

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2010**  
**5:30 p.m. – Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

Board members in attendance were Karen Ward Reimer (chair), Amy Vlastic, Mark Mergen, Doug Stevens, Rod Crawford, and Mark Mergen. Council liaisons Lou Rasmussen and Julie Cain also attended.

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

Karen Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Mark Mergen made a motion to approve the September 4, 2010 meeting minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Discuss Options Relating to Trail Bank Failure – 123<sup>rd</sup> & Mission to Tomahawk Park**

Chris asked if Committee members received and had a chance to read the memo she sent regarding this issue. A memo was sent regarding Roger Cassidy from Phelps Engineering. She has left a voicemail and emailed Mel Lavery and has not received a response to date. She will send any updates via email to the Park Board upon a response.

Councilman Rasmussen recommended that the Dog Park and the dialog of the placed in the 2012 budget as an uncommitted project.

**B. Discuss Trail Bank Failure – 123<sup>rd</sup> & Mission to Tomahawk Park**

Chris reported that she and Brian, along with City Engineer, David Ley, met with representatives from Phelps Engineering to look at failing areas of the trail.

Chris reported that there are 8-10 spots that need repair and three of those are significant.

Chris reported that Phelps Engineering submitted a proposal of approximately \$19,000 for a study of the trail to look at each area independently and rank in the order of importance.

Chris reported that the last repair in the area was completed for \$380,000.

Bob Wright inquired if the trail could be moved 30 feet to the west.

Chris stated we would need to get an easement if we were to move the trail and this would likely not resolve the issue.

Chris stated some of the run-off from the properties is causing the deterioration and the addition of gabions could possibly deter some of the damage but not sure if the homeowners would like this addition behind their homes.

Councilman Rasumussen asked if we could abandon the trail and inquired about the amount of use of that part of the trail system.

Chris responded that quite a few people in the surrounding neighborhoods (east of Mission) access the trail at that spot.

Councilman Rasmussen also inquired if the money could be better used elsewhere as opposed to repairing the trail.

Chris stated that she is gathering information on “options” which she can bring to the October meeting. It appears that the trail repair might be the most expensive option.

Amy Vlasic stated the trail may need to be fixed again in 10 years, then what?

Jacquie McKinney stated that she can't see spending an additional \$19,000 on the study if the trail has the potential to keep deteriorating.

Karen Ward Reimer stated this agenda item would be added to the October 12 agenda.

### **C. Amphitheater Enhancement**

Chris stated that the City Council approved the construction of the restrooms at the Amphitheater in Ironwoods Park.

Chris stated that Bill Elwood, April, Brian and her met with the engineer and the architect to give the architect ideas on the restroom design and a list of essential design items.

Chris stated that the auto locks are on all of the restrooms in the parks. The hours that the restrooms are locked coincide with the park hours.

Councilman Rasmussen wanted to make a point that the statements about the sound levels from the amphitheatre have very little basis of fact following the sound study that the city paid for. He also mentioned some of the council members may be interested in proceeding with building berms along the north side of the park.

Councilman Rasumussen asked what the next steps were in the amphitheatre development process.

Councilman Rasmussen inquired about grants and fundraising opportunities.

April stated that the Amphitheater Steering Committee will be having a meeting on Wednesday, September 29 to discuss what the next steps are to developing the amphitheater as well as fundraising.

April stated that Councilman Bussing suggested completing the berms on the north side of the park before the completion of the restrooms.

Chris stated we need to look at where the breakpoint of funding is versus site development.

Karen Ward Reimer stated this agenda item would be added to the October 12 agenda, following discussion at the amphitheater meeting.

April stated that people are excited about the addition of restrooms and gifting may actually increase.

April stated that the addition of a restroom facility is critical to the next step of development.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Organized Play Ordinance**

Kim reported that the fields in Ironwoods Park and City Park once again have a large amount of teams engaging in organized play while not renting the fields. They have been parking all along the roads.

Kim stated in early September, a football league was conducting games on a Saturday morning on the fields at Ironwoods Park.

Kim stated that there is not an ordinance banning organized groups using the fields in the city code.

Kim stated she is working on an ordinance and will bring it to the Park Board for review.

Jacquie McKinney inquired about what other cities such as Lee's Summit and Overland Park were doing about unauthorized groups using their fields.

Kim stated she would call them and report back at the next Park Board meeting.

Karen Ward Reimer asked for a copy of the current ordinance to be brought to the meeting as well.

### **B. Staff Reports**

Kim reported that fall soccer started on September 11. There are 100 teams registered.

Kim reported that 167 dogs attended the Doggie Dunk on September 7.

Kim reported the first annual "Fall in the Park" Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 1. Activities such as inflatables, cake walks, etc will take place from 5:30-8:00pm and the movie "Ghostbusters" will be shown immediately following the activities.

Kim reported that Live Healthy Leawood started on September 13. Kim also reported that the program has been reformatted to include all family members as opposed to individuals.

Kim reported that Parks and Recreation is now utilizing TextCaster to send updates to registered users for inclement weather cancellations, upcoming events, etc. There are 109 registered users to date.

Kim reported that she is starting to work on the 2011 Fee Schedule and will be presenting it to the Park Board at the October meeting for recommendation.

April reported that the Jazz concerts have ended for the season

April reported that the Life Story in Six Weeks class will be starting on October 6 at the Oxford School.

April reported that the Art Show at M&I Bank was rescheduled from Friday, September 17 to Friday, October 1.

April reported that the Stage Company is presenting "Sunday in the Park with George", October 15-17 at the Lodge. Friday and Saturday will be dessert theatre and will cost \$10 per person or \$70 per table of eight. The performance on Sunday will be free to the public and theatre style seating. She has received a large number of reservations for all days.

April reported that the latest temporary art piece will be installed on Monday, September 20 just west of City Hall near Town Center Drive. The piece is called "Introspection", by Larry Young. The piece has a value of \$150,000 and is on loan for one year. The Arts Council will be hosting a dedication and artist reception will be held at 6:30 p.m.

Jacquie McKinney commented that the City Council proceeded to approve the bathrooms for the Amphitheater at Ironwoods Park. She also mentioned that the staff has made a concerted effort to accommodate the residents of Steeplechase. She inquired that since the residents are concerned about people parking in the Steeplechase subdivision and walking to the amphitheater if we could have "no parking" signs placed along the streets in the subdivision.

April reported that option was offered to the residents.

Chris reported that Chief Meier said that if a problem occurs, the Police Department would have the signs posted. But their observation has been that it has not been a problem in the past.

Chris also reported that staff and Police Officers did go through the neighborhood to look for cars parked along the streets and they did not notice any cars.

Jacquie McKinney commended Chris and April about how receptive they are to the resident's concerns.

Chris stated that the staff does work hard to do the things they said they would do in the planning process of the park.

Chris reported that large item recirculation day would be on Saturday, September 25 and will include the area of 95th street to I-435 and Mission Road to State Line. She went through the list of items that would and would not be accepted. Anything not picked up on Saturday would be collected early Sunday morning by Town & Country.

Chris reported that a rain garden planting was scheduled for September 11 at Tomahawk Park. Due to excessive rain, the event was cancelled and staff planted the rain garden on Monday, September 13.

Chris reported that the addition of street signage and moving the park entrance sign at Tomahawk Park is scheduled for the near future.

Chris reported that the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Run was held on September 6 with a total of 380 runners. The Leawood Lions Club provided the pancake breakfast again this year.

Chris reported that a new trail connection is being installed in City Park. This sidewalk will be to the north and east of the tennis courts and will allow access to the trail from that location.

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

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, at 5:30p.m. at City Hall.

### **D. Misc.**

Chris stated that PFC is doing another cost recovery study similar to the one completed in 2009.

Chris reported that work on Gezer Park is continuing. The playground equipment and shelter will be re-bid in November. The first bids received earlier in the year came in \$125,000 over the engineers estimate.

Chris stated that she and Brian are looking at ways to cut costs such as eliminating the climbing boulders from the bid and adding them to the park at a later date. They are also looking at other amenities that can be added later.

Chris said she has been speaking with Alice Hawk who is concerned about completing the projects in which money has been donated.

Chris reported that the Jesse Small piece for I-Lan Park is on the City Council agenda for September 20 for approval and then they will be able to draw up a contract to move forward. The piece is called "Gate to I-Lan".

Chris stated the contract for Jesse Small will be on the October 18 agenda as well as the recommendation for approval for the Oppenheim piece.

Jacque McKinney made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The adjournment was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department