

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – October, 6, 2009
5:30 p.m. – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Karen Reimer (chair), Amy Vlastic, Mark Mergen and Rod Crawford. Council Liaison Jim Rawlings also attended.

Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brian Anderson, April Bishop and Tonia Morgan.

The meeting was called to order at 5:52p.m.

Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the August 11, 2009 meeting minutes. Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Status of Sign Project for Ironwoods

April reported that Marica has the copy of the wording for the sign. She is working on laying out the side panels for easier reading. Hopefully it will be completed soon.

Chris asked if the Historic Commission reviewed the wording.

April reported that the wording has been approved.

Chris asked April to send the wording to Tonia and she will forward it to the Committee.

Chris asked will it be completed this year or in the spring since it has been approved.

April reported that they would love to have this completed soon.

Chris reported that this will be tabled to the November meeting as an agenda item.

B. Construction Progress Gezer Park

C. Dedication of Gezer Park

Brian reported that the contractor finished most of the remaining items. The tablet is set. An anti-graffiti coating was put over the stone. It takes 24 hours to completely dry.

Brian reported that sod was installed. The landscaping has been replaced. The wadi is working. Everything is coming along great.

Karen asked for an update on the area to the west that was pooling water.

Brian reported that dirt was added and sod was laid yesterday. They are currently watering heavily to establish the grass. This may result in areas that are flat to still pond water.

Chris reported that the Council of Mayors dinner will be held at the Park tomorrow evening from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. This is the first event to be held at the new Gezer Park.

Chris reported that The Faith Community Breakfast will be October 13 at 8:00a.m.

Amy complimented the park. She reported that it looks beautiful.

Chris reported that we received funding for the Havdalah Aromatic Garden. It will be located on the east side near the open air shelter once the funds are available to build the shelter-most likely next spring.

Chris reported that the fundraising committee is working very hard. We received a \$10k gift recently.

Amy asked about the progress of the playground.

Chris reported that most of the money is available. It should be installed next year.

Chris also reported that the plan for the tablet was to put water around it, but funding isn't available. However all the infrastructure is underneath, i.e., the water, and lighting etc.

Chris reported that the tablet was initially supposed to have Hebrew language on one side and English on the other but it arrived with Hebrew only. When the informational kiosks are added in the future, it will be translated in English as well as information about the gifting from the Gezer Region and the artist.

Councilman Rawlings suggested having a temporary sign erected (a banner) until this can be done.

Chris agreed. She will make pamphlets to hand out at the dedication.

Chris also reported that the invitations were mailed and should be received soon. Parking will be available at Price Chopper in the northwest section of the parking lot. Police will assist those crossing the street. Handicap parking will be available at the park.

Chris reported that the dedication is Tuesday, October 20th at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30a.m. There are seven members from Israel attending the events.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

Brian reported that his staff has been extremely busy monitoring the construction and final touches at Gezer Park.

Brian reported that a corrective application was used to treat the grubs on the soccer fields. Although treated earlier this year, the rain and weather washed the chemicals away.

Brian reported that they've been busy fertilizing all the turf and spraying weeds.

Brian also reported that cosmetic deck improvements are being done at the pool. The ramp on the south end has been redone to allow better access to the storage room. A nova brick material is being added similar to the maintenance building. Awnings will also be added.

Brian reported that they were asked to re-locate some of the trails that are too close to the creek as you exit south of City Park, north of College due to erosion. The trail will move approximately 50 yards to the east. Public Works will lay the asphalt.

Brian reported that the work on the tennis courts is complete. He has received a lot of great comments.

Brian reported that the patio furniture at the lodge was vandalized recently. It was thrown over the side, down the hill. Fortunately there is a great welder on staff who was able to weld the broken pieces back together.

Brian reported that the library will have its grand opening October 17. His staff renovated areas on the west side. They removed old trees and installed smaller grass as needed.

Brian reported that his landscape crew has been busy working on the area where the dogwood trees were planted on the creek side between the trail in Tomahawk Park. His staff lowered the trees and cleaned the area to add life to the trees and make the entire area look nice.

Karen asked what can be done in regards to maintenance to the area on the backside of the pool along the fence where it is off the ground and hard to weed eat and cut the grass to make it look nicer.

Brian reported that they are planning on extending the deck to move it closer to the fence. They may pull the post and relocate the fence. The chain link fence makes it difficult to keep clean because debris often blows through it. They will do the best they can.

Kim reported that 108 dogs participated in the Doggie Dunk. Pictures are on the website.

Kim reported that Labor Day run had 407 participants. This is down from last year. The thick morning fog may have kept people away.

Chris added that the Royals also had a run at the stadium the same day, which may have hurt our numbers. Over 1,000 runners attended their event and received a game ticket as well. Overall we remain pleased with the number of participants.

Kim reported there are 95 teams participating in soccer this year. This is down approximately 25 teams from the spring. This is the last year of increasing 7 vs. 7.

Kim also reported that cabin rentals are strong with 202 rentals so far. They are full every weekend through October.

Kim reported that her staff has submitted their information for the program guide. Brock has a few new classes. He is offering a beginning bridge class. He is also doing a class on how to save at the grocery store. The classes will run in the winter guide and begin in January or February.

Kim reported that Lindsay has been busy working on Freaky Fall Fest. The wristbands will be \$6.00 this year. Hayrides will be \$2.00. There are ten trunk or treat vendors so far.

Kim also reported that Cody has been busy with the Lodge. There have been Thursday thru Sunday rentals the past two weeks. September and October have become the new wedding months. They are busier than June.

Kim also reported that there was \$25,000 in revenue in the month of September alone. They are finding that since the fees were grandfathered for those already on the books, and reservations are made eighteen months in advance, they aren't seeing the results of the 2008 fee increase yet. The new fees haven't stopped the rentals, which is good.

Rod Crawford asked when Freaky Fall Fest is.

Kim reported that it is Friday, October 23rd.

Councilman Rawlings asked what the recommended youngest age to attend is.

Kim reported that 2-3 is the youngest age to be able to participate. There are a few inflatables geared towards young children only.

Chris added that the child featured on the cover of the current program guide (2008) couldn't walk and still attended.

Amy Vlastic asked if the hayride will be spooky this year.

Kim reported that there won't be anyone jumping out scaring people as in years past.

Chris reported that there isn't enough staff to work the event. We ask for volunteers but people have become so busy they can't do it.

Councilman Rawlings suggested finding a scout group that may be interested in working the event.

Kim reported that usually scout groups are good, but only for a limited time and we need commitment for the entire evening.

Amy reported that the year her scout troop worked, it was cold and working the entire time was too long. Half shifts would be nice in the future.

April reported that the Leawood Stage Company will have evening performances of the production of "She Loves Me", this weekend, October 9th – 11th. The event will be held in the Oak Room. The Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8:00 p.m. and will feature dessert and beverages. The cost is \$10 per person or \$70 for a table of eight. Sunday's performance is free to the public with theatre style seating, but will not include refreshments. Reservations are required as most days are almost full.

April reported that The Star and the Sun newspapers will run an ad tomorrow, she expects a sell out.

April also reported that artist Ilan Averbuch will attend the dedication of Gezer Park.

April reported that the grand opening of the library is October 17th. It will begin at 11:00 a.m.

April reported that the schoolhouse has been extremely busy this year with a lot of programs scheduled.

April reported that she (as a docent) will hand out information and goodies during Trunk or Treat at Freaky Fall Fest.

April reported that she will also participate in the Senior Quest event. The Girl Scout Regional Conference will have an exhibit at this event.

April also reported that her holiday event will be the same time as Breakfast with Santa.

April reported that the next art show is November 13th. Invitations will be mailed soon.

April reported that the Council accepted the master plan for the stage building portion of the amphitheatre development. Fundraising efforts will start soon. Due to the economic climate it will be done in small ways.

April also reported that there will be a big kick off patron party/gala in the spring. Next years show will be "Guys and Dolls".

April also reported that a dramatic reading was done in the Oak room last spring. It went over really well. This will be done again next spring.

Karen asked what happened to the Ballet in the Park.

April reported that it canceled. After 20 years, The Kansas City Ballet doesn't have funding. All performances were cancelled, not just Leawood. It is her understanding that it will not be reinstated.

Karen asked if it was a last minute cancellation for their performances this year.

April reported that it was not. It was in the program guide stating that it was cancelled. Ads were also in The Star newspaper. She also sent out Press Releases and placed on the website.

Chris reported that the City Council decided to seek bids for a RFP for the operation and maintenance of the golf course beginning in 2010.

Chris reported that this is a good time to bring the maintenance and operations back together. Currently one is with the management company and the other in house. The submittals are due Friday, October 23rd at noon. Interviews will begin the week of November 2nd. A three year contract was proposed with three one year extensions, through the period of time when the bonds will be paid off in 2015.

Chris reported that an E-Waste event will be held November 17th, at the Church of the Resurrection.

Brian reiterated that the event was previously held at Shawnee Mission South but the location has changed to improve to improve the traffic flow. The shred- it center will be located separately at this event to hopefully alleviate long lines.

Karen asked the procedure for dropping off computers and monitors. Should information be removed first. She also inquired about where they are taken after it's over.

Rod and many committee members agreed that not knowing exactly where they are taken, is a good reason to always clean everything off before you get rid of it.

Chris reported that at last night's Council meeting, they approved for the City to engage Continental Engineers to move forward with Phase I of the Amphitheatre project. This will incorporate additional parking with a possible culvert crossing and additional restrooms. The project is on the fast track as the improvements need to be completed before the next theatre season.

B. Referral from Green Initiative Committee (Sub Committee for Bicycle Friendly Community)

Brian reported that we didn't receive a distinction from the League of American Bicyclist. A written report will be sent with feedback concerning what more they would like to see and what our community needs to do from their perspective.

Amy reported that in her opinion, there aren't many bike lanes in Leawood.

Chris reported that when they began the application process it was found that they had more than initially thought. We receive a lot of points for the trails alone.

Brian reported that other committees have bicycle committees. They are citizen group based and make recommendations, and receive feedback regarding bicycle transportation. It probably would have been beneficial for us to have this beforehand.

Chris added that the Green Task force requested the Council allow a sub-committee appointed for one year. This group would advise and collaborate on making the City a bicycle friendly community at some level. This was approved at the August 17th Council meeting.

Chris reported that it will operate like any other sub-committee. She requested a list of bios for the consideration of the parks board, but hasn't received any yet.

Brian reported that they received a few recommendations by the Green Initiative Committee.

Rod asked who makes the final decision of who will serve on the committee. And, if you would like to nominate someone, what is the procedure for doing so.

Chris suggests there should be five to seven people on the committee. If you are interested in recommending someone, please have them submit a typed short bio. She is willing to type a form and e-mail it to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board if necessary. The Advisory Board will make a recommendation to the governing body. At that time, the Mayor will make the appointment. It will go on the Council agenda as a Mayoral appointment.

Rod asked if a Parks and Rec. Committee member should be on the sub committee.

Chris reported that it would be nice to have the representation. It may be good to have two from this committee in case one is unable to attend a meeting.

Rod volunteered to represent the committee.

Chris reported that it is very important to have a quorum at the November meeting. There will be several important items to discuss.

C. Misc

Mark reported that he will attend the National Recreation and Parks Annual Congress next week in Salt Lake. One session will discuss off leash dog parks and the other fundraising. He would like to make a report at the November meeting.

Chris complimented Mark on his interest in the sessions and for doing a good job always attending the conferences. Unfortunately staff will not attend this year.

Karen reported that she received a call from Councilman Rasmussen and would also like to speak at the November meeting regarding a dog park in Leawood.

Chris asked Jim to contact Councilman Rasmussen regarding this before the next meeting.

Karen reported that she will be sending out an e-mail to all committee members regarding notifying staff if they are able to attend the meetings. We are having a hard time until the last minute deciding if there will be a quorum for the meetings.

If you attend regularly, the email does not pertain to you. It isn't fair to the committee members who attend on a regular basis to wait for notification if the meeting will be held waiting on a definite response from other members. Often, it is Monday morning before a decision is made.

April reported and Tonia reiterated that some restaurants require two – three days notification for catering requests.

Moving forward a decision should be made by the Friday prior to the meeting. This is fair to the staff as well as committee members who have busy schedules but arrange time to attend the meetings.

Tonia reported that having a decision by Friday makes it a lot easier on everyone.

Mark Mergen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department