

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2010**  
**5:30 p.m. – Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

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

Councilman Lou Rasmussen also attended to make a presentation on the potential off-leash dog park.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Rod Crawford made a motion to approve the February 9, 2010 meeting minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Discuss Off-Leash Dog Park Update**

Councilman Rasmussen began by thanking the committee for having him and allowing him to attend and report on the potential dog park.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that he wanted to give the committee some edge marks for the basis of any recommendations they may come up with.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that he visited several dog parks in the California area. *A slideshow presentation was made of his findings.* He showed many pictures of different parks and how they are set up.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that he met with several people while visiting the dog parks who gave insight on the positive and negatives in regards to size of the park, fencing type, landscaping, cost, access to the park, size of dogs per park, etc.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that some dog parks offered combined areas for small dogs as well as large dogs. Some had a common interest with a separation for different sized dogs.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the most important factor moving forward is location.

He also noticed some were in existing parks. He was amazed how many vans were there from dog walking companies. This will need to be addressed as our dog park comes to fruition. Some companies have one too many dogs.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the dog parks had numerous visibly posted signs with their rules and regulations.

Councilman Rawlings asked if the signage was more positive or negative.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that when the Committee recommends this to the Council, many things must be taken into consideration.

One of the major factors is how to and who determines the size of a small dog or big dog.

Another is the size and location of the receptacles. Some parks had small ones and others larger ones and provided scoops attached for clean up purposes.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the water stations are also a very important factor. When discussing location, it is important to be able to get utilities there. The major utilities will be lights and water.

Councilman Rasmussen also reported that the surface of the dog park will also be important. He asked dog owners of the parks he visited their preference. Grass was not the preference. They preferred dirt. It is easier to find waste and clean rather than looking in a grassy area or an area covered in mulch.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that fencing is also important. This should be discussed.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that amenities are important as well. Some areas provided seating for dog owners which are a plus.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that it was interesting that in the Santa Monica, CA dog parks, all dog owners are required to have a valid dog license or permit issued by the City. There are apparently three systems for recovering dog park cost at the parks he visited. The residents pay a basic licensing fee and receive a color coded tag.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that while visiting each dog park, he noticed that they were heavily used.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the City of Leawood charges fees for dogs. Not to be critical but in his opinion it is the least policed license in the City. There are roughly 35,000 residents here in Leawood; if divided by two, there are 17,500 of residences. Historically, this estimates to nearly 8,000 dogs in Leawood as compared to approximately 2200 dogs licensed.

Councilman Rasmussen asked the Committee to look closely at all aspects of the potential dog park. A clear understanding of everything needed is very important, as well as the signage needed and the wording in regards to all rules and regulations. Also, make sure there is adequate seating for dog owners.

Councilman Rawlings asked the size of the parks for each size dogs.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that most parks were at least an acre for each size dog.

Councilman Rasmussen also reported that we need to figure out how to recover the cost. Some dog parks operated by a card system. A card was swiped like a hotel card. He likes this idea. Every dog would be accounted for. Access to the park would be granted if, your license is paid, your dog has been inoculated for rabies etc, and all fees are accurate

Councilman Rasmussen reported that moving forward, location is the main priority. In regards to funding for the dog park, the guesstimates he received (California prices), the cost is nearly a quarter of a million dollars. In the Kansas City area, it may cost half this price. Maintenance fees and electricity fees should also be considered when factoring in cost.

The committee thanked Councilman Rasmussen for his report and presenting it at the meeting.

Chris passed out a handout of the proposed are for the dog park. The area is owned by Hallbrook. They are potentially planning on developing the northwest area.

Chris met with Mel yesterday and he is willing to discuss a potential dog park. There may be an opportunity to receive donated land. Over the years, they have been good to Leawood and donated property. She doesn't anticipate a problem moving forward. He has always been easy to work with. Mel has asked Brett Haugland to look at the area and discuss potential findings with Chris. At that time, all information will be reported to the committee.

## **B. Discuss Amphitheatre Update from March 1 Council Meeting**

Chris reported that we did not hear anything from the Council to prohibit them proceeding. They are moving forward, but with a different vain than when it began. Plans will be suspended to develop the expansion of the parking lot. They will look into a revised site plan. The hope is there is money remaining to do the rest rooms.

Chris reported that this was reported to the Council by Councilman Rasmussen at the last Council meeting.

There were questions from Councilman Bussing as to how we reached this point.

Chris reported that she staff is working on getting this information to report back to the Council.

Jacque McKinney asked if the parking lot will be expanded. She understood from the Foundation meeting last week that funds are extremely low.

Chris reported that this will not be done at this time.

Chris reported that there was \$500,000 remaining from park money that has already been bonded that can be spent.

April reported that this was phase 1. Monies still need to be raised for anything that needs to be done in Phase II. A completion date is relative to how quickly money can be raised.

Jacque asked what will be done with this money.

Chris reported that a revised site plan will be done for the amphitheatre area to bring the facility out of the flood plain and away from the sanitary line. We are hopeful there is money remaining to direct the architect to design and build the restroom.

Jacque asked when the projected end goal is. When will it be completed?

Chris reported that it won't be before the end of the year.

Jacquie asked if the site plan will be complete in 2010.

Chris reported that the site plan doesn't take long. It consists of going back in and relooking at the engineering, and the way the land lays and also doing a preliminary plan. This will be done by 2010.

Chris reported that she would optimistically like to have the restroom completed by the end of 2010, but doubts it will.

Jacquie reported that she would like to see the amphitheatre grow and be finished.

Chris reported that the will meet with other municipalities that have recently received money for similar projects and see how it was done.

Rod reported that it doesn't seem that a Phase II is in jeopardy. If the money is raised, his understanding is that it will be done.

April reported that the Council already approved Phase II.

Councilman Rawlings reported that they had to vote on Phase II to give the go ahead to begin raising money. This is helpful when asking for money so the plan can be shown to explain what the money is for. They have permission to raise the money for Phase II with the objective of finishing Phase II if the money comes in.

Chris reported that 2.8 million is projected for the lower amphitheatre area. This does not include the covered shelter area, or the ticket booth.

### **C. Discuss Council Action on SuperPass Program for LAC**

Kim reported that it was approved by the Council at the last Council meeting. They are moving forward and will get stickers soon. They will also put a nice packet together.

Kim reported that staff is excited about it and looking forward to it. It should make for a different summer.

Karen thanked Kim for doing all of the leg work on this. It should be well received.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Staff Reports**

Brian reported the light is burned out on Lllooppi. He has ordered replacement bulbs. They should arrive soon. As soon as they arrive, it will be replaced. He ordered a back up for future use.

Brian reported that his staff has been working on the rain garden side on Tomahawk Park. They are straightening up the drainage and improving storm pipes. They have filled it in and moved it further away from the trail. This is safer. It was getting to close to the trail.

Brian also reported that the nice weather has allowed them to work on the pool deck. They should be ready for the pool opening.

Brian reported that he has been busy working on getting proposals on someone to provide construction documents for the Gezer playground and shelter. He expects the proposal soon.

Brian reported that the Bike Committee meeting was held last week. It went well. Rod Crawford is the Chair of the Committee. They have worked on several things so far. A Traffic Safety 101 class will be offered this spring. It is listed in the program guide. They hope to fill the class. The class is eight hours and for adults. The class consists of four hours in the classroom learning and four hours outside practicing how to ride in traffic. It will be taught by certified instructors from the League of American Bicyclist.

Brian reported that they will work on a draft for the Complete Street Program to be recognized as a bicycle friendly community.

Brian also reported that they began working on a Bike to Work/School week. Some members have been working with schools up North and making headways to getting this recognized at a school level.

Brian reported that he made a draft for a proclamation for the Mayor. He sent it to Chris today to review. He would like to get this on the Council agenda. The committee would like Leawood to recognize "Bike to Work/School Week" the first week of May.

Kim reported that swim and dive registration began March 1. There are six spots remaining in the 10 and under category. The 11 and up has a waiting list.

Kim reported that summer registrations began March 5. A lot of people are signing up for golf.

Kim also reported that she has been working in conjunction with one of the instructors from the Triathlon; Katie Horner is coming to the Lodge Saturday at 10:30 to do a presentation. Literature will be provided and some staff will be present to promote some of our camps.

Kim reported that spring break camp starts next week. It is beginning to fill.

Kim reported that spring soccer begins the end of March. There are 110 teams.

Kim added that Eggstravaganza will be March 28 at 12:30p.m.

Kim reported that the trail clean will also be the 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-5p.m. Pre-registration is required. There are currently 175 registered. This event is growing every year.

Kim reported by the next Park Board meeting, all seasonal staff will be processed and hired.

Karen asked if they are in the process of doing this now.

Kim reported that the facilitators came in last Thursday and completed pre employment screenings. There are two more dates the end of March, early April for the remaining staff.

April reported that the My Mind sculpture that was donated has been sent back to the artist. He will refurbish it and return it. This should be completed soon. Once installed, there will be a dedication. It will be located at the corner of College and Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

April reported that the audition for Guys and Dolls was this past weekend. She expects it to be the best year ever. Most cast members have been contacted. The entire cast should be posted on the website by the end of the week.

April also reported that the Schoolhouse is open on Saturdays from 11-2. During the summer it will be open daily.

April passed around flyers for upcoming event.

April reported that the first art show will be this Friday night at M&I Bank. This will be a good show. She hopes all can attend.

April reported that the stage company will perform a dramatic reading at the end of this month. It is a four woman performance called Crying on Trains discussing dementia, Alzheimer's, and euthanasia.

On Saturday morning, there will also be an Alzheimer and dementia workshop with professionals in the field. There will also be people from a local agency attending as well. This is a free workshop. It should be really interesting.

April reported that Tea with Shakespeare is April 25. It generally sells out early; anyone interested should make reservations soon.

April added that The Gala will be held mid April. The theme is Guys and Dolls but is separate from the show this year. In years past it has been held at the same time, but will be different this year. Entertainment will be provided with dancing at the end. It will be a fun event.

While there, the dreams for the amphitheatre will be discussed as well as plans shown. They will tell people how they can donate. Anyone can participate; large donations are accepted as well as fifty dollar donations for someone who wants to adopt a music stand.

Lastly, April reported that Quilters, a musical production about women on the frontier who stitched stories of their lives. It will be performed by UMKC. It is a pay any amount you want type of performance. All proceeds go towards the amphitheatre fundraising group.

Chris reported that there is a permanent general manager at the golf course. Jeff Thomason has been hired.

Golf was actually played on the golf course this past weekend. So far approximately fifty Triple Crown memberships have been sold.

Councilman Rasmussen added that he noticed golfers playing on the course today.

Chris reported that the large item pick up day is June 5. There are two sub divisions participating. Town and Country will be doing this event. This is also National Trails Day.

Councilman Rawlings asked if rules will be sent regarding what can and can't be put out.

Chris reported that rules will be sent out. Scott will have to waive the scavenger law because she is sure this will go on.

Chris reported that the area outside for the donated bench has been determined. It will face the North. This will be done soon.

Chris reported that Scott of the Parks Dept. will be placing three doggie stations at Gezer Park soon.

Chris reported that she and Alice Hawk made a presentation soliciting donations to The Rotary last Thursday. They were well received.

Chris also reported that they received a proposal today for the shelter area and playground area at Gezer.

## **B. Discuss Shelter Option from Ironwoods Park to Gezer Park**

Chris reported that a few months before the donation, two members gave four thousand dollars for the Havdallah garden. It is an aromatic ceremonial garden located on the northeast corner of the sculpture pond. She didn't want to build the actual garden until something was done with the shelter.

Chris added that from \$60,000 was carried over from 2008 for special park fund money to do the potential shelter at Ironwoods Park. The location would be near the cabins and is needed, but it may not be needed as much as a shelter in Gezer.

Chris reported that we've received a lot of calls for shelter rentals for Gezer Park, for Bar Mitzvahs and weddings.

Tonia reiterated what Chris said, she makes all shelter reservations and agreed that there have been numerous calls for wedding ceremonies as well as reunions in Gezer Park.

Jacquie McKinney reported that this is good news. Other committee members agreed.

Chris reported that she met with Scott and proposed transferring the funds to build a shelter in Gezer. Two shelters are needed with the activity going on there. She would like to get it done in the near future.

Chris asked the committee members if they would support taking this to the Council and ask permission to use the money for a park area at Gezer.

Chris reported that the shelter would be an open air shelter and a flat schematic.

Jacquie asked if it's best to add a closed roof shelter, if people are using the park for many weddings. Or, is an open concept appropriate.

Chris reported that she would like to keep it open because this is the only shelter similar to the ones in Gezer. It has always been designed to be an open air shelter. It would be nice to have two events going on at once. It would also be nice to allow people to choose.

Chris reported that it would be nice to have an additional shelter at Ironwoods, but the need isn't immediate. If an additional shelter is added in Ironwoods, it wouldn't be rented. It would be used by the cabin renters and the schoolhouse.

Rod asked if \$60,000 will cover the cost of the shelter in Gezer entirely.

Chris reported that she is unsure. It hasn't been bid with the redesign but should be around \$75,000 or \$80,000.

Rod asked where the additional funds will come from.

Chris reported that she is also unsure. It will depend if the foundation will support this. They may want to only support the playground.

Jacquie added that at this point, the Foundation has money for either or. They do not have money for both unless other funds are obtained. They are working to get funds for both.

At the last Foundation meeting, it was discussed by one of the members that there is a school across the street with a playground. It may be best to get the shelter and work towards a playground in the future.

Jacquie McKinney moved to exercise the option to use the planned shelter for Ironwoods Park and use it at Gezer Park and do further research to make sure it will fit in with the rest of the ambiance of Gezer Park.

Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **C. Next Meeting Date/Agenda**

The next meeting date will be April 13 in the Maple Room.

### **D. Misc.**

Councilman Rasmussen suggested the Park Board Committee to set a goal to have something available for the C.I.P. program schedule in January 2011. This is when the Council begins discussing projects. A location suggestion and set of recommendations as to what the dog park should consist of will be good.

Amy suggested adding this to the agenda next month.

Karen reported that this is an attainable timeframe. It will be kept as a standing item to discuss moving along with that goal in mind.

Rod agreed that this is a good idea.

Karen complimented the program guide and how well it is designed. The guides have come a long way. They look phenomenal. The current guide is the best we've done.

Jacquie added that Marica does a great job. Rod also added that Marica is very proud of the guide and should be.

Jacquie McKinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department