



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

Board members in attendance were Karen Ward-Reimer (chair), Rod Crawford, Bob Wright and Amy Vlasic.

Council Liaisons Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen also attended.

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

Chair Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to approve the November 9, 2010 minutes. Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Update on “Splash” Public Art Project**

April reported that “Splash” has been problematic. They have researched options regarding putting it in the lake, building an island, or moving it outside of the lake all together. The lighting costs are significant and they cannot take on water without damage. Currently the project is tabled to explore other options rather than installing it in the lake.

Bob Wright asked if the art piece will be renamed something other than “Splash” if it is relocated.

April is uncertain at this time.

Chair Reimer asked if bids were received for the installation. If so, did they come in higher than expected?

April reported that they have been working with the engineer. There are issues due to the flood plain. Eight feet of flux is needed because of this. The art piece would need to be so high to avoid getting wet that it may not look like a “Splash” anymore.

Brian added that the light system would be in great danger if the art piece gets wet at all. The light stream only has 100ft of length to be away from the controller that will run it, which is limited.

April reported that the project isn’t over. They hope to find a solution in the near future.

**B. Discuss Soccer Partnership Proposal**

Chris reported that somehow the word spread to the general public after the last meeting regarding the presentation by Puma Futbol. Several contacts were received from other premier

organizations expressing interest. Many concerns were that the partnership with Puma was finalized, which is far from accurate.

Amy asked if the calls are generating a negative feedback.

Chris reported that for the most part, they are not. The majority of calls received would like to be considered if partnering is an option. For example, Overland Park Soccer Club is concerned that their recreation league is close to folding. Their main interest is to keep their recreational league alive. If it dissolves we may acquire the teams because they are closer in proximity to us.

Chris reported that this whole topic of premier soccer would make a great story for other KRPA agencies to read and consider where soccer is in their communities with hopes that people don't lose sight of what recreational soccer is all about. Soccer should provide opportunities for kids. The reality is every kid is not a premier player. Some just want to go out and have fun without the pressure of highly competitive soccer.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked about the time limit Puma set forth at the last meeting.

Rod said that the sense of urgency came mostly on behalf of Puma not the City of Leawood.

Karen agreed. They needed an answer in the near future if they were going to get teams up and running for next fall.

Bob added that spring is a big soccer season. The deadline for most leagues is January 1. Puma was hoping to get a contract in place early.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if Puma submitted a draft contract.

Chris reported that they did not. The City didn't ask for one.

Chris reported that she, Kim and Dan met this week. They will send an RFP to those interested that would express our mission. This will give all interested soccer clubs the opportunity to share what they might bring to Leawood. We want to keep recreational soccer alive. They discussed sending a letter to the clubs who contacted us. The letters will be sent after tonight's meeting. Everyone will receive the same letter. We want to know what the relationship will be like with whom we partner with.

Chris doesn't discount Pumas sincerity and believes there is some validity to their philosophy.

Bob reported that Puma left the Legends because teams were going to be disbanded. The Legends were going to separate them. All of the kids are school friends and Puma wanted to keep their team together. Puma formed an organization to be able to do this. He spoke at great length with two people who have a vested interest in this. After talking with them they would like to have a shot at it, but are concerned that they can't bring anything to the table that Puma isn't offering. The concept of what Puma has to offer will fundamentally solve the communities need to have a recreational feeder to a premier league for those who want it.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked why we would be concerned at all about who contacted us.

Chris reported that we want to make sure that we are getting what's best for our program and the community. How do we know if we are getting the best if we haven't talked to everyone who might be interested?

Bob added that we may end up back where we started with Puma. It may confirm that they are the best out there.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked will we be too late if we wait for additional offers.

Bob replied that we will miss out on six months, which will be the spring season.

Rod reported that if so, we'd be better off waiting than making a bad decision quickly. He'd rather make a good decision by doing our due diligence and taking our time to research other options.

Chair Reimer reported that as a Board it will be hard to make a decision or make a recommendation until we've looked at other interested parties.

Rod Crawford reported that he contacted his neighbor [with approval from Chris] to inquire if he knew about the Puma Club in reference to their character, etc. His neighbor coaches JCCC women's soccer, is a Leawood resident, played for the Comets and knows Dan very well. His neighbor expressed that he knows a lot of people who would be interested in partnering with Leawood if they knew there was a potential opportunity to do so.

Rod suggested he contact Chris. Being a Leawood resident, he has the right to be upset if we jump into an arrangement with someone without giving others a chance.

Chris reported that Dan will work out what can be done with the potential teams.

Chris added that more than anything, if a proposal is distributed it will give us a lot of good information about soccer and a good feel regarding what is going on. It will also assist us in how we strategically set Leawood up. It is one of our bigger programs and we need to take care of this. Our fields are a major advantage.

Rod reported that he agrees. Fields are at a crazy premium for practices and games. Our fields are more than adequate and would be coveted as a resource. We have a responsibility to make sure we are maximizing the opportunity and that it is right for Leawood.

Chris added that some people are interested in using our fields only; they don't understand that we have games and are particular who uses them and what's done on them. Some who may think they want a relationship with us may find out that it is too stringent for them.

Amy reported that in her opinion Puma knew exactly what they want and were very organized and informational. We shouldn't expect less from anyone else. All interested groups should be ready, organized and know exactly what they want.

Chris reported that we have no idea what will happen. It is a possibility that we won't get anyone or we might get many. When she met with Dan and Kim it was discussed to have a sub-committee with two – three Board members to interview potential clubs.

Bob replied that the goals should be outlined. The letter should have a firm response date.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that a draft sample agreement should also be received from all who are interested. There will be people who want to be considered but don't know anything about the program. To avoid delay, they should be sorted quickly.

Chris replied that this is a good suggestion. The sample agreement [which will be one of the City's standards] will be put in the RFP. This will give them the opportunity to decide if they can or cannot deal with it.

Council Liaison Rasmussen replied that we need to make sure that it's identified as a sample agreement with the City. It will eventually need a Council approval.

Chris reported that this should be finalized by February.

Kim agreed.

Bob reported that word spread quick. He received calls from two people within 48 hours of the last meeting.

Chair Reimer reported that this will be beneficial for us. We won't lose players who think they have to go to a premier team and completely leave the recreational side of soccer.

Council Liaison Rasmussen thinks the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee should have something on record specifying what you think the letter should include.

Chris reported that the letter was to inform people our plans moving forward. They could be one in the same. We could skip a step and send the letter with the proposal. We will also create a parent manual similar to the Leawood swim and dive team which outlines how the premier side will be different from the recreational side. It will also include cost, playing times, etc. This will give parents a clear understanding. It will also specify expectations. They should be clear on everything before a decision is made to participate.

Amy asked who will receive the letters.

Chris replied that the letters will be sent to those who have expressed an interest so far. If the word gets out, and others express an interest, they will receive a letter at that time.

Council Liaison Cain asked if it will be posted on the website.

Chris replied that it will not.

Council Liaison Cain asked if Puma will be notified.

Chris replied that Puma will receive the same letter. They also deserve a personal phone call as a heads up. It isn't fair for them to receive the letter at the same time as others. She will explain that we want to make sure we do what is best for our program and our community.

Council Liaison Rasmussen wants to make it clear that he is very concerned about being delayed by people with no capability at all. Will our program be adversely affected by this delay? Will we lose Leawood participants? The feeling perceived from Puma is that it would be.

Rod Crawford answered that our program won't be adversely affected in any way.

Bob replied that teams will fall off until an alternative is put in place for them to stay on. We may lose a percentage of players that may otherwise stay in and go into the Puma program which will offer more than what our program can currently offer.

Bob added that tryouts are in the summer. It is extremely important to have the agreement in place by the end of May for June tryouts. We will have time, but we need to move as quickly as possible. The responses should be back by the end of January.

Chris agreed. It is not in the best advantage to work on this late. We want to get in front of it. Dan needs to know where he is headed. A completion date is to potentially get it to the Council by the first meeting in February.

Bob Wright made a motion to move forward with a letter that requests level of participation from additional partners including an RFP with a goal of mid February. Rod Crawford seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

### **C. Dog Park/Land Update**

Chris reported that she contacted Mel Lavery this morning. He is willing to move forward and discuss details regarding what she sent in the Aims file and what Continental worked out based on their preliminary plan for their development along State Line.

Chris will meet with Mel, Brian, Joe Johnson and Brett from Continental Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. to make sure they have a handle on the area. They are amenable to considering the eight acres but an agreement on the exact location is needed.

Chris believes that the area is too close to the tree line on the north side to her liking. She hopes there will be a compromise. She will also meet with the City Administrator to discuss developing swap for the FAR that Mel is considering.

Chris added that she put it in the C.I.P. as an unfunded funded project for \$300,000. The Council will look at the entire C.I.P. package in January to decide on funding.

Chris reported that there is time to sort all of the dog park issues out, but a year can go quickly.

Bob asked if the \$300,000 is for the entire finished project.

Chris reported that it is all itemized.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the two biggest guesstimates are for water and power.

Brian reported that there will be a cost to bore under the creek near the shelter to the dog park area to bring water.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the power is \$70 per foot.

Brian replied that it is. He spoke with KCPL today. They quoted a price of \$3000 to install a single phase transformer off of the existing lines in the park. This is a lot lower than he anticipated.

Chris reported that she will ask Mel if he is aware of a better water source from their direction when they meet on Monday.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris to consider the proper ground cover and the maintenance costs involved. Park access should also be an important factor. These are areas of great concern.

Amy asked if there are any dog parks in this area that control access.

Brian reported that there are some in the Nation but not in the immediate area. Some private dog parks offer different levels of membership which determines how many days per week it is used.

Brian also reported that he found a dog obstacle course kit that can be used for dogs of all sizes.

Chris added that they researched signage, shelter, water fountains, and gate access.

#### **D. Gezer Park Update (*Added Agenda Item*)**

Chris reported that the second bid round opened last Tuesday. It was really successful in comparison to the first round in September when bids received were exceptionally high. There is a recommendation on the Council agenda to approve the bid for a contractor. The low bid was \$126,272. They met last Friday and reviewed the final bid and contacted references. They were unable to find anything negative about them.

Chris added that they have their own equipment and mason. A list of funding sources is included in the upcoming Council packet. She met with Alice Hawk of the Leawood Foundation regarding money collected so far. The unrestricted money is approximately \$49,000, including pledges. This can be used for the fire pit, shelter and playground area.

Chris reported that a plan was developed of elements they liked. All of the prominent playground manufacturers were contacted to determine who would provide the best offer. The amount listed in the packet is a number they are comfortable with that can provide everything except the big boulders. This may be incorporated in the future. We are in the process of deciding who will provide the best playground, which is not necessarily always the lowest bidder.

Chris added that one contractor will be used for the construction. The big playground unit will be purchased from a manufacturer and the remaining items will be bought independently.

Chris added that if everything is included it will total approximately \$264,000.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked how we got to that number. The original bid is near \$125,000.

Chris reported that \$85K is for the playground, \$17,500 is for other items we will purchase and install ourselves to avoid adding additional cost to the project.

Fundraising opportunities are ongoing. The match will be extended until May. They will continue strong fundraising for a few more months.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the \$264,000 and \$126,000 includes the \$49,000 raised by the Foundation.

Chris replied that the \$264,000 is an expense.

Brian reported that the reason the playground equipment is separate from the rest of the project this time is because the last time it was bid the general contractor was buying the playground equipment and marking it up. This time, the general contractor will prep the sight and the playground manufacturer will install it. Overall the bidding was a lot better situation this time.

Rod Crawford complimented staff for the way this is being handled. This is a great way to do it.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the numbers aren't adding up. She agrees with Lou. There is a discrepancy. We were at \$126K and then Chris reported \$264K with \$85K for playground and \$17,500 for sand. This doesn't add up.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that there are some who are very sensitive about the mass overrun of Gezer. He is not casting stones or digging up past problems but we need to be accurate when discussing numbers. Everything needs to be complete if Council is expected to vote.

Chris reported that the exact figures are \$126,072, and \$85,000, misc is \$12,500 for sand, sod, pit components, etc., \$17,500 for contingencies, and \$23,540 for design fees. The total is \$264,812. The funding sources are at \$264,315.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if 2011 Parks & Recreation funding will cover this.

Chris reported that money was remaining in the Special Parks Fund. It ended up being \$210,000 but because of fund raising she was able to push a small portion of that back. There was also \$15,000 from the project before [initial park construction].

Council Liaison Cain reported that it makes sense now. But, she is still not clear how the \$49,000 Foundation money is factored in.

Chris reported that the funding sources total \$49,815 includes everything, also the pledges.

Council Liaison Cain asked an estimated completion date. Will the playground equipment be installed by spring?

Brian reported that we will have one hundred and twenty days once the contract is executed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the money will be encumbered right away. Upon approval by the Council, it will become an encumbered fund. The money will be locked in.

Chris reported that we will need to increase the budget because of the funding from the Foundation because they won't pay for anything direct. We will increase our budget by that amount. They will write us one check. This has been done before.

Council Liaison Cain asked how the question will be addressed when the City Council questions what will be next at Gezer. The amount discussed doesn't pay for the fountain around the tablet and other projects that need to be done. We are not finished.

Chris agreed that we are not done if the current Council or future Council wants to pursue the additional projects. The Foundation is still fundraising if people want to specifically donate money for a sign, and the fountain.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she opposes spending any more money at Gezer once the existing projects are complete. Many believe that enough money has been spent at Gezer.

## **II. New Business**

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked for an update on the restrooms at Ironwoods Park.

Chris reported that a change order is expected from Continental soon for additional work.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if it will exceed \$500,000.

Chris reported that it will not. She included a lot of information in the current Council packet for review. The original design was outside the budget due to the materials. The contractor is working to scale it back without compromising the footprint. He has done a good job.

Chris reported that the next step is to determine if it goes to the Planning Commission as a revised final or revised preliminary. It will need to go to the Planning Commission regardless.

Brian reported that the way a determination is made depends on who approves it. If it is a revised final it will be approved by the Planning Commission. If it is a revised preliminary, certified letters will be sent to everyone within two hundred feet of the building.

Brian added that by the time we receive a bid and the contracts, and present it to the Planning Commission, this will take time. If letters must be sent, this will delay it more. We need to start construction in March.

Chris replied that if it is a revised preliminary, it will not work in the favor of the timeline.

Chris reported that she will get a clear determination on how this will be handled, but believes it will be a revised final.

Brian reported that there are arguments both ways. The question will be is it wise to move forward with the citizens concerns that have been spoken.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked on another topic, where the consultant is in terms of the trail regarding the nine failures.

Brian replied that a meeting is scheduled December 23<sup>rd</sup>. A presentation will be made by the engineer regarding a solution with associated estimates for costs of both options.

## **A. Staff Reports**

Brian reported that in previous meetings, it was discussed to change the format of the signage in the parks to avoid negativity and always using the word “no”. He ordered new signage for all

ponds with an ice skater and a no ice skating symbol through the picture. This will send the same message but a different way. He also has a no swimming sign. They will be changed seasonally.

Brian reported that he finished up the Tree City USA application award. It was given to the Mayor to sign. Once received, this will be moved forward quickly.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked what is being done about the pine trees that are dying.

Brian reported that they spray their trees with a fungicide program that delays some disease. There isn't a pine protection worthwhile to pursue. They will have to be cut down and replaced. This problem has been in our area for years. It was recently on the news that the western part of the state is also experiencing the same tree damage. Unfortunately pines are a tough tree to grow.

Brian also reported that there were several windscreens that blew down at the tennis courts recently. His staff replaced them today.

Brian reported that the Bike Committee has been researching a program called a Bicycle Friendly Business. This will be an option to gain momentum and support. A program we considered is a bike errand program. The Sustainability Advisory board donated funding for two bicycles. The Wellness Committee insurance carrier will donate money at the beginning of the year to purchase two more bicycles. The four bikes will be available for employees to run errands within Leawood as part of our wellness initiative. Any business in the City of Leawood can apply to be a part of this program. Hopefully the City will be the first.

Brian also reported that he attended the Planning Commission complete street policy work session. It was used as an educational program about complete streets. Power point presentations were shown as examples of bike lanes, and improved intersections for walkers.

The Planning Commission would like staff to provide more details at another work session before recommendation to the Council is approved. They are interested in a master plan and/or map of streets that may be good routes for complete street improvements. City maps have been distributed to the Bike Committee for their feedback of good routes that for cyclists and walkers.

Chair Reimer reported that at a previous meeting we discussed educating the community on bikers and how we can make it friendlier on both sides. Where are we on this?

Brian reported that he has targeted the schools. He would like to host a program for people to bring their bikes and learn how to ride comfortably in traffic and how to maintain their bike. This was offered last year but it wasn't successful. He hopes people take advantage of it this year.

Brian also reported that he is getting banners from donated money from the Green Task Force budget take to schools to encourage people to bike and walk to schools at P.T.A. meetings, etc.

Brian will have a booth at the HOA meeting in February to provide educational information.

Amy reported that she is friends with Lisa Harrison, editor of the new Leawood magazine about featuring an article on bicycle friendly awareness. She agreed to do so in the spring.

Chris reported that the next program guide [summer] will go out the first or second week in March. Staff is busy working on the upcoming guide.

Chris reported that as Brian reported earlier, there is a HOA meeting in February hosted by the Sustainability Advisory Board. Everyone who attends on behalf of their sub-division will receive a free ripple glass bin. We are making good strides to offer specific information and communicate with people more.

Chris reported that there are two new program sponsorship prospects for the upcoming year.

Chris also reported that the tree drop off area has been changed this year from fields 20 and 21 on the Parkway to Tomahawk Park [south of 119<sup>th</sup>] due to the weekend parking situation at 119 Shops. There employees will be parking in our lot.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked how much the 119 employers will be charged to allow their employees to park in our lot. Council Liaison Cain also asked if they are being charged.

Chris replied that she is uncertain the amount. Scott Lambers is working out an agreement with them. He is hoping to recover some of our cost. The City Attorney is working out some of the logistics. Our priority is our public safety facilities first in regards to snow removal.

Brian reported that there was an issue with 119 last year when it snowed because they didn't have anywhere to haul it and they dumped it in the park lot there at fields 20 and 21.

Kim reported that Breakfast with Santa was December 4. The two sessions combined totaled four hundred people.

Kim reported that she met with the Super Pass cities last week. The 2011 fees will be increased slightly. A family of five will be \$40.00. An individual will be \$20.00.

Holiday Camp is starting next Wednesday. It will run six days total. We are in the process of taking enrollment.

Kim also reported that our annual Alpine Tower inspection was held recently. We were able to replace some tarps that were damaged in a wind storm this past spring. The wood preservative was also applied. The towers are good for another year.

Kim added that they will begin hiring summer staff January 3. Letters will be sent this week to all returning staff.

Kim reported that we received a letter and a five star award earlier this week, which is the highest possible from the company we license our lifeguards with, Starguard. This is our first year working with them.

Kim reported that the Open House at the Nature Center was held December 4. The event was in conjunction with Breakfast with Santa and the Oxford Schoolhouse. There were one hundred-fifty people in attendance.

Council Liaison Cain asked the wage of summer staff.

Kim reported that summer staffs beginning wage is \$7.25 per hour. Fourteen year olds can work as a Deck Attendant at this wage. The Challenge Course Facilitators earn \$10.75 per hour.

Kim added that The Greater Kansas City Sports Commission voted the Leawood Labor Day Run as the best small event in Kansas City. The division category was an event of 400 or less. Hopefully we will be best in the middle sized division next year. This was great recognition for our event. Karen Raymer announced her retirement this year. She has been our Race Director for the event for the past 20 years. She also marked the course and brought in many volunteers. She will be missed.

April reported that she will be busy this week interviewing Directors for the summer show *Bye Bye Birdie*. Five Directors have submitted. It will be a great show.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the Amphitheatre Committee will be disbanded.

April reported that it will not. The mission states that the Committee completes the entire project.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he doesn't understand why it wouldn't. It isn't doing anything.

Chris reported that they are fundraising and we continue to discuss the restroom construction as it progresses.

April added that although fundraising, they are looking into grant proposals etc. She recently attended a grant writing workshop.

Council Liaison Rasmussen thanked April for clarifying this.

April reported that she is working on 2011 Calendars for The Arts and The Schoolhouse. Some of the programs will remain the same but she is excited about the new programs that will be offered.

April reported that M&I Bank is in the process of remodeling their lobby. It is unlikely that it will be ready in time for our art shows. The Arts Council is researching other alternatives. Possibly a new location or doing some studio tours.

Amy asked if the new location must be in Leawood.

April reported that preferably it should be.

Amy reported that her friend is President of Freedom Bank near 143<sup>rd</sup> and Metcalf in Overland Park. They have a beautiful lobby. It has a built in bar and coffee bar. People utilize it for receptions and parties often. It is made for business receptions and is busy all the time.

April replied that this isn't too far. She will pass the information along. She will also visit the location to see what they have to offer.

April reported that The Gala will be earlier this year. It will be in conjunction with the Academy Award Show. Red carpet attire is encouraged. Prizes and Contests will be available. The event will be held February 27, 2011. Save the date cards will be sent soon.

## **B. Discuss 2011 Initiatives**

Chris asked the Committee to think about goals and objectives for the upcoming year. Are there any pending items that weren't completed? Should we consider other avenues? From a staff's perspective, one of the initiatives moving forward would be to complete the strategic plan.

It was discussed previously that we wanted to pursue accreditation and work on submittal for gold medal awards. In order to get the award, you have to take a good look at your agency and do a lot of work. Research the community and make sure everything is in good balance. The reward will be what is done in the process.

If you have thoughts, or concerns, please notify her.

### **C. Misc**

Chair Reimer asked where we are with the Boy Scout Eagle Project signage at Ironwoods Park.

April reported that the signs are complete. The Eagle Scout is working on the framework. It should be finished soon.

Chair Reimer asked if the post will match the existing wood in the park.

April reported that it is supposed to match. The Eagle Scout will contact Scott Fanning of the Parks Maintenance Department once the framework is complete to finalize this. A dedication ceremony is planned in May.

Chair Reimer asked that there should be a check and balance to make sure that they are done correctly.

April agreed that the signs should match.

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

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

Amy Vlasic made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Karen seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. (Amy and Chair Reimer were the two remaining Committee Members at the end of the meeting. Others left early due to prior commitments).

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department