



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – June 8, 2010
5:30 p.m. – Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Karen Reimer (chair), Mark Mergen, Bob Wright, Doug Stevens and Jacquie McKinney.

Councilman Lou Rasmussen also attended.

Ann Kenney (Leawood Arts Council) also attended.

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

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

Bob Wright made a motion to approve the March 11, 2010 meeting minutes. Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Discuss Off-Leash Dog Park

Chris reported that she spoke with Mel Lavery today. They will meet next Thursday. She invited Richard Coleman, Planning Director, to attend to discuss the FAR.

Chris reported that he is interested but has concerns from a business standpoint regarding the other building being built, in regard to the FAR requirements. Chris reported that she is trying to keep things going. If there are specific things he would like the City to consider, she will report them to the committee at the next meeting.

Councilman Rasmussen asked if she knows when he will file his permit.

Chris reported that she does not but assumes it will not be soon, based on the vacancy of Hallbrook II. .

Chris asked the committee if they would like to pick a date to view the proposed area in the near future. The committee decided to meet June 22, 5:30p.m.

Jacquie reported that it is a busy time of year; she would prefer to just tour the dog park.

Karen reported that she understands and those who want to stay for a potluck meal can do so. .

B. Discuss Updated Amphitheatre Plan

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the location of the restrooms has been determined. They have been authorized to move forward with the design to determine a definitive bid.

After this, it will be presented to the City Council to affirm or deny the recommendation of the Amphitheatre Committee to build a restroom with the limitation of \$500,000. Unfortunately, due to the extensive nature of the revised flood plain maps, it may be impossible to do both.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that he agrees with the Amphitheatre Committee that the restrooms should be built first. Unfortunately, a small group of opponents shared their concerns at the last Council Meeting and are in opposition of any expansion to the amphitheatre area.

When the amphitheatre was planned and voted upon as part of the bond issue everything was clear. This has not been hidden; everything has always been out in the open.

Karen Reimer asked if it is best for Parks Advisory Committee members to be present at the July Council meeting.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that this is a good idea. The meeting is July 6 at City Hall. All available committee members are encouraged to attend to support the decision.

Karen Reimer asked Chris to e-mail the agenda to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that when the park was purchased, it was always on the agenda to make sure it was an active park. It was always scheduled to have scout groups, climbing walls etc., and the developers came around and built as close to the edge of it as possible. Now people are saying that they didn't know about the expansion.

Chris reported that she met with Pulte very early on, when the development was in the 2nd phase. She is the staff member who spoke with Mrs. Irvin and showed her the schematic board that included the amphitheater approximately two to three years ago. .

Chris reported that a lot of efforts were made to make people aware of everything that was being planned in the park.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the committee, architects and everyone involved have done everything possible in the new master plan to reduce the sound level from what it is now to address the noise the homeowners are referring to.

Chris reported that the distance from the stage to the property line should be greater than the current location.

April reported that buffers will be designed into the expansion project. This will make a huge difference acoustically.

Karen asked if letters/invitations were sent to the neighborhood to explain what was going on.

Chris reported that notices were sent out, twice and the most recent meeting scheduled didn't attract many neighbors. The consultant was paid to come again, and it too didn't attract many homeowners. About seven came.

April reported that she's received a lot of phone calls recently. Bill Elwood has spoken with the neighbors. They discussed all details and some homeowners responded with more false information. She has spent two to four hours speaking with neighbors. It doesn't matter what is said, or how it is presented, they think it will be turned into a commercial venue.

Mark Mergen asked how many nights the production will run.

April reported that for the entire production there are seven nights of performances, jazz concerts are three nights, and dress rehearsal is approximately an additional four nights.

Karen Reimer asked if a marketing piece should be sent as a courtesy.

April reported that she doesn't feel it is necessary. .

Chris reported that she understands homeowners move in and out, and there is currently a new HOA President, but she, along with April and Bill have offered to attend a HOA meeting but have received minimal interest from the homeowners and the association.

Karen Reimer asked if the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board could possibly meet with the homeowners who have the most concern.

April reported that they attended the Council meeting and voiced their opinion so their names should be on record, but she doesn't feel this will help the situation.

C. Discuss Proposed Shelter Design at Gezer Park

Chris reported that we are moving forward with this project.

Brian reported that the proposed playground path will tie on where the sidewalk stops near the shelter and extend west.

Chris reported that to keep cost down, the shelter and play area will be on one contract.

Chris also reported that the elements of the shelter are the same as others. (i.e. cedar and stone)

Chris reported that the play structure will have a sunbrella style fabric element over the main deck. .

This will provide shade over the play area. The open space will be maintained. to provide an extra play area.

Chris reported that she proposed a small shelter with one picnic table for parents to watch their children under a shaded area. The play area will also include a digging area with fossil like elements for the children as well as a digger and a see-saw. There will also be a two swing sets; one t-swing for tots and one with two belt swings.

Chris reported that she will recommend a line item bid that will provide the best options for the City. If we need to get down to budget, and changes are needed, it will be easier to make decisions. She will continue to work on getting benches donated.

Chris reported that the current shelter and grass area immediately forward of the south opening will be a nice area for a band for an intimate concert with blanket seating.

Chris asked Tonia how many weddings are booked for the summer.

Tonia reported that there are currently two weddings booked. The first is this Friday. Many others have inquired about hosting their wedding there as well. Numerous others have inquired. There have been several family picnics as well as birthday parties scheduled so far.

Chris reported that the additional shelter will come in handy with the numerous inquiries and will provide a unique shelter setting with the planned havdalah garden adjacent to the structure.

Mark Mergen asked the charge of renting the shelter.

Chris reported that the normal shelter rate is being charged for the existing shelter but staff may recommend a different fee once the additional shelter is added.

Jacquie reported that she hopes if the price is raised, it won't be too expensive because the citizens of Leawood pay taxes. Parks should be built for people to use. It is exciting that it is being used for a wedding. It should be made available to Leawood citizens at a minimum cost.

Chris reported that this is a good point and it will be taken into consideration.

Brian reported that the play structure will have belt swings and climbing boulders for the older children. The tot swings will be located near the sand pit for the toddlers.

Karen questioned the concrete curb that will be added. She hopes it won't be too high for children to trip over it and possibly fall.

Brian reported that this is to keep the sand and mulch in. They won't be too high.

Jacquie asked if anyone saw the news where the child was burned going down the slide recently due to the heat. She didn't think this happened locally.

Brian reported that metal slides will burn small children if they get too hot. The proposed slides for Gezer will be made of plastic, they are cooler and the shade umbrella will help.

Chris reported that she met with Scott today for consideration on the July 19 meeting. There are big topics for that night so Scott requested to move it to the first meeting in August.

Bob Wright made a motion to take advantage of current bidding opportunities to move forward with the proposed playground structure at the park no later than the August 2nd meeting so construction could begin in the fall.

Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chris reported that there are essentially two proposed plans for the shelter area.

Lou visited Israel recently with the Mayor and additional Council members and brought back pertinent information about sukkaHS, which is really helpful. The goal is to simulate the design of a sukkah. They developed an idea with the architect to let people know the type of sukkat it is by the way it's created. Chris described the proposed design of the sukkat.

Chris asked the architect to do a rendering of the fire pit for review. It was initially discussed to go on the west side. But, now it has been suggested that it may be better utilized on the east side, but not too close to the shelter.

Chris reported that the design will be simulated without replicating. This will be best to stay away from religious connotations and keep it non denominational.

Chris reported that it is important to keep in mind the maintenance concerns and issues regarding the design.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that it is important while simulating the sukkah that one side must be open. A suggestion could be to have pillars with a canvas falling down like a tent. There are different climate conditions to remember also when building the sukkah. The important thing to remember is the roof must be open to the sky. This can be done several ways. Two by fours can be run across the top with grape vines growing up. We should get as close to practical without being ridiculous in relation to the climate in Kansas City.

Chris reported that they are researching different options and styles that will best accommodate the area. The committee looked at drawings that are options provided by Chris that will work best.

Brian reported that the fabric concept is neat. He's never seen anything like it for a public shelter.

Doug asked if the two concepts are being studied.

Chris reported that she was waiting for feedback from the committee. Once the committee is in agreement she would like to move forward.

Karen asked if both concepts will be sent out for bid.

Chris reported that the playground and shelter will be under one contract.

Doug made a motion to approve moving forward with the recommended shelter design for at Gezer Park to get them sent out for bid to go with the recommendations to City Council in August 2nd. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that it is very important to inform the architect to try to maximize as much wood as possible. . It will look better and more like a sukkah if it has a large amount of wood.

Chris reported that she will discuss this with the architect.

Brian reported and the committee agreed that concept B is the favorable design.

Chris reported that she will discuss this option to assure an educated decision is made upon moving forward with the design.

D. Oxford Township Signs (Final Layout)

April passed out a copy of the actual wording that will be on the sign.

April reported that the signs have been reviewed by everyone involved. It has been approved by the Historic Commission and it is ready to go. She is anxious to move forward with the park board for approval. This has been discussed for many months. It is nice to see it will finally be happening.

April showed a diagram (example) of how the sign will sit in the park.

Karen asked where we are in relation to the design structure of the sign. At a past meeting it was discussed that the design is different than other signs in the park. Has it been determined to make the sign uniform with the others in the park?

April reported that the sign will have the metal cap like the existing signs. The scout will build the frame structure.

April reported that where the sign location will be handicap accessible and near the play area that will hopefully attract a lot of traffic. It will be nice to have the history I for everyone to read.

Mark Mergen reported that once the sign is complete it will be nice. .

Councilman Rasmussen reported that it would be nice to note on the sign that Ironhorse golf course is named after the leaky roof railroad. The original stone bridges are still at the golf course.

Chris reported that this is a good idea. . A lot of people aren't aware of this.

Karen reported that she would like to move ahead with the copy the Historic Commission has recommended. The new design with the white polls and the metal caps should match the existing signage in the park.

Karen thanked April for her hard work on this project.

II. New Business

Karen reported that in relation to the art piece at College and Tomahawk Creek Parkway- at the last meeting the committee questioned if it was placed in the location that was recommended by the committee.

Chris reviewed the previous minutes and found that the art piece location was approved by the park board to some extent, near the current location but closer to the trail in the triangle to the northeast.

Karen reported that in the future when a piece of art is offered to us, and we don't get it placed where the Parks Advisory Committee would like, she would like to recommend that we have the option to place it in storage until a proper place is found that everyone agrees is appropriate.. In her opinion she feels the committee felt pressured to hurry and find a location for this piece because the original location wasn't approved. In the future, it may be best to step back and think about it more thoroughly.

Ann Kenney reported that the original position the Historic Commission felt it would be less intrusive was the back in one of the gardens in Ironwoods Park. But, Scott Lambers opposed this location.

Karen reported that she agrees. This is the original location that the committee decided, according to the minutes.

Chris reported that this is also what the minutes reflected, however; the reasoning behind this was because it would have been directly across from "Prairie Lessons" in Ironwoods Park.

Jacquie reported that she would like to go on record that the art piece should be placed in Brian's storage shed. She drives by it daily and the art piece doesn't belong with the beautiful flowers and the fountains. She is a member of many Arts Council organizations around the metro and in her opinion, it looks out of place.

April reported that everyone who attended the dedication thought it was beautiful. They gave positive feedback about it. Everyone has a different opinion of art.

A. Consideration of New Art Piece-North Lake Consideration of New Art Piece-I-Lan Park

North Lake Art Piece

Ann Kenney gave a presentation of the art piece that is being recommended for installation in the north lake along Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

Ann reported that the art piece chosen will look beautiful in the north lake. It is 20 feet tall and will be a nice addition.

Chris reported that the proposed the location is s visible from several areas (street and trail) When it is lit, this will enhance its presence.

Ann reported that the art piece will have computerized lights that will come on automatically.

Chris reported that the Arts Council looks at this as its signature piece to draw on the rest of the sculptures in the sculpture garden along the parkway.

Ann reported that the artist is very well known. This will be his first piece in t he Kansas City area. He is very excited.

Chris reported that thanks to Carl McCaffrey, the piece would be obtained at half the recommended asking price.

Chris reported that she will have a meeting soon to discuss the important technical issues related to the proposed installation of this piece once it goes through the Planning Commission.

Brian reported that he would like an engineer to look at tethering the art piece so it could rise and fall with the elevation of the pond. In a dry year when the pond goes down, it will float down with it.

Ann reported that the selection committee was wonderful and really knew what they were doing. They agreed it will be a signature piece for the city.

Bob Wright made a motion to recommend the site chosen for the art piece in the north lake. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

I-Lan Park Art Piece

Ann reported that Artist Jessie Small designed the art piece being recommended for I-Lan Park. The piece (a “gate”) symbolizes entering into a place and will have a Taiwanese feeling.

Ann reported that it is one piece. The total structure is 16 ft tall and 12 ft across.

Ann reported that it will face the walking trail to the west and north of the children’s play area. This will be safe with square polls to prevent children from climbing on it. It is made out of steel.

Karen asked about the maintenance for the art piece.

Ann reported that the maintenance should be none to very minimal.

Karen asked the Art Councils feelings with a metal art piece in the park with the shelter being made of wood.

Ann reported that the design element hasn’t been evaluated by the City Council yet but it should be a compliment to the existing structures without “matching”.

April reported that they didn’t want it to look the same as the pagoda because it is not an architectural piece. It is a piece of sculpture. .

Bob Wright made a motion to accept the recommendation of the site for the art piece that will be located in I-Lan park. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bob thanked Anne for her work on both art pieces.

Anne reported that she is really excited about both pieces. She looks forward to both of them being installed.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported that he will be busy cleaning trails tomorrow due to the rain. Water has been a big problem lately. Soccer is over which is usually when they catch up and summer staff is working but with all of the rain, it will set them back a while. They will be very busy.

Brian reported since we met last there was a water leak in City Park on the east end near the volleyball courts. The water had to be shut off in the Lions shelter for the weekend. Unfortunately there was a soccer tournament and wedding that weekend. People had to be diverted to the restrooms at the pool. This was unavoidable.

Brian reported that the landscapers replanted the dead trees at Gezer Park and accidentally struck the water line which caused a leak there as well.

Brian also reported that the pool has been working well. Everything mechanically is functioning correctly. He is appreciative of his staff working so diligently on the polo grounds. They have cleaned up all the landscaping, including trees, significantly.

Chris reported that Dustin and his crews did a great job.

Brian reported that he received a call recently from a concerned citizen about leaching in the wadie at Gezer Park. He went out and discovered that they are black flies not leaches. There are a lot of them but they can be controlled

Brian reported that the bike committee normally meets the first Wednesday of the month. They did not have a quorum this month. They will meet in July. He is looking for another committee member. The board recommended two people but they both declined due to scheduling conflicts. If anyone would like to recommend someone for the committee, please contact Brian.

Brian reported that large item circulation day was Saturday. He came in Sunday to oversee the cleanup. Most items were picked up before the disposal trucks arrived. They accumulated one truck load which will cost the City approximately \$600 which is less of an expense than was anticipated.

Chris reported that when neighborhoods have these, a lot of people will go through the items before the trash company has a chance to pick up the items.

Councilman Rasmussen inquired about who paid for the event. Will this be a yearly event?

Chris reported that the next quarter of the city may be done in the future. The committee will discuss this at the July 8 meeting.

Brian reported that it was paid for out of the Green Committees budget.

Chris added that they've discussed receiving participation for this type of event.

Bob reported that recyclers go through it first which makes less for the trash companies to pick up. If the City only paid \$600.00, this is great.

Kim reported that movie night "Back to the Future" was a huge success at Park Place. They received a call from a company before the event who brought two Delorian vehicles that were exact replicas from the movie. One was parked in front of Universal Studios during the

actual premier. This was a huge success and brought a large crowd. People enjoyed taking pictures in front of it.

Kim reported that last Saturday they partnered with Johnson County Parks and Recreation District for National Trails Day. A large group of their 50 plus program attended and walked from Tomahawk Creek Park to I- Lan Park. Refreshments were served. It was a nice event.

Kim reported that a lot of programs began this week. Swim team, swim lessons, as well as camps. Everything got off to a great start.

Kim also reported that Thursday the Rec-trac and Main-Trac computer programs will be updated. After it is complete, we will be PCI compliant with credit card security.

Kim reported that the July 4 event is approaching. Any questions, contact Kim or Cody.

Councilman Rasmussen asked Kim if Overland Park's new soccer fields have had any impact on Leawood's soccer program.

Kim reported that it has not. Overland Park offers more tournament and premier leagues. We are strictly recreation based.

Chris reported that over the last two years, several Leawood residents have requested starting a lacrosse league. There are opportunities to move forward with this and have them use fields 20, 21 and maybe 22. Staff hopes to get this going next year. This will be a great way to maximize our facilities.

Kim reported that 30% of families who are purchasing pool passes are also purchasing a super pass. We are finding that non-residents who haven't had a pass for two years aren't eligible but have shown great interest in the opportunity if it were available. The numbers would be higher if this were an option.

Kim reported that Hershey Track and Field was this past weekend. Thirty seven kids participated from Leawood.

Kim also reported that T-Ball and Coach Pitch began tonight. There are 41 teams registered.

Bob reported that this is amazing to have this many teams with children 4 – 8 years old playing on two fields.

Karen agreed that this is outstanding.

Kim reported that it has been a busy couple of weeks. It is great to see activity with the programs offered.

Bob asked about pool attendance.

Kim reported that the attendance has been good. The pool pass sales for May were down but this is attributed to the weather. However the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend we did \$8400 worth of pass sales business in four hours. The total for Friday and Saturday was \$22,000.

Councilman Rasmussen asked what percentage we recovered from fees in 2009. Did we meet the ordinance requirements?

Chris reported that she doesn't recall this information off hand but thinks it was close to the percentage goal. This information is reviewed yearly.

Chris reported that there was vandalism at Ironwoods near the restroom. Alcoholic beverage cans were found near the scene. The police were called to take a report. Thanks to Scott Fanning it was repaired the same day.

Chris reported the biggest issues recently at Ironwoods and City Parks is from people driving their car to the gate and forcing them open with their bumper. This destroys the hydraulics on the gate. Several thousand dollars has been spent lately. Cameras will be researched to be a potential deterrent.

Chris reported that she received information from the County regarding the five children who lit the fireworks at Ironwoods in 2009. They are asking for diversion. They all reside in Steeplechase.

Chris reported that the golf course is doing great. The conditions have improved dramatically. Troon is working hard to keep costs down and drive revenues. She has enjoyed working with them so far.

Chris reported that the brochure deadline is June 23 for the fall edition of the Parks and Recreation Program Guide. It will come out the first week in August. If you would like to add anything, please contact Chris soon.

D. Next Meeting Date/Agenda

The next meeting will be held at City Park, July 13, 2010.

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department