

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2010**  
**5:30 p.m. – Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

Board members in attendance were, Jacquie McKinney, Amy Vlastic, Bob Wright, Doug Stevens, and Rod Crawford. Council Liaison Jim Rawlings also attended.

Staff members in attendance were Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, and Tonia Morgan.

Jacquie McKinney presided over the meeting in Karen Reimers absence. The meeting was called to order at 5:53p.m.

Tonia Morgan made one correction to the minutes in regards to clarification on the operations of the wadi at Gezer park as made by Brian Anderson. Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the December 8, 2009 meeting minutes with this change. Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Finalize Recommendation of Bicycle Friendly Task Force**

Chris reported that she spoke with Julie Cain regarding her son Matt leaving for Texas. He will not be leaving until August and would like to serve until that time.

Chris reported that Brian felt that it is best to propose leaving Matt on the committee along with Alicia Jennings of the Green Committee, Rod Crawford, Peter Stover who is the neighbor of Deborah Filla. He is involved with the Bridging the Gap Clean Commute Program and Jill Patton, a Leawood resident who is a teacher and rides her bike daily to school.

Chris suggested leaving the committee at five members. We can utilize the owner of the new Elite Cycle Store as a resource right now as Brian has indicated that he is not a Leawood resident.

April asked if the Bicycle Friendly is a sub-committee. If so, sub-committee members do not have to reside in Leawood.

Chris reported that she will update the memo that's going to the Council after the meeting tonight.

Amy made a motion to accept the recommendation of the five people to serve on the Bicycle Friendly Committee to the Council. They will report to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the request for appointment includes a two year term. The committee recommendations include: Alicia Jennings, Rod Crawford, Matt Cain, Julie Patron, and Pete Stover. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **B. Recommendation for Gezer Park Signage**

Chris passed around information that was e-mailed to the committee last week. She had Brian take pictures of the signs that we normally post. (The pictures were passed amongst the committee to view). The signs are on the same post, but some of the park rules are changed out for each particular season.

Chris reported that these signs are posted at Gezer and include language about picking up after pets.

Chris reported that she agrees with the comment Amy made earlier in the meeting in reference to placing too many signs that say “no”, because this is negative. We should consider other ways to phrase it.

Amy reported that signs are necessary, but Gezer is such a beautiful park and shouldn't be cluttered with signage.

Chris reported that we don't want signs everywhere. We should make room in the next program guide to update residents on park ordinances with the summer months approaching.

Amy reported that people need to also know that this isn't a pond. They don't think that they are hurting it when they throw rocks in it.

Chris also reported that the rocks that are there were purchased specifically for Gezer and are quite expensive to purchase and install.

Chris opened the floor for discussion of what the signs should say.

Rod asked about remote control boats. He is asking because he's attended the Lenexa bar-b-que festival and they do this there. There weren't any signs posted in years past but currently there are signs everywhere saying it was not allowed.

Chris reported that she can understand this, if children operated their boats and something happens to the boat, they don't want the kids to go in after it. People have used them at City Park and it's never been a problem.

Jacquie reported that we don't want to create a negative feeling but signs are needed. The taxpayer's money will have to be used to replace damage if there is any.

Chris reported that she met with Brian and they agree that perhaps another sign is needed at the south entrance of the park.

Bob Wright suggested the sign says, “Please do not remove rocks.”

Jacquie McKinney suggested the word “please” should not be on the sign at all.

Amy suggested that the sign should say, “Please do not destroy the landscaping”

Committee members discussed additional potential wording for the sign with many different suggestions.

Chris asked how many signs are too much. Signs are only as good as where they are placed. If there are too many signs, it becomes clutter and people won't pay attention to them and they are not aesthetically pleasing.

Jacque suggested adding “no wading or swimming”.

Rod suggested “no entry”

Bob suggested ‘stay out of the fountain”

Amy reported that her children play in the wadie. She spoke with Brian about this and he told her that it was told that it was o.k. - the Park is a place to play.

Chris agreed but suggested there should be a balance. It could be dangerous, based on actions of the public; you sometimes have to protect people against their better judgment.

Rod reported that the signs would be to educate them, especially with regard to potentially damaging the property. If they know it could cause damage, they won’t want to do this.

Chris reported if we were able to update the sign, add another sign, add the information in the guide, and all these things happen close together, it may have a bigger impact.

Chris asked everyone’s thoughts on “wading, swimming prohibited at this facility”

Jacque suggested dropping the word wading, and just put “swimming prohibited”.

Councilman Rawlings suggested removing the word facility, and adding the word pond. “No swimming” should be on the sign.

Chris reported that it is five feet deep which takes it past “wading”.

Councilman Rawlings reported that regardless of the exact wording on the signs, 98% of the time the signs will work for 98% of the people visiting the park.

Jacque McKinney suggested making the signs short and to the point.

Chris reported that the wadie will be harder to police. There are park attendants on the weekend that monitor all the parks. The Parks Department will need to be more diligent with the part-time and full-time staff. Approaching people and educating them will be beneficial.

Chris reported that the next big issue will be signage regarding throwing rocks.

Doug Stevens reported that you want to make sure that they understand throwing rocks is disturbing the landscape and other elements surrounding it.

Councilman Rawlings reported that this is also a problem at I-Lan Park.

Jacque McKinney reported that the sign should read “do not disturb landscaping”

Bob Wright agreed, but feels the signs should specify the word “rocks”.

Chris reported that younger children will not be able to read the signage despite what it says.

Councilman Rawlings reported that the signs are more for the parents who accompany the children to the park.

Rod suggested seeking assistance from surrounding homes associations to simply explain to residents that this is a potential problem. It would be nice to include an insert in their newsletter. Make sure they understand that any damage could possibly cost everyone a lot of money.

Chris reported that this is a good idea. Once a direction is taken, she will contact the HOA Presidents of both Wilshire Place and Waterford.

### **C. Staff Reports**

Kim reported that at the end of December we had Holiday Camp which ran for ten days. If we knew the weather was going to be bad, it could have been extended one more week.

We started taking seasonal applications for the pool on January 4. There is an abundance of lifeguard applicants. There are currently more applications than we need, which is different than years past.

Kim also reported that Daddy Daughter Date Night will be Saturday, February 6th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. "Princess Ball" is the theme this year. Lindsay has been busy finishes the final details. It has been filling quickly.

Kim reported that she has been busy working on getting the pool UV System installed. She hopes this will be completed by the end of the month. This will cut water borne illness opportunities for our patrons.

Kim reported that Dan will meet with the Wizards and look at the possibility of camps again this summer.

Kim reported that she, along with Dan and Brock, will attend the Kansas Recreation & Parks Association conference in Topeka the last week of January.

Kim reported that she and Lindsay have a meeting scheduled with Prairie Village regarding offering a Super Pass Option for the pool. This will allow access to other pools for an additional fee when a pool membership is purchased. Leawood, Shawnee, Lenexa and Overland Park have been invited to participate. She will attend the meeting to obtain more information. If you choose the option, you have to purchase the upgrade at your city pool, but have the option of visiting other pools.

Chris reported that we plan to consider the option and remain open-minded about the opportunity. We will bring the findings to the Park Board at the February meeting.

April reported that the first Arts Council event is a String Quartet concert in the Oak room on Valentine's Day. It is a Sunday Matinee.

The first art show will be March 12. Invitations will be mailed soon.

April also reported that the schoolhouse is having a Life Story Class for six weeks beginning February 3. The classes will be held on Wednesdays. All adults are invited to attend.

April reported that there will be a family oriented lecture on February 22. It is mainly geared to adults.

April reported that the Stage Company has selected the director for the summer production of “Guys and Dolls”. Auditions will be held March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Oak Room.

Bob Wright asked if children are invited to audition.

April reported that anyone seven to seventy-seven is welcome. If anyone has questions, they can contact her and she can inform you of the information needed to prepare for the audition. Information is also available on the website.

April reported that there will be a dramatic reading in the Oak room with a local playwright the last weekend in March. It is called “Crying on Trains”. He will be available for questions and answers after the performances.

April reported that there will be a fundraising gala at the Lodge on April 16<sup>th</sup> for “Guys and Dolls”. Invitations will also be sent for this event.

April reported that the Historic Commission is expanding the historic district. Areas from 83<sup>rd</sup> Street to 89<sup>th</sup> Street will be surveyed and should be complete in late spring or early summer.

Jacquie McKinney asked the implications of being in the historic district.

April reported that it doesn’t affect house sales or modifications. It is mostly for historic records. The volunteers will give a basic description, take a photo of the property and the information will be kept in the state database.

April reported that the Mayor would like to add a new piece of public art in I-Lan Park prior to the delegation visit this fall. The committee is working aggressively to find a pre-constructed piece that can be easily installed. They hope to find something with an Asian theme to go along with the park.

Amy suggested talking to Jimmy Lin, the owner of the art deco furniture store.

Jim Rawlings reported that he doesn’t reside in Leawood anymore. He moved to California several years ago.

April asked the committee members to keep their eyes open for an article on the sculpture in Gezer Park as well as *Porch Lights* in the Kansas City Star.

Chris reported that the photographer for The Star is supposed to take a picture of *Porch Lights* when it is dark, which is a great idea by April to get the full effect of the meaning of the piece.

## **II. New Business**

Chris reported that a letter was sent to the homeowner associations as well as a follow up e-mail invite will go out soon for the an event February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lodge. It begins at 5:30p.m. There will be booths available that will include everything from composting, recycling, and bicycle friendly information, following a recap of actions taken over the past year. Two representatives from every homes association will receive a ticket. Additional tickets will be sold for \$10.00.

Chris reported that the Green Committee is working on a new initiative- Stream Team. In addition to keeping debris, which is the biggest issue we see, they will research stream monitoring in regards to the bugs that live there and the water quality etc.

Chris also reported that Troon, the new management company has been working at the golf course for nearly two weeks. A letter was sent to all members notifying them of the change. They will host a Chamber after hours event the second Wednesday in February. This will give them a good opportunity to meet everyone. They are working really hard trying to pull everything together. It has been a great transition so far.

Bob Wright asked if there is any follow-up information regarding the potential dog park.

Chris reported that there hasn't been so far. Due to the weather, she and Mel Lavery haven't been able to coordinate their schedules. The idea is still there.

Chris reported that she received an e-mail regarding a veterinary office in Overland Park is looking for a dog park on the western side of Missouri that they can help sponsor.

Chris reported that she will research this to find out who this is, and contact them. If anything becomes of this, it could be a potential partner.

### **C. Misc.**

Chris thanked everyone for attending the meeting tonight. There were two very important issues that really needed recommendation to present to the Council. There won't be a second Council meeting in February or March, so anything that gets delayed has a long stretch.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:50.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department