

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – October 12, 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, and Rod Crawford. Council liaisons Lou Rasmussen and Julie Cain also attended.

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

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

Mark Mergen made a motion to approve the September 14, 2010 meeting minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

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

Chris reported that she hopes the Committee had a chance to review the memo sent today. Scott Lambers also received a copy.

She received notification from Roger Cassidy [Phelps Engineers] that there wasn't a significant increase to look the Mission Road option. The total cost will be \$19,300. It will be beneficial to research the potential failure areas and cost estimates.

Chris stated that there is 48 feet of ROW on the east side of Mission Road but the hillside that slopes down towards the street is rocky. Public Works had reviewed the area when looking at the improvements for 119th and thought a retaining wall would be necessary but costly at approximately \$250,000. At the August Park Board meeting, everyone expressed an interest to look for options of accessibility for those who reside south and east of the trail connection at 123rd & Mission. The sidewalk can be used if the trail goes away, but it isn't conducive for its potential users.

Amy reported that she uses the trail, but in doing so, she has to cross Mission and cross over again at the stop light.

Chris reported that Phelps Engineering researched the option of entering the trail crossing 119th past the driveway to Nativity but in her opinion it is best to cross Mission instead of 119th street. To access the trail north bound, they can go under the bridge. She wishes there were more options but at this point, they are minimal.

Chris reported that the data is more consistent when the same entities are looking at two different options for the same purpose. She is supportive of this. Everyone she's met with is also in agreement.

Brian reported that when he met with Public Works, they thought it would be more expensive to put it on Mission Road due to the potential retaining wall that may need to be built. He agrees that it is nice to have two different scenarios and a proposed cost of each version.

Brian added that comments from the Bike Committee favor the 123rd St. to Mission Road trail. They don't want to keep throwing money away if it will never hold up but they would like to see it kept open for connectivity.

Chris reported that there isn't a guarantee to know if failure will happen again. Currently, one area is somewhat dangerous but is marked with cones. If closed permanently it will have to be completely taken out to prohibit people from using it.

Karen opened the floor for discussion.

Amy asked if we move forward will the fix from the contractor will it come with a guarantee.

Council Liaison Cain asked who did the \$380,000 worth of work.

Chris reported that Phelps Engineering completed the engineering for the project and Mega Industries actually did the work. The section that was repaired is doing great. There are 8-9 additional areas with different degrees of severity. There are 3 extremely severe spots. Some of them aren't a huge concern but could potentially be down the road.

Brian reported that a thought was to re-grade the trail and re-direct the water flow in certain areas and direct it to different locations. But the particular area in discussion will need rip-rap to hold the bank and the water that comes down to keep it from eroding more. Each spot is different.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the \$20,000 will be spent on the study only.

Karen reported that this is correct. The cost won't cover any repairs.

Chris reported that completing the study is a choice. She isn't suggesting this, but the other option is to not incur the additional cost and potentially close the portion of the trail at the time of failure.

Councilman Rasmussen reported that this area is a concern for the patrons who utilize it, but in his opinion there are more serious issues where a million dollars can be spent in other park areas for the next budget cycle.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris what the total cost to complete Gezer Park is going to be.

Chris reported that it is going to be rebid. The initial bids came in at \$330,000, which was way over the engineer's and the city's budget.

Brian added this amount is without the fire pit. Once added, it will be an additional cost.

Chris reported the fire pit will potentially cost an estimated \$26,000. Of that amount, Scott has secured \$7500.00 in donations, not including the \$41,000 raised by The Foundation.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he recently toured the 123rd street trail with Brian. He isn't in favor of spending money on that trail within the next five year budget cycle.

Chris stated that this is a tough issue. People use the trail. Each time she's there, quite a few people are using it.

Brian added that he agrees. When inspecting the trail during the week, it is busy.

Amy reported that it is also used a lot on Saturday and Sunday mornings. She loves the trail but doesn't want to spend a lot of money to have it wash away again.

Chair Karen Reimer added that she doesn't want to spend a lot of money to research the area to find out we don't have the money to repair it anyway.

Chris reported that it could be phased. She is uncertain if it will become a C.I.P. and how special park monies could potentially help cannot be determined at this time. At this time it is not a budgeted project. She agrees with Councilman Rasmussen that there a lot of projects that need attention.

Brian suggested addressing the critical areas now and the others on an as needed basis.

Rod asked the cost of tearing it up.

Brian reported that when this was done before, his staff ripped 50 – 75ft off both ends and left the middle with no access. The work was done in house.

Chris reported that this is a good point. We might have some responsibility in not letting it slide and go into the creek and block the creek. This can potentially happen over time.

Karen asked if Brian's staff can handle the trail failure and the hillside sliding into the creek if it happens.

Brian reported that they don't have the necessary equipment to handle a project of this magnitude. The current equipment will not allow them to get in the creek to clean.

Chris reported that a contractor will be needed to do the clean-up in the event of a major slide.

Brian reported that the City owns a portion of the creek in certain spots. The other portion is owned by the actual homeowners.

Chris reported that some homeowners on the west side have property into the trail on one portion of it consisting of two lots. There are also easements in the area.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked where we are with the potential bridge to complete the trail nearing Tomahawk Creek. As he understood it, the City was in the process of working out a mutually accommodating agreement with the people who want to develop that land. They were going to build their portion of the trail and contribute funds for the bridge.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the cost to complete the bridge. Is it approximately \$40,000?

Chris reported that the cost is actually \$100,000, with the cost of the bridge and all the site work including abutments, etc.

Council Liaison Cain reported that at the recent Council meeting it was reported that \$5,000 will be contributed towards the bridge. He will also build his portion of the trail but when the property was originally purchased he wasn't informed that the bridge was on his property.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that regardless of the contribution, there is another expensive trail issue that perhaps has more priority than something that has no end.

Chris reported that she researched grants today. There is a Sunflower Grant totaling \$25,000 available yearly as long as the grant exists. It is a dollar for dollar match and may be an option for completing the trail out of the development south then east to Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

She looked at the area along 117th Street. Until the property issue settles we can't decide about coming across. The bridge issue hasn't been totally resolved. The developer, Chuck Peters, did agree to contribute \$5,000 but to her knowledge it is at a standstill.

Chair Karen Reimer reported that the issue at hand is if \$20,000 is available for the consultants to complete the study to research what is needed to maintain the trails.

Rod reported it is needed if the trail will be saved. This should be passed along to the Council to ultimately make the decision to spend the money if they want the trail saved.

Chris reported that the Council will make the final decision.

Mark reported that the trail is a higher priority for the patrons who use it.

Amy added that the people who use it will be sad if it is removed.

Chair Karen Reimer reported that as a Committee we should prioritize how many times we go to the Council with recommendations for expenditures. This is an important issue but it can possibly be placed on hold and move towards more important park issues rather than spending \$20,000 now.

Rod reported that the trail will be compromised and unsafe if the study isn't done.

Chris reported that a portion of the trail is of concern now but not at a critical stage.

Rod added that it will be wrong to leave the trail in an unsafe condition. We need to fix it or close it, there aren't any other options. If we don't address the issue and something happens it will be worse than if we would have approached the Council for money.

Chris reported that \$20,000 is available if needed. We will not have to go in contingency for the money.

Amy reported that she recommends spending the money to research the issue. Although spending the money doesn't fix anything. It will be nice to have a definite answer of what the actual problem is. At that point, if the Council decides to close it down due to the amount of money is may cost to repair it, this will be there decision.

Chris reported that if the study is done, they will place the potential failure areas in priority order and perhaps it could be phased. This will be discussed with Phelps.

Council Liaison Cain asked what \$380,000 covered when spent before on trail repairs. Will the estimate to repair the current problems total an additional \$380,000?

Brian reported that the initial estimate is nearly \$80,000 in one spot- the most severe.

Brian added that two years ago, \$380,000 was spent on a new storm interceptor above the trail and for water that comes along the back of some of the houses. They joined a pipe for the water in the street and the gutter water to pass to bring it down and dump it on the other side to alleviate wash out troubles.

They also dug down 100 ft. and poured concrete piers to secure a buried retaining wall. It was back-filled and the entire trail was overlaid with new surface.

Brian reported that for many years, they've experienced a lot of longitudinal cracking on the trail. Gaps form and a bike tire can potentially fall in. Public Works fills the cracks on a bi-annual basis. Maintenance has always been a huge factor on the trail.

Amy suggested completing the troubled areas in phases.

Chris reported that this is possible. Some of the areas require minimal repair.

Council Liaison Cain reported that trail is in bad shape. People who utilize the trail will be upset if it is closed, but wonders if they realize the cost to keep it. And, if it's fixed, are there any guarantees that it will hold.

Mark Mergen made a motion to recommend to City Council to complete the \$20,000 study on the trail with Phelps Engineering. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Discuss Amphitheatre Meeting and Next Steps for Development

Chris reported that they continue to work on the restroom. They met recently to come up with a final design. They asked to enlarge the plumbing chase which may drive a cost increase. Staff was not comfortable with the contingency only being \$10,000. The architect was asked to sharpen his pencil.

Brian reported that the current plumbing chase is 2 ft. wide and is impossible for anyone to work in.

Chris reported that we currently have \$500,000. Certain areas will need to be reconsidered to stay within the budget. Chris met with the City Administrator, Scott Lambers yesterday and informed him that the intent is to bring a recommendation for a contractor to Council at the first meeting in December.

Brian reported that the plan is to start building in March with hopes to begin using it in July.

Council Liaison Cain asked if can't be built for \$500,000.

Chris reported that it can be built for that amount but concessions will have to be made and staff is looking to the architect and engineer offer alternatives.

C. Discuss Update on Gezer Park Project (Playground/Shelter/Fire Pit)

Brian reported that they've been working with the architect who completed the landscape design for Gezer Park. He's been involved with the playground/shelter/fire pit development. The first rounds of bids received were too high. It will be re-bid. The City will purchase the playground equipment from the vendor to alleviate contractors adding in additional cost. The contractors will be responsible for building the site only. The equipment will be installed by the playground vendors.

Brian also reported that he and Chris met with Scott Lambers. Scott was able to secure some funding for the fire pit. The fire pit was originally scheduled to be on the west side of the park, but since the progression of the shelter development they thought it would be nice to locate the

fire pit north of the new shelter. There will be a separate walk from the trail into the fire pit area with additional seating to accommodate approximately 100 people. There will also be a wall built with landscape and boulders.

Committee members shared that they thought this will be a nice addition to the park.

Amy Vlasic asked if the fire pit will be open to the public or for ceremonies only.

Brian reported that it is for ceremonies only and special approved scouting events. A staff member will be present at each event to light the fire if the design requires it. It will be closed when not in use. Staff is researching options to bring a gas line to the area.

Councilmember Cain reported that she recently gave a tour of Gezer Park to a delegation from Gezer attending the art festival at the Jewish Community. She noticed major slime deposits on a great portion around the rocks in the lake.

Brian reported that the process is to add chlorine that is pelletized into a cylinder and the water soaks through it. They didn't realize for about a month but erosion had made a crust which caused the bottom to seal preventing the chlorine from getting into the pond. This may have contributed to the problem.

Brian added that they recently hand cleaned it and fed chlorine directly into the edge of the pond. This will re-circulate up to the wadie and should take care of the problem.

D. Discuss Ordinance Amendment Pertaining to Use of Fields/Facilities for Organize Play

Kim reported recently there have been issues pertaining to the fields with organized teams using the fields for games and practices. She contacted Lee's Summit and a few other agencies to inquire about their rules and some allow organized use but their fields are gated opposed to our fields that are accessible. When their fields are closed, they don't have a specific ordinance, they fall under the general city trespass. Blue Valley's fields are permit only. They have the luxury of locking down their fields as well.

Kim reported that she made changes to the current field use policy. (*Kim passed around a memo with the field/facility changes*) and gave an overview of the report.

Kim noted that the changes aren't to eliminate the pick up games of father and children playing, flying kites, or a picnic in the park. This is to eliminate the football games on the field and the possibility of tearing up the fields as well as creating traffic/parking problems within the park.

The ordinance is being requested so that staff can contact the police for support when violators are unwilling to leave the fields.

Council Liaison Cain asked what Johnson County does.

Kim reported that she didn't contact the County, but she can and will do so prior to the next meeting.

Chris reported that most of their facilities are complexes like Mid-America and Heritage Park which are in outlying areas and gated.

Chris reported that the biggest concern is not to prohibit general users but users in full pads with officials and spectators parked on both sides of the street. If case of an emergency, vehicles couldn't get through.

Chris added that this situation is similar to the boot camp that was being held at the park. They took over the shelter and used the tables to jump on and stand on. This is not what the shelters or the tables are for. In that case staff tried to work with them in regards to offering the program jointly, but they were not interested due to proposed revenue splits. The policy will give us some opportunity with the application permits to see what exactly will be held at the park. We have to make sure that the parks are being used for what they are intended and that users are safe.

Kim reported that most fields are destroyed when they are used for organized play. This causes more work for Brian's staff and additional costs for labor and supplies. They are welcome to rent the fields, however.

Kim added that it is also very important to follow the "no hitting golf balls off the field" rule due to a mower potentially running over it and slinging it or a child can possibly step on it, as well as the divots that are put into the game fields, again causing more maintenance costs.

Chair Karen Reimer and other Committee members think this is going to be hard on people who use the park. A lot of people hit golf balls at the park.

Rod reported that he uses Ironwoods Park a lot, it is very busy. Those that he's seen, take over the park. He has personally felt unwelcomed when people do this. An ordinance makes very good sense and is needed.

Doug asked if a definition of what defines organized play is added in Kim's policy.

Kim reported that it is defined in Section 5, Item 1.

Kim added that this will finally eliminate the people who use field 12 and 13. They often move goals and anchor them where they want or worse, don't re-anchor them.

Brian added that in doing so, this risks potential injury to someone knocking a goal over onto a child, which can be life threatening.

Chris reported that we want people to enjoy the parks but we need to make sure that they are used for their intended purposes.

Rod Crawford made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Ordinance Amendment for organized play and/or practice. Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

II. New Business

A. Proposal of 2011 Fee Schedule

Kim passed out a copy of the memo originally e-mailed to all Committee member, with proposed fee increases for 2011.

Chris asked all to keep in mind that these are changes only. If it isn't listed, it will remain the same.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the proposed fees complies with the policy of the City Council in regards to the percentage of the Parks & Recreation expenses provided by the fees. If he recalls correctly, he believes it is 60%. The overall recovery amount should reach this amount.

Chris reported that it will certainly help. But, if imposed, it would not get us to 60%. She did not recall that there was ever a specific amount established during the council work session. We were about 52% - 54% during the last study in 2006.

Chris added that she and Kim have researched this and ran the numbers for that section with PFC. The last report showed slippage in the numbers. Staff is concerned about the report because the budget structuring we use are set up not to fail.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he is uncertain of the actual number, it may not be 60% but recalls the Council came to conclusion for budgetary purposes that when looked at overall recovery that the users are contributing a certain amount.

Council Liaison Cain added that Chris and the Parks & Recreation staff have to report this number at the annual budget meetings.

Chris reported that the fee policy was discussed during the last work session. Staff introduced a Policy for setting fees but it was never officially adopted. There are some programs that are considered community events that are not counted in the numbers for fee recovery such as the Holiday Lighting Ceremony.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this is a good example why the City Council didn't request 100% due to instances like this.

Chris reported that they are not comfortable with the report at this juncture due to a considerable shift down in the recovery rates from 2006 to 2009. It is currently 39%. She and Kim are working aggressively to look at all the numbers.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the proposed fees are increased will it get us back to 52%.

Chris reported that this isn't certain. There are so many variables to consider. There isn't a way to know this.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that there are eight rational Councilmembers that you should be able to take 2009 and omit the golf course and if the 2009 fee schedule is applicable, would it make up what the City Councilmen set as the goal of accomplishment for the year. He will be happy as long as it fits within the perimeters. There should be a way to determine if the fee schedule is a realistic division between the users and the taxpayers. This is all he expects.

Council Liaison Cain reported that you may not be able to do this ahead but you should be able to put it against the history of actual numbers.

Chris reported that this can be done but they would have to go back and plug in not just the amount but recreate the numbers. These are valuable questions and yes it can be done. Has it been done? No. But, it can be done.

Kim reported that this shouldn't be a problem with programming either in regards to direct or indirect expenses.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this doesn't have to be done now, but would like it prior to the budget session.

Chris reported that this shouldn't be a problem. The main reason this is done is separately because if they see something inflating the cost or the overhead increases, they have a choice to raise the fees to cover the increase or shut the program down. This has been done in the past and may be done again.

Rod reported that although ultimately we may want to recover 60%, it may not happen. It depends on what the market will bear. He asked if the due diligence had been done to find out if we are competitive, and aren't undercutting local businesses. The fees should be set where patrons will utilize the classes, the Lodge etc. If the fees are raised too high and no one participates this won't be good. He is comfortable that we are doing the right thing as long as it has been researched and we aren't undercutting other business and remain competitive.

Chris reported that they have run comparisons as well as the Finance. The problem is only the fees are looked at and not the cost. There isn't a way to know what others so in their programs (i.e. what they pay instructors, the cost of supplies, etc) so it is hard to know where we compare with certainty in recovery of fees. She has found that the majority of other local agencies aren't putting any overhead charges in their fees. Currently we are strapped on the indirect cost with an arbitrary 27% overhead of each department in the City. But, we aren't 27% of the city's budget. It should be a comparable percentage. In fairness to the process there is the direct cost.

Rod asked that the Committee to the last time the fees were raised on the Lodge, there was a lot of discussion but it remains to be booked on a consistent basis. The fee raises were warranted and reasonable.

Kim reported that this is done through the budget process. When the fees are set we balance it against our expenses. They researched what was spent in 2009 and what is anticipated in 2010 to determine the 2011 fees.

Kim added that the minimum wage caused a significant increase from 2006 to 2009. It changed from \$5.50 to \$7.25 in three different bumps.

Chris reported that with over ninety kids employed at the pool, this was a huge hit.

Amy asked if there will be a limit on the number of family pool pass members when they change to individual memberships in 2011.

Doug asked if the pool memberships are going to individual vs. family passes because it's being abused.

Chris reported that this is accurate. This will give us an accurate way to charge only those who are or will be using the pool.

Kim added that many people try to combine families as well and say they live under the same roof with several different last names and it's obvious that this can't be the case.

Chair Karen Reimer added that it will save some families money that have a family membership and some family members never use the pass.

Tonia added that she sees this happen often working the front desk, if you ask for proof of residency or ask to verify that they reside at the same address, they will argue with you.

Kim reported that there isn't a limit. Each family member will pay the individual price so it will truly be a user fee.

Chris reported that the cost to operate programs and facilities have to be researched yearly in order to stay in touch with the market.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to accept the proposed fees for the 2011 fee schedule. Mark Mergen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Karen Reimer reported that although the fees were passed she would like Chris to bring the actual percentage to the November meeting. It will be nice to know if where we stand.

Chris reported that she will bring this information to the next meeting.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported that a piece of the current trail from Tomahawk Park to I-Lan Park is detoured. They tore out 120 ft of old asphalt trail on the other side of the pedestrian bridge (near Roe). It will be replaced with concrete. All the wear and tear from flooding has taken its toll on the area.

Brian reported that the Johnson County Wastewater had a manhole that had a cone knocked off. It was in the creek. Heavy equipment was brought in and sealed off and the manhole has been removed.

Brian added that recently on the trail at Roe, a homeowner had a landscape contractor bringing a truck load of sod parked on Roe who was driving a dolly back and forth across the bridge on the trail to their yard because the neighbor wouldn't allow them to use their yard. He told them they could not do this. They had to redirect their unloading process for their landscape work.

Brian also reported that there are no motorized vehicles allowed on the trail. Risk and danger are a factor. The wear and tear on the bridge is a factor.

Brian reported that his staff made new trail sidewalks in City Park to access the trail better. One area is next to the tennis court and the other is in the east lot adjacent to the basketball court.

Brian reported that there are new cracking issues at the tennis courts. They will fill them before the winter months arrive.

Brian also reported that the installation of the new rain garden in Tomahawk Park is complete.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it looks really nice. They did a great job with this addition.

Brian reported that they've replaced trees in Gezer Park. Some of the species aren't surviving due to the way the ground drains. He is substituting similar types of evergreens.

Brian added that Alicia Jennings of the Bicycle Committee spearheaded the International Walk to School Day on October 6. Over 450 children participated at local schools. Marica printed certificates for those who participated. They also received pencils.

Brian reported that he has been busy planning the route for the Tour De Art event. [cycling and art tour] He met with police officers today who offered great suggestions. They would like to altar the route to avoid Mission Road at 143rd Street. The hill is tough. The intersection has concerns with heavy riders and the traffic. This event will be 10 miles and tour 12 different sculptures. The event will be held June 11. They will host a bar-b-que picnic at the end of the tour in City Park.

Brian reported that he is meeting with the Planning Director and Public Works to discuss the next step in regards to the complete streets project after it was referred to the Planning Commission for review.

Brian also reported that he will attend a Kansas Built Environment two day conference in Wichita. The Councilman who was instrumental in their complete streets policy will discuss what worked for them successfully. There are also a lot of trail seminars to attend.

Brian added that the Mid America Regional Council will have an engineering expert speak about the design of complete streets on October 27. They requested local representatives to sit on a panel to discuss what each city is doing.

Chris reported that there will be a Sustainability Advisory Board meeting Thursday morning at 7:30 a.m. The E-Waste Committee Recycling event will be held November 13 at the Church of the Resurrection.

Chris reported that the next HOA meeting hosted by the SAB will be held Thursday, February 3 at the Lodge at 6:00 pm.

Council Liaison Cain reported that all records indicated it will be held February 4, but she is concerned that this isn't correct because this date is a Friday.

Chris reported that she will find out the exact date and report this at the next meeting.

Chris reported that the large item circulation day was held recently. The final numbers aren't in.

Chair Karen Reimer reported that none of her neighbors knew about it. She verbally told all of them but they didn't receive any notification about it

Chris reported that she is working diligently to make sure this information gets in all newsletters in the future by updating the HOA list on an annual basis. The last letter that was sent, a majority of them were returned.

Chris also reported that she would like to set the itinerary and agenda for the upcoming year at the next meeting.

Chris reported that the Stream Team Committee will be held at City Hall Thursday night at 7p.m. Check the website for more information.

Chris reported that she and Kim will attend the NRPA Conference the last week in October.

Kim reported that the first Fall in the Park Festival was held this past Friday. It was a huge success. Three hundred forty five wrist bands were sold.

Amy asked if they advertised for this event. She did not see it in the neighborhood section of the newspaper.

Chris reported that in the past we could distribute to schools but now everything is electronic. The next two events are Holiday Lighting, November 22. And, Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 4.

Kim added that the challenge course and cabin season is winding down. They close for the season the end of October. The cabins are full on the weekends through October. The last open climb is October 3. The Passport to Adventure season ends October 31.

Kim also reported that soccer season is half done. We've completed five games of a nine game season without rain. The season ends November 6.

Kim reported that First Tee ends next week. Classes will resume in the spring.

Kim added that Brock is in the planning stages for Holiday Camp. It will run December 22 – 31.

Kim reported that they are replacing AV equipment at the Lodge. They will also replace a portable bar that is five years old.

Chris added that the Jewish Community Center had an art show this past weekend. Gadi Freiman donated a piece of art to the City of Leawood. It is located in the main lobby.

April reported that it will be a nice addition to the City's collection.

April reported that the piece west of the entrance to the parking lot is an "art on loan" piece. It will be here for a year. It is called "Introspection" by artist Larry Young.

April reported that the Council approved the Jesse Small "Gate To I-Lan" piece. He will begin work on this soon. Hopefully it will be installed next spring. The Arts Council visited his studio. There were several members who were unable to attend. They will visit it again to see how the piece is coming along.

April added that they are considering the "Splash" piece. It will go before Council this fall.

April reported that they are excited about the Tour De Art event. Members of the Art Council will be present at each art piece to answer questions.

April reported that the schoolhouse has been extremely busy with field trips. She has a lot of scouts coming as school starts back up.

April added that the Life Story class began last week. There are two classes on Wednesdays. She will also have a Thursday night class.

April reported that the Leawood Stage Company is doing "Sunday in the Park with George". It will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday and is filling fast. There are a few tables remaining for Friday and Saturday. Anyone who is interested should reserve your spot.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the display case in Gezer looks great.

Chris said the brochures are going fast.

C. Misc.

Council Liaison Rasmussen gave an overview/slideshow of the California dog parks he visited.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he toured facilities in different communities in the Los Angeles area. He met with many people who utilize various dog parks in the area. It is obvious that the people who use the dog parks he visited are angry because the experts didn't know a lot of what is needed for a successful dog park.

After which, he decided that he will not vote for the City engaging a consultant or an architect for the potential dog park area in Leawood. He has more confidence in the input of Chris or Brian. He feels very strongly City Staff should design the dog park.

In touring the different parks he found that the surface layer is very important. A gravel or dirt surface is not a good choice.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that a typical feature is a water area. This is a great addition. He also found that most dog parks are revenue producers. Many companies advertise there.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that rules and regulation signs must be posted. It is best to have specific rules. Most also had separate entrances for the large and small dogs and the run areas are separated. One park even had a "time-out" area.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that it was nice to see shade areas at some of the dog parks for patrons to sit away from the sun if needed. This was appreciated by the patrons. It is nice to also think about disease transfer. Separate water containers or a flushable water area should be considered to cut down the transfer of disease.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that most he met with felt that it would be nice to have the option of waste stations to be located periodically throughout the dog park. If there is one area with scoopers, it is a possibility it will be wasted by the time it is picked up and deposited into the container. The trees in certain dog parks were irrigated which helped keep them alive when the dogs use the restroom on them.

Mark Mergen asked if we are considering adding additional trees, or do we have enough trees in the potential dog park area.

Brian reported that trees are a good idea for shade and the potential area has trees around the peripheral but the actual area is open.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he also visited Laurel Canyon Dog Park in California, one of the largest. While there he noticed a lot of professional dog walkers walking numerous dogs. This is terrible on the surface when so many dogs are released at one time. This could potentially give our staff problems. The City of Leawood strongly opposes commercialization of our parks. We may want to consider if our dog park will be usable to have a split fee schedule. Each dog should have a license or permit. We must think about it two ways, revenue vs. wear and tear.

Council Liaison Rasmussen also reported that there may be instances where people can't afford their dog anymore and will bring them to the dog park and leave them. This will cause a problem for our Animal Control Officer. The City should have something in place that if caught doing this, there will be repercussions. It will be nice to have certain times where the park is closed for maintenance needs. Certain parks he toured close for several hours daily to clean the area. We need to figure out the appropriate size, control distance, the surface and how it's maintained. Also how to control the picking up of dog debris and how do we minimize the transferring of disease. He suggests leaving the terrain alone, place the proper fencing, have double gate access, offer a cool down area, provide separate water, trees should be irrigated.

Rod asked if Lou toured dog parks in the Kansas City area to compare.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he has visited a few in the area.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she has visited all three dog parks in the area recently and people with bigger dogs like her tend to visit the dog parks more. It is the only place to take them where they can run, catch a ball and be off leash. She would appreciate a hose to rinse the dirt off of her dog before putting him back in the car to transport him home.

Rod reported that it could be a pay station to avoid people leaving it on.

Amy also suggested a pull chain version similar to the pool. If you hold the chain the entire time it is in use, it will also avoid being left on.

Chris asked Lou if we can get a copy of his presentation for future use if needed.

April reported that some dog parks with a great deal of acreage divide it and rest an area at a time to save the grass. The areas are used on a rotation basis.

Rod thought this is a good idea.

Chris reported that Mel Lavery contacted her to report that providing the land for a potential dog park area is still in the consideration stage. They have researched dog parks to gain a better understanding of the situations that might occur since they are looking at neighboring it with a development. He will get back with her within the next couple of weeks.

Council Liaison Cain asked if other areas have been considered if we do not receive this land. Or will we use a portion of City Park?

Chris reported that it would not be a dead issue but we will have to research other locations extensively.

D. Next Meeting Date/Agenda

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, November 9, at 5:30p.m. at City Hall.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department