run on September 7. He stated that the department is now using the Kansas City Sports Commission for online registration as opposed to Active.com. He said since it is a local company, he is able to promote our run at other events.

Brock reported that the tennis courts are being resurfaced. The contractor completed three courts last week and working on three this week.

Brian followed up by saying the three north courts have been completed and look good although there are a couple spots that need to be touched up. The contractor started on the south courts on Monday.

Brian stated he submitted Phase II of the Bicycle Friendly Community application last Thursday. He completed and submitted Phase I last month and the committee suggested he submit Phase II. He stated he had help from three other city departments, Planning, Public Works and the Police Department. He and Chris are going to Columbia, MO next week to see their progress on becoming a Bicycle Friendly Community.

Brian reported staff is placing some of the memorial benches donated by the Leawood Foundation as well as placing concrete pads below some of the current benches that are heavily used.

Dan reported tonight is the last night of Tee ball and Coach Pitch Baseball. The league had a total of 8 nights rained out. This was the highest number of rain outs in the history of the league. Team awards and pictures are being distributed as well.

Dan reported the Fall Soccer season will begin on Saturday, September 12. He is currently in the process of putting children on teams and creating schedules.

Dan reported he is working with teams to rent the multi-use fields at Ironwoods Park for practices.

Kim reported The First Tee golf camps and classes have ended for the summer and enrollment is open for the fall classes.

Kim reported the concession deck is going to be remodeled when the pool closes. Staff is currently getting estimates on awnings and materials.

Kim reported gift cards are now available for sale and can be redeemed either in person or through online enrollment. These were created in, and will be issued through the RecTrac software program.

Chris reported the Fall Program Guide has been mailed to homes and the next guide will be out at the end of November – early December.

Chris reported the City Council will be discussing the Amphitheatre at the August 17 Governing Body meeting.

Chris reported the day of the regularly scheduled Park Board meeting for September will be the same day as the Council Meeting and the Doggie Dunk. She asked for suggestions on moving the meeting. It was decided that the next meeting will be on October 6 with Chris reserving the right to move the date up if needed to address Gezer Park opening tasks.

April announced the upcoming bank show on August 21 at M & I Bank.

April announced the three upcoming jazz concerts at Ironwoods Park.

April reported that Brigadoon was a success.

April reported that auditions are going this week for the production of “She Loves Me”, which will be in the Oak Room, October 9-11. The performances on October 9 & 10 will be “Dessert Theatre” and will have a \$10 admission charge. Sunday’s performance will be free to the public with theatre style seating. Desserts will be prepared by Three Women and an Oven.

April reported the school has had an increase in visitors. She attributes part of the increase to participating in the “Passport to Adventure” program in conjunction with the Nature Center.

April reported artist Ilan Averbuch may be attending the dedication of Gezer Park in October.

B. Misc.

Karen Reimer inquired about an update on the Oxford Township sign being constructed by as an Eagle Scout project.

April reported that the project has not moved forward but should be underway in the fall.

Chris reported that the Historic Commission still needed to meet and review the verbiage for the sign and make a recommendation to this Board.

Karen Reimer inquired if the maintenance and construction issues had been resolved and asked if the board could receive an update in October.

Karen Reimer inquired about the condition of the golf course. She said she had heard from a concerned citizen.

Jim Rawlings stated the conditions are better than last year.

Karen Reimer stated she had been told by a citizen that the grounds have not been kept up.

Chris stated that someone had vandalized the greens by spraying something on them. She also said she has only heard from three people regarding the conditions of the golf course at this point. The staff is keeping involved and checking on conditions routinely.

Chris reported she has met with ISTRIC and is meeting with them again on Friday to look at the greens. She stated the greens are looking better although the turf is thin along some of the ridges. Pete continues to meet with concerned patrons.

Amy Vlasic expressed concerns about a “fort” in the woods north of the Pastoral Dreamer art piece.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department