



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 21, 2012 -5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

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

Board members absent: Doug Stevens.

Council Liaisons attending: Julie Cain. Council Liaisons absent: Lou Rasmussen.

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

Staff members absent: Brian Anderson.

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

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the January 10, 2012 minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Update on 123<sup>rd</sup> Street Trail Renovation**

Chris reported that that the trail has been open three weeks. Photos were given to Scott Lambers as part of her report. Temporary repairs were done in-house by the maintenance staff. A split rail fence was installed similar to Ironwoods. There were a few steep areas.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she and Amy have walked it. It looks great and is better than before.

Chris added that she is uncertain of the long-term plan at this time. It is difficult to determine how long it will hold.

**B. Review Art Master Plan (Sculpture Garden) – from the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Chris reported that a new site in being considered for *My Mind* [art sculpture] due to the size of the piece and where it is currently located on the corner. If it were moved and replaced with something else on the sight, they would look for something narrower and upright. This was also done for *Growing*.

April added that a concern is if an accident occurs it could possibly take out the art piece. *Growing* was put on a pedestal to prevent this from happening.

Chris added that the Arts Council will discuss this at the next meeting. After the complete plans were done along with the staging area for North Lake, it appears the piece may be moved sooner than later.

Chris asked April if the *Stretch* piece was definitely chosen as the new temporary art piece.

April reported yes, *The Guardian* [by Stretch] has been selected. It will need Council approval before installed.

Chris added that the proposal would also be for the other piece to go in area #3 at the bottom of the hill on 117<sup>th</sup> Street. *My Mind* could move to Tomahawk Park near the trail area east of the playground.

Council Liaison Cain and Lorrie both questioned if there is a concern that children will play on it because it is near the playground. The style of the art piece may be a magnet for children.

Amy reported that she agrees. We need to be careful where it is located if it can be damaged by children.

April reported that these concerns will be taken into consideration when discussed with the Art Council.

Chris said that it isn't near the playground or the shelter. It is closer to the trail on the east side. If the Arts Council makes a recommendation it will come back to the Advisory Board if it is a park location. Chris asked the committee their thoughts on where it could go if it isn't relocated to Tomahawk Park.

April reintroduced the sculpture garden layout to the board showing the potential art piece locations.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if art work is ever kept in storage until a determination is made regarding relocation.

Chris said that we have a piece, *Feathers*, in the lodge which is waiting on a permanent indoor location.

Council Liaison Cain reported that twenty-million dollars is allocated for the construction of the Justice Center. Does that amount include money is for an art piece. If so, will the Art in Public Places Initiative select the art piece.

April reported that the cost will be funded by the hard art fund and APPI should be selecting the piece. According to the policy, the Art in Public Places Initiative should have also had involvement with the design of the building, so that a location(s) could be considered. It would be less expensive to "build the art into the facility" rather than doing the installation afterwards. If done this way, it is paying twice regarding the footing etc. This was ignored during the process.

Chair Ward Reimer asked April to report back to Park Board Committee once the APPI Committee has a quorum and holds their next meeting.

### **C. Discuss March Meeting Date**

Chair Ward Reimer opened the floor for discussion about the upcoming meeting date. Several Committee members shared that they are unavailable for the originally scheduled March 13<sup>th</sup> date due to spring break. It was decided to meet Wednesday, March 21, 5:30p.m.

### **D. Discuss April 9 and 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Work Session and April 10 Board Meeting**

Chris passed around a copy of the 1990 Master Plan referred to at a previous meeting. She hasn't received any directives on this. In regards to a master plan standard this is really minimal. It is a

basic plan that mainly deals with land space and not much of the big picture of parks and recreation. The plan previous to this one was completed in 1978.

Chris added that 2013 is the 40<sup>th</sup> year of Parks & Recreation. April has been interviewing previous residents and employees. From that time period to now, there are things that have been done that are still here and many new improvements.

The master plan discusses amenities for a community built out at 45,000 residents; currently we are at 31,000. We may never get to 45,000, but does this, along with assumptions 22 years ago, change things. The plan has some important information.

Chris reported that Councilman Rasmussen is interested in how the format for the work sessions will be structured. He intends to discuss this with the Mayor. He would like to go into the first meeting with a process in place. Everyone has thoughts but who is actually organizing them. This is what he will discuss with the Mayor.

Chris reported that she was informed that the Council members are having a joint work session with the Planning Commission, April 10 so we won't have Council representation at our meeting on the same date. She suggests Council liaisons listen to the tape of the park board meeting, or review the draft minutes, to receive information before the April 23<sup>rd</sup> work session.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she agrees with Council Liaison Rasmussen; that the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April should give us a direction to proceed.

Council Liaison Cain reported that there are various sub-issues. We need to know what needs to be done, the cost to connect roads, the location of the amphitheater, etc and where the money will come from. A decision cannot be made without cost. There are so many variables. Will information be gathered prior to the meeting.

Chris said she has not heard how this will be handled. If there is a strong desire to pursue the amphitheatre in a particular area, we will need more than what we have at this current time.

Council Liaison Cain asked which way the amphitheatre would face.

Chris replied that the seating would be at the top facing north. The stage would be at the bottom facing south with the creek behind it. All should remember that this is just an option shown with the purchase of the new land.

Council Liaison Cain asked Chris to clarify if trees would be removed.

Chris replied that the new location would likely require the removal of many trees.

Council Liaison Cain asked who suggested moving it to the potential location.

Chris reported that Scott suggested this as a potential location for discussion. It is out of the flood plain.

Amy reported that this would move it further away from the neighborhoods to the north but it may not be any quieter. She doesn't see the logic in moving it.

Chair Ward Reimer agreed. She doesn't understand why this would be done.

Bob reported that if the Committee remembers when the purchase of the land was being contemplated it was expressly said that it was being contemplated and not considering any pre-

determined plan that had been circulated because we didn't want the purchase to be tainted by any kind of plan that was thrown together by one individual.

Chris reported that she agrees that planning for the new land without knowing where the amphitheater would be located will be a challenge.

Bob reported that it had a home at the time; it still has a home- its original location. We've moved forward. He doesn't understand why a map put together prior to the purchase of the land has a consequence on the existing plan. This doesn't seem appropriate, especially since it was not to be considered as part of the purchase.

Chris reported that a visual learner could get stuck on this. Perhaps Scott will decide to start with the map that shows the utilities, easements, etc.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the Council became stonewalled with the restroom conversation because of the potential of moving the amphitheater. The Council needs materials ahead of time to be productive.

April added that it will cost a lot more if relocated. It could possibly be 20 or 30 million with tree removal, building an expensive bridge, constructing roads and relocating the power and locating water etc. When a bridge was discussed to cross the creek several years ago, it was \$600,000 at that time.

Chris reported that she will talk to Council Liaison Rasmussen when he returns to see if a decision was made when he met with the Mayor. She will also speak with Scott, City Administrator regarding the flow of the agenda for the meeting.

The Committee had a brief discussion about the disbelief of the possibility of moving the amphitheatre is being discussed. The amphitheatre should stay in its current location. Moving it isn't cost effective for the City. The City has spent a lot of money on its current location. Why is this being considered.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if anyone knows where the Mayor stands on the possibility of moving the amphitheatre.

Chris reported that she, like the rest of the governing body, is open to hearing the options. She believes that the Mayor that she isn't opposed to having an amphitheatre but she feels that the full design was too grandiose.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she agrees. This is her opinion as well and has been since the plan was introduced.

Amy added that it is a good step to add the restrooms. People want them and they are really needed. It would be best to build them and move on. Can this be done by summer.

April reported that the restrooms can't be discussed until September 2013. Even being built in 2013 is unrealistic.

Chris reported that the C.I.P work session was held recently and a fair amount of good conversation was had about making sure the money is still available for the restrooms.

Amy asked April if there is a design flaw with its current location. Are there problems with where it is. Does she wish it were somewhere else. Unless something is wrong with it, it should remain.

Lorrie agreed. She doesn't like to see money wasted for no apparent reason.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the amphitheatre will be discussed at the meeting. The plan should be discussed. A portion of the meeting should be about the use for land recently acquired for Ironwoods Park. This is what's driving the meeting. Do we have consensus on the land.

April reported that it isn't an "approved" plan. It was accepted so the Stage Company could start raising funds.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the majority of the Council thinks the plan in its entirety is too much.

April added that when presented the stage company expected modifications but they have never been approached about it. They keep hearing that it can't be discussed.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it is her opinion the discussion of moving the restrooms stopped because of the possibility of moving the amphitheater to the new land. We need as many answers and plans or the meeting may not be productive.

Amy reported that it was always to be done in stages. It was to be built upon if we had the money and if it worked and if it were needed. She attended the meetings ten years ago and we were supposed to build on an as needed basis.

April reported that all that has been approved for fundraising is the stage building.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the Stage Company sat down and compiled a list of what they need. This would be helpful and a great starting point. What would make things run smoother.

April replied that the cast doesn't have water access nor do they or attendees have adequate bathroom facilities. If even a slight rain occurs, they are literally stuck in the mud. There is also no storage. It takes most of the Stage Company budget to bring in trailers and tents for dressing room capabilities for each show. When the weather is hot, it is nearly impossible for the cast to work comfortably.

Chair Karen Ward Reimer reported that she agrees restrooms are needed. An 85 year old man fell in the portable restrooms while attending a performance.

April added that the portable restrooms are not lit and it is dangerous when there is a limited amount of time for intermission and there is a line of people waiting to use the units.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is valuable information. Many people aren't aware of these conditions and what is done to make the show a success. She would vote "yes" for bathrooms and a modified structure if this plan is used to move forward with the things mentioned that are a needed. Restrooms are a necessity.

April added that the power [transformer] is there and the water line isn't far away. The additions are doable.

Chris added that the city did commission a revised master plan to move the building out of the flood plain, while keeping it as far back as possible.

Council Liaison Cain added that she spoke with different people on the Stage Company no one has a clue of what the operating expenses of the building will be. It is important to know the operating cost, the possible return and possibility rents so the Council has a basis to go on.

April reported if it's done well it will be rentable. The operating costs will be covered by the rentals. This will not happen if the space is poorly built.

Bob added that the best way to prevent it from going away is to have a solid proposal to keep it where it is and definitive expenses that make changes prohibited. A list of expenses of the cost for its current location would also be helpful.

Chair Ward Reimer asked April to compile a report for the next meeting.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Staff Reports**

Chris reported that last night at the Council meeting the Foundation presented their check for \$114, 500 fundraised for Gezer Park improvements thus far . Moving forward, they want to focus on the educational pieces. Currently there are 230 people registered to attend the Arti Gras Gala on February 24<sup>th</sup>..

Chris added that Fiddler auditions will be held in a couple of weeks.

Chris reported that *Titanic- The Musical* will be held in April. A minimal admission fee will be charged.

Chris also reported that the summer program guide will drop in the mail March 2.

Kim reported that her staff has been busy working on information for the upcoming guide. Swim and dive team registrations begin on Monday.

Kim also reported that there are roughly 132 teams registered for spring soccer.

Kim reported that spring break camp will begin in a couple of weeks.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the camps are full.

Kim replied that they are not at this time, but it is early.

Chris reported that this has been a great winter due to the minimal snow. The maintenance department has been working a lot on the trail doing cleaning and trail repair.

Chris added that staff will begin working on budgets soon; mid February-May1 are the busiest months for the Parks and Recreation Department, as this is when all the planning and hiring takes place.

Chris also reported that staff is working with the Police Department on upgrading the video cameras at city park to reduce the opportunity for car break-ins.

### **B. Misc.**

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the City Park gate will ever operate properly. Is there a mechanism to make it fully functional.

Chris replied that gate can be closed non-electronically. It is costly to replace everything to make it work properly again but the vandals usually drive around the gates or down the hill. Staff is researching landscaping and possibly adding split-rail as methods to avoid future farming of the fields.

Amy asked the status of the dog park.

Chris reported that she hasn't heard anything lately. Staff is working with Hallbrook Properties to get the deed for the property north of I-435 and west of State Line first.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that there are two openings on the Park Board. It would be nice to have someone with kids using the programs to provide feedback.

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

Chair Karen Ward Reimer reiterated that the next meeting will be held, Wednesday, Mar. 21.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department