



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2012 -5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (chair), Amy Vlasic, Doug Stevens, Lorrie Hamilton and Bob Wright.

Board members absent: Rod Crawford and Jacquie McKinney.

Council Liaisons attending: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

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

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to approve the December 13, 2011 minutes. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Discuss Council Work Session on 123rd Street Trail Renovation

Chris reported that that she met with Scott Lambers, City Administrator today to make him aware of what staff is proposing as a temporary fix. There was a lot of discussion at the work session regarding the cost of the project. Jud Clawson from Phelps Engineers attended and gave an overview of the different areas and the potential cost for each. (*Chris passed around photos.*)

Chris reported that a temporary fix is in progress that includes removing a portion of the asphalt and pouring concrete. The plan moving forward is to set aside some money this year and the remainder next, with a permanent fix being addressed in 2013.

Brian reported that concrete is being poured in two areas. A section of round rail fence that was leaning will be removed. Approximately 350' of split rail fence will be installed for safety purposes. The trail will be monitored often. Public Works will also crack fill a few areas in between the two sections.

Chris reported that if the weather cooperates it may be re-opened next week. A temporary retaining wall will also be installed before it is opened. The reopening will be placed on the website once it occurs.

Chris added that the engineer's estimated price is \$1.4 million. Some of the mobilization and other costs may decrease if and when the work is done all at once. This total amount is undetermined and will be finalized once bid out. We may however be able to have a 15-20% savings and some of the areas may be able to be done by staff.

Chris reported that they discussed using some money this year to get the plans completely done. If so, we will be ready when 2013 arrives, pending council approval to move forward.

Due to the approach of a temporary fix, we cannot determine what will happen between now and the end of the year or in spring. If we experience another season of heavy rain it may cause more problems.

Chris opened the floor for questions or comments.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the consensus the night of the work session was to move forward with the temporary fix. There is an important connection with the school and bike trail. This was brought up several times that night.

Brian added that staff working on the trail has received positive feedback.

B. Review/Discuss 2012 Meeting Dates

Chris reported that Tonia included a copy of the 2012 meeting dates with the agenda tonight. It was also sent with the minutes prior to the meeting. Some dates may be subject to change.

Chris added that the March date is the week of spring break. Some Committee members shared at the last meeting that they will be unavailable.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if it is wise to schedule a March meeting. Council has already determined that they will not meet in the month of March.

Chris reported that this decision needs to be made from the Committee. At some point between now and April 10 it is imperative to meet at least once due to the 2013 budget. We can possibly reschedule the meeting if we don't want to meet in March. The February meeting is Valentine's Day. Again, a few Committee members expressed that they will be unable to attend that night.

Chair Karen Ward Reimer suggested rescheduling the February meeting. We can discuss then if it is necessary to meet in March. After a brief discussion, the February meeting was rescheduled to February 21st.

C. Report on 2011 Legends Soccer Partnership

Kim reported that the first season is complete. There were a few minor growing pains for both parties. As an example; during tryouts they had vehicles between the fields. After discussing this with them, it stopped and hasn't been a problem since. Overall it has been a great partnership.

Kim reported that City Park was used for tryouts. They will do this again in 2012 but will move to Tomahawk Parkway fields 20 and 21. This will alleviate the aquatic center traffic congestion and previously scheduled City events.

Kim reported that the coach's clinics were a great benefit to us. They were offered at no cost to our league participants. Fifty coaches out of one hundred twenty-nine teams participated. There were two sessions; one was more hands on and the other was lecture style. We received great feedback.

Kim and Chris asked Bob if he received any feedback or participated in the clinics.

Bob reported that he did not attend and doesn't know anyone who did but he did attend the Legends Academy. There was a wide mix of children from younger to older ages, boys and girls. When the different degrees of skill levels are put together it can be a good learning experience. These were very beneficial and a valuable asset for the community.

Kim reported that 15 kids from the recreation league signed up. There was a one time fee of \$100 for residents and \$120 for non-residents per participant. They can attend as many days per week as they choose. They will be held again in the spring with increased enrollment anticipated.

Bob reported that he agrees. This was a nice way to get the children out of the house several nights per week to exercise.

Kim added that one of her early concerns was the Happy Feet league being held at the Jewish Community Center. But, the partnership fell through mid-summer, which left the Legends looking for a place to host the league. As a result, they used fields 20 and 21. They paid \$1,000 for eight weeks of field use. The class is geared for children 2-5 and held on Sunday afternoons. The Legends are estimating approximately 75 children transitioning into the recreation league.

Kim added that the Legends haven't seen a significant increase of recreational players going to premier but it has only been one season so far. They expect this will increase in the future.

Kim also reported that the league numbers increased. This was done at the same time we went to 7vs7 up to third grade. We are unsure if the increase is due to partnering with the Legends.

Kim added that everything is going well. There were 110 teams in the spring, which increased to 129 in the fall. The revenues were up greatly with a \$29,000 increase from 2010 to 2011.

D. Schedule Meeting Date/Agenda for Sub-Committee: New Park Land

Chair Karen Ward Reimer reported that she, Amy, Doug and Lorrie need to schedule a meeting soon. After a brief discussion it was determined that the sub-committee will meet Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 a.m., in the Main Conference Room at City Hall.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the contractors already started digging for the new subdivision on our north border. He is receiving e-mails from people asking what is going on and inquiring about purchasing lots in Leabrooke.

Council Liaison Rasmussen encouraged Committee members to go look at the area if they haven't already done so.

II. New Business

A. Discuss Recommendation to Relocate "Introspection" to Sculpture Garden [from Leawood Arts Council/APPI]

April reported that "Introspection" is currently located in the space designated as temporary art space in the area west of the parking lot as you enter City Hall. It needs to be moved soon.

April added that the City Council voted to purchase the art piece and make it a permanent part of the public art collection. The designated location is along Tomahawk Creek Parkway next to the front arm of the north lake. It will be visible from the road. It will be moved once the dredging work is complete. This will probably happen in the spring.

April added that this site was designated as number three when the Master Plan was approved for the sculpture garden. This is such a good place for the sculpture. It is a really nice piece. It will be lighted.

Council Liaison Cain asked if it will be moved prior to another piece being purchased to replace it.

April reported that there is a plan. “Introspection” has to be moved first. Once it is moved, the other piece will be brought to City Council, once the selection committee makes a recommendation.

Amy reported that there is a lot of art along Tomahawk Creek.

April agreed. Several years ago a master plan was put together for creating a “sculpture garden” along the parkway. This would afford people the opportunity to see the artwork as they drive the route. The original plan was if you were staying in the hotel at Park Place and got on the trail system, you would be able to see art all the way to City Park. This was the intention. You could see it by car or by foot path.

Amy asked if any sculptures will be put into Park Place.

Chris reported that there will not be any put on private development.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that access to it is impossible. You can’t get there. In his opinion there will be a discussion about priorities. He is in favor of the trails and the art but it is impossible to get to it. Access is needed. The only way to get there is to cross the sidewalks and cross over Nall. This is not feasible.

Chris reported that the sculpture garden has been identified along Tomahawk Creek Parkway. One of the spots is “My Mind”. This may be moved soon with the approval of the Arts Council. They are looking at a potential location tomorrow. It may be moved into Tomahawk Park into an area not so close to the street.

April reported that there will be an art piece somewhere in or near the Justice Center when built. It would also be visible from the sculpture garden.

Chair Ward Reimer asked April to provide a short segment about this and include it on the agenda for the next meeting. It would be nice to know what they have scheduled. This will be helpful for the new people as well as those who may have forgotten.

April replied that she will provide this at the next meeting.

Amy made a motion that the Park Board Committee support the proposed sight for relocating “Introspection” to the sculpture garden, along Tomahawk Creek Parkway as suggested by the Arts Council. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. 2012 Event Calendar

Chris reported that this would have been reviewed tonight but she had Shelly make a few changes. She will e-mail it to all Committee members in the near future.

Chris added that the calendar is great to have, not only for a list of special events but it also shows when spring soccer begins, the pool opening, and when camps begin, etc. It may be good to keep as a digital file once received via e-mail.

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

Chris reported that it is internal. It will not be on the website. We post some things on the website but not the department calendar.

C. Discuss Ideas to Celebrate “40 Years of Leawood Parks & Recreation” - 2013

Chris reported that we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of Parks and Recreation in the year 2013. We shouldn't need to spend a lot of money on it, but it would be nice to have some kind of community celebration. This was added to the agenda to receive Committee suggestions. During the same year, she will ask Alice Hawk to highlight the department in the display case on the first floor of City Hall.

Chris added that she also asked April to interview staff who has been here for awhile. She interviewed Dick Fuller, John Murphy and Steve Lamb and will soon interview Scott Fanning. She will also interview a couple former Mayors.

Bob added that he played soccer in Leawood 35 years ago. And, now he is a coach and his children play soccer in Leawood.

April reported that the Sports Supervisor, Dan Mahanke, played Leawood soccer. She interviewed him also.

April asked Committee members to contact her with specific memories or anything they would like to share. She would also appreciate photos. If possible, scan them and email them to her.

April shared a memory from Dick who remembered a time on a Saturday when the children were on the fields and there was a huge hail storm and everyone ran for their cars and tried to drive out of the park. All of the roofs in Leawood were damaged.

Lorrie reported that she remembers this storm. It caused a lot of damage in Leawood.

April also added that Steve's memories were the ice storm of 2001 and the flood. This greatly impacted the way the staff worked for quite a while.

Amy shared that she remembers the Ozark Mountain Daredevils performing for July 4th.

Amy reported that it should be advertised that this is being done. When she was on the Board at Leawood South and they hosted championships, they advertised it. It was interesting how many pictures she received, some were from forty years ago. Word of mouth also goes a long way.

Chris reported that this is a great idea. It will be on the website later this year. If Committee members know of anyone who may have been around that has information, it would be nice to hear from them.

April reported that she is open for anything. All memories and photos will be accepted. Notify her if you want to be interviewed.

Chris reported that it would be nice to celebrate things that have happened. There has been a lot going as we transitioned from a Recreation “commission” to a “department”. People will appreciate hearing the history. It would be nice to do a little bit in different areas with a culmination in City Park.

Council Liaison Cain reported that we have such fabulous parks. It will be nice to have something at one of the parks. The fourth of July celebration would be a good time.

Chris reported that the years go fast. She may request a minimum amount of money to help with the celebration.

Bob reported that he likes Council Liaison Cains suggestion of celebrating along with 4th of July.

Amy asked if Chris can put together a slideshow of all of the renovations of the parks; she knows a lot of pictures were taken.

Chris reported that she will research this. We have a while to think about it.

Council Liaison Cain suggested also changing the banners. They haven't changed in awhile. She understands they are expensive but would be nice.

Chris reported that this can be done. The banners could be put up; most arms are already there.

April added that it would be nice to have banners displayed at the entrance of all of the parks.

Chris reported that this is also a good idea. If we focus on park entrances only, they would be visible while also keeping the cost down.

Council Liaison Rasmussen agrees that it would be best for maximum public exposure if combined with the July 4th celebration. There could be a booth with a slideshow to show where we were and how far we've come.

April reported that everyone she talked to said the 4th of July celebration used to start early morning and last all day. It required a great deal of effort from staff but heard it was an all day event.

Lorrie reported that you had to get there really early and park your car in the morning to get a good spot for the evening. This was when you could park on the grass before the soccer field irrigation was added.

Chair Reimer reported that Board Members also volunteered at the event because there wasn't enough staff back then.

Chris reported we may incorporate a picnic at the event.

April reported that it would be nice to start the event earlier in the day as in years past.

Amy reported that she likes Council Liaison Rasmussen's idea of the slideshow. It would be nice to see the pool and playgrounds then and now. There have been a lot of improvements.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it would be nice to see all parks then and now.

Brian added that this would be interesting since everything has changed so much.

Chris added that we haven't moved farther on Brooke Beatty than the last meeting. A recommendation will be needed in regards to the budget package. She is certain some things can be trimmed back and brought down to maybe \$70,000-\$80,000.

Chris reported that she is going through the Special Park Fund and trying to make room for this project and the trail. We cannot move forward until the estimates come in on the taxes particularly the special revenues. We will receive an estimate for 2012 and a very rough estimate for 2013. We hope they stay good but it is hard to know looking forward.

Chair Karen Ward Reimer would like this added to the agenda in the future.

D. Staff Reports

Brian reported that they have been busy with Christmas tree recycling. He contacted Suburban and they will accept our wood chips free of charge for Christmas trees only.

Chris added that the Parks and Recreation Department paid \$1700 in 2011 to have our debris and wood waste recycled. These were items we could not use.

Brian added that they've hauled eight truck loads. His staff does all of the chipping and are usually charged \$30 per load. Suburban offered to chip it but it is easier to do it in house.

Amy asked if Brian if any of it was used for projects around the City.

Brian reported that he has in the past. There aren't any plans to do so this year. For him to use wood chips, they need to compost some before doing so. He doesn't like using raw wood chips. Once it is taken to Suburban, it is recycled and re-sold.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is impressed with the street sweeping done by the City. It does a lot and the tonnage is a huge amount.

Brian added that he agrees. The frequency of the street sweeping program is a plus when completing the bicycle friendly community documentation. This verifies that the streets are clean and free of debris that would cause flat tires and/or accidents.

Council Liaison Cain added that every inch of Leawood is done eight times per year. It helps the bikes and also stays out of the water. This will be done at the HOA meeting for the sustainability. We recycle it. We pay to have it composted. This is awesome.

Brian also reported that he turned in an application on behalf of the Bicycle Friendly Committee, for City Hall to be recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Business. This is separate than a Bicycle Friendly Community. He will see how it is accepted when a City turns in an application. He presented it as City Hall and not all of the satellite facilities.

Brian added that we have a lot going on. The errand bikes are used a lot during the lunch hour. We have direct access to the trail system and also bike racks. He also included the Spoke-n-Art event. These things look good on a bicycle friendly application. We should hear something soon.

Brian reported that the Bicycle Committee has an opening. He asked Committee members to notify him of any referrals. He is more than happy to contact them.

April reported that her neighbor bicycles daily. He would be a great candidate.

Amy added that she also has a neighbor that is a huge cyclist. But, he is very busy.

Brian reported that if interested, the person will complete a brief synopsis of why they want to serve. The Parks and Recreation Committee will review the information and recommend them to the Mayor. If chosen, they will be appointed by the Mayor.

Brian added that he may also reach out to the Johnson County Bicycle Club.

Brian reported that Lloopi is lit again.

Brian reported that his staff has been busy mulching trees. Dustin Brannick is in charge of the landscape crew. They recently received a compliment at a landscaper's conference; he nor his staff attended but were told that a presentation was done by a Board Certified Natural Arborist of

Ryan Lawn and Tree Company regarding tree planting. He stated that if anyone wants to see trees planted correctly to come to the City of Leawood and look at the trees planted by the parks department. The trees planted are the best he's seen. Dustin and his crew do a good job.

Kim reported that the soft drink vendor has been selected. We are again working with Pepsi for the next three years. They offered a nice sponsorship and lower purchase price on most products.

Kim reported that a lot of new classes are being offered this winter. There was a gap where Tai Chi wasn't offered but we have a new teacher with fourteen participants enrolled. This is a good number for a first time class. The Developing Dancers class has seen an increase and overall registration has been busy.

Kim added that cabin reservations have commenced for the year and they will open on April 1. There are already 25 reservations received since January 3. If four more cabins were to be built, we could fill them. They are very popular.

Kim also reported that Daddy Daughter Date Night is February 4. It is a Superhero theme. Dads and daughters can dress up like their favorite superhero.

Kim added that she is meeting with The First Tee on Friday to set up spring and summer schedules. She receives a lot of calls daily inquiring about the schedule.

Kim reported that the spring soccer deadline is February 1.

Kim reported that she has been busy turning the soccer registration forms and rosters into PDF documents with drop down lists that can be typed instead of handwritten. We are hoping to do this with the lodge and cabin forms in the near future.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if there's room to expand the cabins east.

Chris reported that if more are built they would be better sited on the top of the hill just across from the current cabins.

Chris added that the cabins have really held up as well and so has the furniture.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the Lodge was beautiful for her son's wedding December 30. Everything was great. The staff was very helpful. John stayed until after midnight making sure everything was taken care of. Everyone was very pleased with the venue.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked what happened to the thought years ago of having paddle boats on the lake at Ironwoods.

Chris reported that we still have one or two but not at Ironwoods.

Kim reported that we also have one or two at City Park. They were moved there when the lake was being dredged at Ironwoods. They are used more often at City Park. Canoes are used at Ironwoods with the camp programs.

April reported that the Starlight Academy will offer new classes beginning next Thursday. Hopefully they will fill. She has received a lot of calls and is excited about the possibility.

April also reported that Dino O'Dell will offer a free CD Launch party February 4, at the Community Center in City Hall. A discount on the purchase of the CD will be given if food donations are brought in.

April added that she is busy working on Arti Gras. The art was juried and 156 entries were received. Artists could enter as many as three items. The quality of the art is really good. Only three artists did not have anything selected. There are 104 pieces. The prices range from \$100 to \$14,000. The foundation receives 30% of all art sales. Invitations will be sent early next week. A Dixie Land Jazz group, as well as a mime, will perform.

Chris added that Friday night is a ticketed event. Tickets are \$25 and drinks and hors d' oeuvres will be served. Tickets purchased will allow you to get five ballots or "coins" to select the *Kings Choice Award*, which is the fan favorite. Attendees will be able to meet the artists. Paul Dorrell of the Leopold Gallery (who assisted with the jurying of the art) will come in before it opens and select the first, second, and third place pieces.

April reported that a postcard with the entire season for the Leawood Stage Company will be sent soon. Auditions for "Fiddler on the Roof" will be held the first week of March. They will perform "Nonsense" the first weekend in November, which will be held at the Lodge.

Chris reported that Jeff Thomasson was contacted by Generali Insurance to discuss hosting their first golf outing at Ironhorse. They will meet Friday.

Chris reported that the golf course has been doing really well. The weather has played a huge factor but much credit goes to the Troon staff in getting things back in shape. The final budgeted phase of the perimeter fence work is being completed. She has received a couple of calls from residents who do not like it, however.

Chris reported that shelters rentals at Gezer are picking up. Tonia has already booked a wedding, a few graduation events and the fire pit.

Tonia agreed. Shelter reservations have been steady. A wedding is booked at Gezer Park on April 28. Several graduation ceremonies and scout events are also booked.

Chris added that the wedding party will use the raised stone area as was intended.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the curtains will be used.

Chris added that they haven't asked for them nor have we offered at this point.

E. Misc.

Chair Ward Reimer reminded everyone that it is imperative to let Tonia know by noon on Friday of the previous week if they will be able to attend or not.

F. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – February 21

Chair Karen Ward Reimer reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21. Please contact her or Chris if anyone has anything special to add to the agenda. Hopefully the sub-committee will be able to meet prior to this meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the date change will be sent via e-mail.

Chris reported that she will send this information as well as the event calendar.

Chris reported that she will make an agenda for the sub-committee meeting January 18. She asked Committee members to notify her if there is anything they would like to add. She will include a copy of the Master Plan as a point of information to review although it may not have much relevance as it is very old.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he would like the sub-committee to consider the piece of land on Kenneth Road. Currently it is zoned commercial if it doesn't adversely affect the interest of the park or the trail the committee should think about reserving the park for commercial usage. If we develop that park we will have a lot of fill that we can use. If we can lift that land up two and a half feet or more, and get it out of the flood plain in time, in ten years it could be valuable for sale and perhaps useful to supporting park functions at that time. Think about this when planning for that park. He will bring this up at City Council.

Chris replied that this is a challenging piece because if you go east out of Ironwoods, the piece of land turns to the north and as you exit to Kenneth heading south, the railroad comes across the road. It is hard to access. To haul dirt away is very expensive.

Doug Stevens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department