



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2010
5:30 p.m. – Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

Board members in attendance were Karen Reimer (chair), Doug Stevens, Amy Vlastic and Rod Crawford. Council liaison Lou Rasmussen also attended.

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

Amy Vlastic called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m. for Chairman Karen Reimer.

Karen Reimer made a motion to approve the July 13, 2010 meeting minutes. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Discuss Off-Leash Dog Park

Chris reported that she's had several conversations with Mel but hasn't received a definite decision. She requested the land but is uncertain how much if any he is willing to donate at this point. She is sure he will donate some land but is uncertain how much.

Chris asked the Committee Members if they had a chance to visit the park independently.

The Committee Members present tonight shared that they visited the area and are hopeful it will come to fruition soon.

Amy reported that she discussed the potential dog park area with several neighbors. They inquired if a pond will be a part of it. Heritage Park offers this feature for dogs to retrieve balls. Will this feature be offered? Large dogs like the water.

Brian reported that a water feature is not in the plans for the dog park.

Amy asked if it will be a problem if dogs are in the creek.

Chris reported that the designated area won't be near the creek, if people choose to let their dogs loose in the water, they must on a leash.

Amy reported that the area is very nice.

Chris asked if any Committee Members not present at tonight's meeting were in attendance when they toured the potential area. Were there any concerns about the area?

Karen reported that other Committees visited the area and also thought it was a very nice area. The only issue discussed was actually getting to the area. A walkway would make the area more accessible. Clearing the area would also be nice.

Chris added that Mel may possibly look at re-platting the entire property. He is the Manager and acts on behalf of Halbrook. He makes all final recommendations to be taken to their attorney.

Chris reported that she asked for eight acres although it was originally discussed at the prior Committee meeting to ask for five. She will settle for anything in between.

Chris reported that she discussed with him that we need to be more detailed about the boundaries. This will need to be done through surveying the property. The City may be interested in paying for it. She is uncertain if this will happen. It may be a possibility.

Chris reported that her understanding is Continental completed a survey before; if so, she will use the same one to avoid the cost of doing another one. She will clarify this with Brett to make sure this is accurate. She will report her findings to the Committee at the next meeting.

Chris also reported that she will send an e-mail to Mel to see where we stand. She is certain he will reply soon. She will make a report of his response at the next meeting.

Amy reported that those she's spoken to about it are very excited and are looking forward to it.

Karen reported that she lives in an older neighborhood with older people who say they won't utilize it much, if at all. Most neighbors walk their dogs in the neighborhood.

Chris asked if anyone they spoke to questioned whether the dog park would be for Leawood residents only.

Amy reported that she and Julie Cain discussed this and agree that it is so close to State Line, if the dog park is for residents only, it sounds unwelcoming and unneighborly.

Chris reported that she doesn't disagree with this. This question is asked a lot with several things we do, whether it's the pool etc.

Doug reported that it would be beneficial if access is available by pre purchase.

Karen reported that she agrees. Karen reported the dog park should be open to everyone and see how it goes. We may have to pull back if it becomes over crowded. The non-resident rate should be more expensive.

Chris reported that the prices and final decisions can be discussed at a later date when we acquire the land.

B. Bike Initiative and C. Recommendation on Complete Streets Policy

Amy asked if the Council approved Julie's neighbor discussed at the last meeting who had expressed an interest to join the Committee.

Chris reported that his appointment is on the upcoming Council agenda.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that when he read the proposed policy, it was a bit repetitive. There should be a policy that states if Mission Road will be expanded to take into consideration, biking, walking and automobiles. Why is it so long?

Councilman Rasmussen added that it would be beneficial to go back and do some word smithing in relation to the policy.

Brian reported that the first portion is similar to a proclamation; the second part is the actual policy. He apologized by stating that he could have removed the proclamation portion when submitting it. This is why it seems redundant.

Chairman Rasmussen reported that this is fine. He understands why this was done.

Brian added that complete streets are for everyone. They currently include flat spaces at intersections for persons with disabilities. There are also buttons at cross walks to trigger the signals for crossing. The policy isn't only for bicycles.

Amy reported that it was also previously discussed in regards to City planning to include bike racks when new buildings are constructed and to also consider bike lanes in the future. Is this included in the policy?

Brian reported that the language in the mixed development of the LDO, (Development Ordinance) states this in certain zoning situations.

Amy reported that Leawood is not bike friendly. There is a lot of animosity here. Drivers are not kind to bikers. She has a lot of friends who are avid bikers and they've experienced a lot of negativity from drivers. We need to work on a bike friendly initiative.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that this usually happens on an individual basis.

Brian reported that this is mixed. There are also bad cyclists who cause this too. Some don't obey the rules and speed through intersections with no regard to traffic.

Brian added that there are also terrible drivers who don't signal or obey the rules.

Chris reported that the bicycle friendly initiative is to create a better education.

Amy suggested she knows Lisa Harrison well and believes it will be a great idea to cover an article in the Leawood magazine. This will help get a perspective from a Bike Club Representative, a Police Officer and cyclists.

Brian reported that Topeka adopted a complete streets policy recently. He reviewed a copy and found it interesting. He shared this with the Bicycle Friendly Committee.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the major area is 143rd & Mission Road.

Amy reported that there isn't a shoulder on Mission Road pass 135th Street. This is frustrating for cyclists.

Chris reported that hind sight looking back, there was potentially an opportunity missed when Lee was redone. This is a major route leading into the park that isn't bike friendly. The sidewalks are also too narrow.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that when this was done, Council wanted to maintain the rural ambiance of the Lee Blvd. There wouldn't be curbs or open ditches once complete.

Chris reported that there is potential if traveling down Lee Blvd, between 87th to 103rd Street.

Brian reported that if this is approved on the Council level it will direct staff like engineering whenever they renovate a street that's planned for bicycle traffic to build the accommodating facilities into it.

Council Rasmussen reported that the policy should reflect comprehensive language in regards to stripping, usage etc.

Doug reported that it needs to relate to a comprehensive plan of where these are applicable and envisioned.

Brian reported that he has met with the Planning Department in relation to updating the existing map of to lay out where the bike facilities etc will be placed. At that point, it will be brought back to the Bike Committee for review.

Doug asked if the language of the existing document will relate to the future map or vision of which streets are applicable. It should go hand in hand.

Brian reported that it's in the comprehensive plan.

Brian also reported that he was told there would be space for a share the road signage. The roads may not have the bicycle lane but the signs will be visible for direction. The roads will also be wide enough for a cyclist to travel without interfering with vehicles.

Amy reported that people who reside in the Highland Creek sub-division can't walk to school easily. They have to walk in the grass, there aren't any sidewalks. There isn't a crossing area.

Chris reported that she doesn't understand why this isn't important to some. It is the same in Lee's Summit where she resides. It is like pulling teeth or an act of congress in relation to kids crossing the street.

Amy reported that Leawood Elementary is the only school with an official bike lane in the City. This makes so much sense.

Brian reported that it is extremely difficult if you attend Nativity and live south and are trying to get across 119th Street.

Amy reported that she receives a lot of complaints about the sidewalk on the East side of 119th Street, coming down the hill. It is always wet and muddy. Is this a natural spring flowing from the hillside. A lot of her friends have wiped out in that area.

Brian reported that there are a lot of sprinkler systems in that area that may cause the area to be wet and muddy.

Rod reported that he likes the fact that it doesn't commit the City to anything. There are sufficient outs if needed in the policy that if at any point it doesn't fit our strategy or it's too expensive to gain the right of way, this will be considered. We aren't bound to anything.

This is a cornerstone to become a bicycle friendly community. If the City decides it doesn't want to be a bicycle friendly community, and they would like to go another direction, this is fine, but there will be no bicycle friendly community without this in the plan.

Rod added that the verbiage doesn't bind the Council in anyway. It's directing staff from this point going forward to consider it before any plans are completed versus the other way around.

Rod reported that other policies of successful municipalities who have gone down the path of becoming a bicycle friendly community were taken into consideration.

Brian reported that Councilman Rasmussen initially stated that the wording was excessive. It will be given to Patty, the City Attorney for review; she may decide to change the some of the wording to make it more concise.

Brian added that the Planning Department and Engineering has also reviewed it.

Brian reported that this will allow them to make changes to the LDO and the comprehensive plan if needed. The LDO are the rules used to enforce what needs to be done. It normally doesn't have a lot the complete streets concepts in it; to make sure that there will consider bike racks, bike paths and trails.

Brian reported that this policy would direct the staff to add what is needed to the LDO to make sure these things are accommodated.

Brian reported that if a design team is in the process of building and haven't considered bikes, this will encourage them to do so.

Rod asked the Committee to support this moving forward. He is a strong supporter.

Chris reported that the policy could be condensed to one page if the resolution is removed.

Chris asked if the Bicycle Friendly Committee is meeting on a regular basis or are do they meet as needed.

Rod reported that they met regularly to get to this point. The plan is to not meet monthly moving forward. They will meet on an as needed basis.

Councilman Rasmussen asked if the Committee recommends the document, who they recommend it goes to. He is willing to approve it if the motion is carried, if the Committee wants it to go to the Council, but in his opinion, it will be done so prematurely.

Council Rasmussen reported that the Committee should recommend to the City Council, this for review and consideration by the Planning Commission.

Rod reported that he will defer to Councilman Rasmussen experience. They want it moving through the process.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that he doesn't think it will get out of the City in its existing format. Someone needs to review the current ordinances effecting roads or rights of way.

Councilman Rasmussen added that the first step should be to present this to the Mayor and request adding it to the Agenda, or recommend that it goes to the Planning Commission for their review and consideration and perhaps revision.

It can be moved to the next phase of revision and modification, if placed on the next Council agenda.

Councilman Rasmussen recommends that the Park Board Committee forward the proposal to the City Council for their consideration to forward it to the Planning Commission.

Rod agreed with Councilman Rasmussen. This makes perfect sense and is a very smart play. The Planning Commission may be best to word smith the document.

Brian reported that he also agrees. This will impact the Planning Commission.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that the best person to review this is Richard Coleman. He is familiar with the LDO.

Karen made a motion that the Park Board Committee forwards the proposal to the City Council to recommend that the Mayor places this on the agenda for their review and consideration for recommending it is passed on to the Planning Commission.

Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Councilman Rasmussen asked who will speak to the Mayor.

Chris reported that she will. She will submit it to the Mayor. She doesn't think it can be placed on the August 16 agenda. She will recommend it is placed on the Sept 7, agenda.

II. New Business

A. Discuss Trail Bank Failure – 123rd & Mission to Tomahawk Park

Chris passed out pictures of the area. The pictures were taken on her phone and the quality isn't the best on some of them. She apologized.

Amy reported that she rode it recently. She noticed the bank is falling down again.

Chris reported that in 2008, the work wasn't complete until later that year, but \$330,000 was spent to repair that area on construction and engineering fees.

Chris reported that Roger Cassidy, who worked on it before came out to take an initial look. The total cost for his engineering fees will average \$8 - \$10K regarding fixing the problem. The estimate was \$80 - \$100k to fix the area.

Amy asks if this will continue once it is repaired.

Chris reported that this is a good question. Is this a moving target? If the money is spent to repair the existing problem, we will have spent nearly a million dollars on the area with no certainty that it wouldn't happen again. This would be another investment.

Chris reported that it may be beneficial for a Hydraulic Engineer to survey the entire area and determine if there is potential failure for the future.

Amy asked if closing this portion of the trail an option.

Doug asked if some of the area has been stabilized.

Chris reported that this is correct. Some of the area has been stabilized. The work was done well.

Chris reported that it is a beautiful piece of trail but we get a lot of water in the area. It comes off the sub-division and follows the natural slope.

Amy agrees but in her opinion, it will always be a money pit. This is a valid concern.

Brian reported that the bank is really close and has begun undermining the trail. They installed tubing on the culvert that comes out where the erosion is and directed it by the creek. This won't stay forever.

Chris reported that the person down below doesn't like the way the temporary repairs look. They have been nice and are interested in a permanent outcome.

Chris told them it would be discussed tonight. She informed them that it would probably begin in the fall due to design work that it will require and it will have to be bid out.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that we will also need to acquire money to complete the work.

Chris reported that we don't have money budgeted for this. Brian puts \$50,000 a year in his budget for trail repairs. Some of this will be used for trail repairs at Tomahawk Park on bank erosion concerns.

Brian reported that there are a few other areas that will require minor repairs as well that will also take away from the \$50,000 originally budgeted.

Chris asked the Committee to share their opinion regarding additional repairs to the trail bank failure.

Amy reported that the City shouldn't spend more money. It was fixed less than two years ago and is falling down again.

Brian reported that the Soil Engineer told him that the damage is due to water wash out. The fix would be to rip rap the slope.

Brian is concerned about getting this done due to the steep area. It would be tough to do.

He spoke with the neighbor who resides across from the area. He agreed to an easement to go across his property to access the creek to repair it.

Doug asked if it is clear cut that this is an isolated area. Or should an analysis be completed along the entire trail.

Brian agreed with Doug. An analysis should be done to determine what needs to be done. This would be worth it. If money is put into this area, another could occur. There are two additional areas of concern that could possibly have erosion problems.

Chris reported that it may be best to be table this for another month. This will give Committee members a chance to look at the area and bring their thoughts to the next meeting.

Chris reported that we need to know where the property line resides on the east and west.

Chris also reported that she will talk to Roger, a Civil Engineer about looking at the entire are to determine if this is a potential failure area.

The Committee agreed unanimously to table this until the September meeting to get more information to determine if there are more areas of concern before moving forward.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported that there has been recent vandalism to the trail at I-Lan to the large wall on Roe. They spray painted the entire area and also the bridge. A pavement tar was found to put on the trail to hide the spray paint completely.

Brian reported that they usually don't get much vandalism. The bridge was cleaned yesterday.

Brian reported that they've made improvements around the restroom area at Ironwoods Park. There was an area that continued to wash out because it was an open ditch. They added piping to the area with a back water basin. It's eroded badly and has been backfilling. They anticipate re-seed the area to improve the grass around the shelter area this fall.

Brian reported that he is working on the ball diamond on the South side of Tomahawk Park. The flood washed out the area. Ball field finds were added to the area so it is playable in a safe condition. It is reserved a lot for practices.

Brian also reported that the auto locks were installed on the newer restrooms at Ironhorse, I-Lan and Gezer Park. This allows the restrooms to lock and unlock at the opening and closing of park hours.

April reported that the schoolhouse will host a History and Superstition Presentation this Friday before the showing of Goonies. It will be a fun event.

April reported that there will be a Back to School Celebration at the end of August.

April reported that her summer seasonal help will continue through the mid September.

April also reported that people are taking advantage of the passport program for the Schoolhouse as well as the Nature Center. They have been very busy with people trying to finish their passports.

April also reported that the theatre group completed *Guys & Dolls*. They have already auditioned the fall show. It will be held at the Lodge. Friday and Saturdays performance will be a dessert theatre and pay \$10.00 for dessert and beverages. Sunday's performance will be free with theatre style seating, but will not offer dessert. It will be an amazing show.

Amy reported that it was a really nice show. The cast did a nice job.

April reported that the Arts Council will offer a family friendly event called *Wings of Love*. It will be held in the Oak Room.

The jazz series begins on August 22, at 6p.m. and will run three consecutive Sundays at the amphitheatre.

Councilman Rasmussen asked if the numbers of people attending the programs are kept.

April reported that attendance is kept for every performance. She keeps accurate records if anyone is curious about how many people attend.

Karen asked if the seating the same for the theatre.

April reported that for the most part, it is, with the exception of pre-setting the chairs. The chairs are available on an as-needed basis. Patrons interested in seating are responsible for putting them up themselves. A few chairs are set for the elderly who are unable to do so.

April reported that this is a more relaxed, free flowing event. Some people dance during the show. It is a lot of fun.

April added that the Public Places Committee have approved *Splash* but not the gate piece. It was continued due to inconsistencies of the height of the piece from the first drawing to the second drawing. They will revisit this soon.

April reported that the art piece in the lobby of City Hall is gone.

A temporary sculpture has been selected. They have been struggling with location. They will meet on Friday to discuss this. Once selected, it will need Council approval. The new piece is beautiful bronze piece. The artist is Larry Young from Columbia, Mo. We are lucky to acquire this piece.

Kim reported that summer activities are winding down. The rain put a damper on T-Ball and Coach Pitch baseball. The season will go into the week of August 16th.

Kim reported that the heat policy has been utilized recently. For the past two weeks the games have been shortened 15 minutes. We are currently in the red zone. Hopefully this will break and full games can begin again.

Kim reported the scout programs are picking up due to school starting. They were dormant in the summer season.

Kim also reported that Goonies will be shown Friday at the Amphitheatre on the big screen. This is a free event. Bring lawn chairs. Kiwanis will be selling popcorn and hot dogs. Vendor from Park Place will be selling Gelato

Councilman Rasmussen asked if anyone patrolled the streets in regards to the potential parking issues in the neighborhood like he did. He didn't see any parking for two nights. He didn't anyone coming through the area originally stated.

Chris reported that this was done.

April added that Councilman Azeltine was also there every night of the performance and walked the property line and reported that he could barely hear from that area.

April reported that every issue they were concerned about has been proven not true.

April will complete her report that will include Acoustic Designs who were there every night taking decimal readings. The Police Department was also there patrolling the area on bicycles.

Councilman Rasmussen asked if a report will be distributed before the vote on the restroom versus the additional parking.

Chris reported that this will be on the September 7 Council agenda. She will send an e-mail to the Committee prior to the meeting to remind them.

Karen reported that all would like to attend. This will be extremely helpful.

Kim reported that the pool will start half day hours on August 16. It will open at 4p.m.

Kim reported that Labor Day Run will be Sept. 6. The dog dunk is Sept. 7, from 5-7p.m.

Kim also reported that they are in the process of setting up a test notification system for class cancellations due to inclement weather. People will be able to go on line and register for this feature. They will receive a text message if a cancellation occurs.

Doug reported that this is a great idea.

Karen asked how the swim team did this year.

Kim reported that they had a good year overall. They took fourth place.

Chris reported that she is working with the Sustainability Committee and working on a potential grant for an air quality control project. The minimum application is \$25K. It is a simple application process. She's met with the lady who heads Johnson County Environmental a few times; she's been great regarding sharing information.

Chris reported that the program guide is out. Leawood registrations begin Thursday. We are gearing up for the next guide. It comes out right after Thanksgiving, the first week of December. The issue thanks sponsors who we've worked with throughout the year.

Rod asked if Chris and the Parks & Recreation staff have considered when the guide goes out versus Blue Valley Recreation Commissions guide.

Chris reported that when other guides go out isn't factored into the distribution of the Leawood guide.

Rod reported that this should be considered. It is difficult when parents want to register their children for classes and other municipalities send theirs first. It is a mad rush to sign your children up for classes etc.

As a parent you need to make choices. Some of the programs overlap and you need to decide what you will do. This is important with golf programs etc. It is difficult not knowing if you will get in to a Leawood program and in the meantime, the other recreation program may fill.

Rod added that it would be nice if Leawood can send the guides earlier to coincide with other recreation departments.

Chris reported that this was also discussed at the last meeting in relation to soccer. Bob Wright had the same concern. What you get into is leap frogging. Most Park Departments look at what drives their programs. Frequency is also a factor. This is common to overlap.

Chris reported that she will meet with staff and they will derive an analysis in relation to customer service and wanted to meet others needs. She will bring the information to the next meeting. There is time to make adjustments if needed.

Rod reported that this was a question and not a criticism. He appreciates her looking into this.

Chris reported that the "Fall into the Park" Fest event will take the place of Freaky Fall Fest event held yearly. The freaky portion will be removed. The decision was made prior which is a good thing in relation to all of the previous props from the Freaky Fall Fest were lost in the recent flood. We would have been pressed financially and labor wise to recreate everything.

Kim reported that it will be held October 1. Halloween will be taken out of it. The last two years it was cold. The attendance was horrible and it rained. The evening will end with showing the movie Ghostbusters.

April reported that the art show is also October 1.

Councilman Rasmussen added that in regards to recycling, the biggest complaint from the many of his constituents are sixty years and over and it is very hard to lift. They are 95 gallon containers. This is very difficult.

Rod reported that he has Deffenbaugh and he has the large trash tubs on wheels. They are the same size as the regular trash cans. They work wonderful. His ten year old daughter can wheel it to the curb. It is easy to use. His neighborhood has been exceedingly positive about the recycling containers.

Chris reported that she wrote an article in the Kansas Recreation and Parks Association magazine regarding recycling. She hopes everyone is able to take read the article.

Chris reported that the Gezer park bid came back extremely high. We received four bids from Phase II. Things were done to remove certain areas to lower the bids and do the excess items later.

Chris reported that she shared this information with Scott. He agrees it will be best to continue this at the end of the year. She has concerns about this. It will be an entire year with doing nothing in the park. It will be rebid in November. The lowest bid was \$332K. We have \$230K.

Chris reported that she met with Alice, waiting will allow more time for additional fund raising efforts.

Karen Reimer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54p.m.

C. Next Meeting Date/Agenda

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, at 5:30p.m. at City Hall.

D. Misc.

There were no miscellaneous topics discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department