

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2012 -5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (chair), Lorrie Hamilton, Amy Vlastic, Doug Stevens, David Harwood and David Coleman.

Board members absent: Bob Wright

Council Liaisons attending: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

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

Guest attending: Kerry Phillips (resident of Steeplechase)

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:41p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the May 8, 2012 minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chair Ward Reimer asked Committee members to introduce themselves and share how long they've served on the Board to make the new members comfortable. She also asked the new members to introduce themselves.

Chair Ward Reimer asked guest Karry Phillips to introduce herself. Karry shared that she lives next to Ironwoods Park and is very interested in the developments.

Chair Ward Reimer thanked Karry for attending.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Discuss any “new” input for Ironwoods Park Development**

Chair Ward Reimer asked the board if they had the opportunity to discuss this with their neighbors who may have different suggestions than previous ideas discussed at prior meetings. She can't imagine additions to the list as it is very thorough.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the list is current and up to date.

Chris reported that it is. She wanted to keep it on the agenda since a meeting is scheduled next week. All input or suggestions not on the list are always welcome.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that this will be on going. The discussions didn't stop after the meeting with the Planning Commission. We will continue discussing this during the summer.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we are in the throw the dart phase. All ideas are welcome; whether feasible, practical or desirable. Everyone's input will be taken.

## **B. Project Updates**

Brian gave an update on the North Lake and Trail. The contractor is getting close to establishing the sub grade, which is the last step before the final grade and paving of the trail. The trail portion may be open by July 4- weather dependent. It would be nice to have the trail open for the Fourth of July event.

Brian reported that they started excavating the pond; approximately two foot of silt that has been removed. Then rock was encountered. Rock has to be removed 18” deeper than the planned final pond depth so that a fat clay and bentonite pond bottom can be installed to seal the pond. The silt removed from the pond is not suitable for use in the sub grade of the trail. The contractor has tried several nearby locations to locate a leaner clay to no avail. Aglime fines have been brought in as an amendment that should bond well and give a good sub grade for the final trail recommended by our consultant. This should bond well and give a good sub grade.

Brian added that the portion of the pond not completely drained has five feet of water in it. A stake was installed to monitor the water level. Currently the water hasn't moved on the stake which means it is not leaking. He is optimistic that un-dredged area of the pond does not leak water.

Brian reported that all storm water pipes have been received as well as the new over flow structure in the pond. It is a cleaner look, much better than the previous structure that will allow water to go over it when it floods. A valve was installed to drain the pond down one foot higher than its current level if needed to drain for whatever reason.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the definite plan. Will fish remain there?

Brian replied that there will be 8 to 10 ft. in the current location and 5 to 6 ft. in the new area depending on how deep they can go with the rock. Fish are stocked regularly; hopefully many of them have remained in the area of the pond that was not completely drained.

Chris reported that they are finishing insurance work in Ironwoods from the hail storm last year. The Lodge (west side) will be painted next Monday.

Brian added that “Introspection” has been installed on Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

Lorrie reported that she's received a lot of compliments on it. The grading work is great.

Brian reported that the water truck pump broke after staff graded sod was installed. The Fire Department assisted them with watering the newly placed sod.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the City Council received the budget book and it referenced the 2013 pocket park for Beatty Park. He feels positive about the outcome and doesn't expect any opposition. He anticipates final approval at the Council meeting, Monday, June 25.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if other Council has expressed thoughts regarding the park.

Chair Liaison Rasmussen replied that he has not received any.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it would be nice to re visit the revised comprehensive master plan before doing anything at Ironwoods. She will work effortlessly to get this done. She has talked to a lot of people who also agree. She is uncertain if this may delay Brook Beatty but it hasn't been done in a long time and is a good idea. It is very important to slow down and not focus all efforts in one place in the City.

Chris reported that there is a section in the budget book that shows the recommendation for funded projects. Brooke Beatty is one that is being recommended for funding. The same page shows unfunded projects requested by staff. The master plan is listed here. She estimated \$80-\$100K. The scope of work will be the driver of the price.

Chris added that Overland Park is currently undergoing the process at a cost of \$124K. She attended a stake holders meeting last week. Different Directors were brought in one at a time and discussed operations.

Chris reminded the board that the last plan was done in 1990 and a lot has changed as the City has continued to develop.

April reported the following on Public Art pieces.

- “Guardian” will be installed into the former Introspection location.
- “My Mind” was moved to Ironwoods Park.
- “Porch Lights” has received additional landscaping.
- “Cloud Gate”-they are still researching power for lighting.
- “Faith” (Brook Beatty Park). If the playground is installed, it will go where the existing art piece is and the art piece will move slightly to the North.

April added that a couple of Committees will select the next piece for the sculpture garden along Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

April reported that they met with Chief Meier to discuss locations for art around the new justice center. Although this will be a year from now, the plan is to put out a call for artist soon.

Chris asked if the piece considered for the sculpture garden is a different location or the previous location of “My Mind”.

April reported that this is to be determined. The piece they would like to negotiate will probably go in the location of *My Mind* but it would need to be elevated to keep it safe from cars in case of an accident and out of the flood plain. There are also times when an artist is brought to Leawood and notices another location with a vision for their piece.

Chris reported that Mayor asked and felt it would be appropriate to put something there before considering another location along the Parkway.

April reported that this is their intention but there are a lot of variables.

### **C. Update on Potential Land Acquisition at Leawood City Park**

Chris reported that she had talked with Mel Lavrey from Hallbrook for seven years regarding the piece of land north of 435 and west of State Line. When interest was raised from citizens about a potential dog park; he was contacted about the property next to City Park. We knew it adjoined the park and wouldn't require additional parking. The land was also not developable for Hallbrook and had no residential border.

Chris added that Mel, who managed the property, retired within the last year. He was replaced by Corey Biggs. She contacted him and left an extensive message requesting he write a letter indicating they are definitely intending to give us this land. We would like it for a dog park but is uncertain if Council is willing to fund this at this time, although it is a short term goal. It is a good acquisition for us either way and Hallbrook knew we wanted the land either way. Staff estimated approximately \$300K to develop the dog park.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it is in the short term goal which means less than a year but it won't be within that timeframe because it is not in the plan and we don't have the land yet.

Chris reported that this is correct. It is not currently even in the unfunded category of the budget for 2013.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he requested addition of this to the agenda to have a record to memorialize the discussion. Within the last thirty days the City Council acquired an unusable piece of land Hallbrook has been trying to unload for twenty-thirty years. The land was turned down by every Political jurisdiction in Johnson County but Leawood approved its purchase. Reason being that it is allegedly for them to convey to us the eight plus acres. Our law is very clear; promises to convey land orally are useless.

A record is needed when and if this happens. For example, people are retiring and what was orally agreed to may get lost. It is nice to establish a record in the City archives about why this was done. Anyone in their right mind would have accepted the land we purchased.

Chair Ward Reimer asked why there is a hold up. Why haven't we received it?

Chris reported that the first task is to acquire the property. She doesn't foresee any future issue in doing so but Lou is correct, we need the commitment in writing.

David Harwood asked if research has been done regarding public/private grants or partnerships that would allow, before they convey the land, to make sure we've eliminated any possible funding mechanism that could be used to develop it.

Chris reported that this can be pursued but not until the land is received.

David added that there are opportunities and grants available that need a private entity and public government agency to work together to apply. It may be a stretch for a park but he has seen it done before. If monies are available, any free money for development looks good for the client who donates the land and looks great for the City as a wise use of Federal funds.

Chris reported that she appreciates this and will have to consider how this will work through our process that states before an application can be made it must go through the Council in regards to a match.

Chris added that she will also discuss this with Corey, maybe he will be interested in discussing it further or may also know of additional opportunities. They will probably be equally interested.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. June 21 Public Forum for Ironwoods Park**

Chair Ward Reimer reported that there will be a public forum on Thursday, June 21, at 6:30 P.M. for Leawood residents to share suggestions about what they would like to see at Ironwoods Park (the newly acquired and existing land). Each speaker will be given three minutes to give their input.

*[Flyers were distributed for Committee members to pass out to their neighbors.]*

Hopefully a good number of people will attend. Jack Reece from the I.T. Dept. will provide audio and visual recording.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that we are hosting the forum so it is very important for Park Board members to have a strong presence.

Chris reported that those unable to attend are welcome to send suggestions to the City Administrator via mail, e-mail or by phone. This will also be a part of the record.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris to include Art in the Park, similar to the Plaza Art Fair but held in the park. This is different than an actual art piece in the park.

Chris reported that she will add this to the list. She misunderstood this request previously.

Chris reported that she believes it was in the Kansas City Star and it was definitely on the website. She wasn't responsible for sending it to the Homes Associations but Chair Ward Reimer will contact the Mayor to make sure this was done.

Chair Ward Reimer asked all to notify Tonia if they are able to attend.

## **B. Staff Reports**

Kim reported that swim lessons, swim teams and all programs and camps in the park all began last week. The first swim meet is tonight. The Challenger Adventure Camp has been widely popular so the maximum was raised. There are four sessions.

Kim added that it has been a challenge promoting programs due to the two main vehicles are no longer available. The Sun newspaper closed and the schools don't allow distribution of flyers in home packets anymore. She is trying a few options to bridge the gap. One is a monthly newsletter on the website and sent to the schools community bulletin board. She currently has thirty-seven subscribers who receive the newsletter.

Kim reported that without social media it is difficult to get our information out as opposed to folks having to come and look for it. All information posted on the website must go through an approval process, which is not always instantaneous.

Chris added that she understands the dilemma, but this is the current position of the City Administrator, who has concerns about utilizing it. Right now, the only entity that has Facebook is the golf course. The Police Department has made an inquiry as well.

Chair Ward Reimer asked not having it is a legal issue.

Chris reported that she is not really sure but believes it may be more of a comfort level regarding postings from the outside.

Lorrie added that she suspects the concern is those commenting on versus what Leawood would put out.

David Harwood added that Facebook can be adjusted to disable comments. This has been done with some of their industry sites. A lot of the school systems, particularly at the high school level, are using Facebook exclusively. E-mail has become last century type technology. It would be nice to be in the Facebook arena. It is not a question of should we or shouldn't we, it is more why haven't we.

David added that the easiest way to communicate is a smart phone; all notifications are received at one location. He pulled up information on his smart phone to show everyone how quickly he could access information.

Lorrie reported that she thinks Parks & Recreation needs a Facebook presence. This is the first place most people go to receive communication. It would be nice to publicize programs that don't meet enrollment requirements or facility rental opportunities following cancellations. Posting information on a routine basis could increase enrollment.

Kim added that it would make is quick and easy when last minute changes are made. We have a text messaging service that costs us \$1500 per year; many soccer participants signed up to receive the text messages but it isn't highly favorable for camps, etc. An additional \$1500 is spent yearly for the inclement phone line.

David Coleman asked if Council has discussed this before.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is the first she's heard of it; to her knowledge it hasn't.

Amy reported that pictures can be added to promote programs, which would be another advantage.

Chris reported that she follows all of the other Parks and Recreation Agencies just to see what is going on within their departments.

Lorrie asked if other municipalities have Facebook and Twitter.

Kim reported that they do. Most have both.

Lorrie reported that we need to get up to speed.

David Coleman replied that this needs to be brought up to Council- that other entities and Cities are using it. Why can't we and who would operate it.

Kim reported that this could be administered by her staff. They know their programs better than anyone.

Amy made a motion that the Parks & Recreation Committee would like to research the possibility of getting a social network presence with both Facebook and Twitter to see if it is feasible for our City.

David Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Amy suggested offering a survey to receive feedback.

David Harwood reported that this is a great opportunity to engage the entire community in discussion about the great resources we are trying to develop. A moderator may be needed to watch comments. There is an opportunity for interactive discussion amongst community members. Legal counsel may also provide guidance.

Chair Ward Reimer added that this will be a great tool when going through the Master Plan process.

Council Liaison Cain offered to make a staff report at the next Council meeting to say this is the recommendation of the Park Board.

Council Liaison Rasmussen clarified that Council Liaison Cain will speak with the Mayor and get it on the agenda for the next Council meeting. After which she will make a recommendation that staff investigate the feasibility of establishing a Facebook and Twitter presence. It will then be brought to Scott Lambers jurisdiction to approve or disapprove.

Kim distributed parking passes for the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. The Shanks Band will perform again this year.

Brian reported that the Spoke-N-Art event was cancelled due to low enrollment. After researching other municipalities he found there were a lot of different special events and other bike rides going on that weekend. They will try to plan better in the future when selecting a date. Perhaps in the fall.

Brian reported that the Police Department offered a bike rodeo with three sessions the same week and attendance was also low.

Brian added that the American Academy of Family Physicians was trying to have a bike to work day that same Friday. He gave a bike clinic on how to commute by bike with great attendance and he was contacted the day of the event that they didn't have enough employees sign up and they were cancelling the event.

Brian reported that the Committee discussed that they will meet soon to plan an event in conjunction with the Police in the fall. Hopefully they will have better attendance.

Chris agreed that this is a good idea.

Brian added that he would like to see share the road signs and also signs posted to reflect certain areas to make motorists aware of popular bike routes. He will contact the Engineering, Police and Traffic Departments to bring this to fruition.

David Harwood reported that there is also potential grant money for bike initiatives; this is huge.

Brian reported that staff will get together with the sub-panel and provide an update of what's accomplished to date and what is next moving forward as well as provide feedback. The Planning Director of the Mid America Regional Council will attend and provide insight.

Brian also reported that the Bike Committee discussed it would be nice to have destination orientation signs on the trail.

Chris reported that this is a good idea. QR Codes can possibly be used.

Brian reported that his staff recently trimmed overhanging limbs on the trail. They will drain Gezer pond soon to remove algae. This is done once a year.

Brian added that the asphalt will be removed around the outside of the pool (on the north exterior side) and concrete installed. The asphalt is wearing out and needs a facelift.

Council Liaison Cain reported that a neighbor asked when new pool furniture will be purchased.

Kim reported that we are on a rotating basis of purchasing twenty chairs per year.

April reported that they are also discussing offering a QR Code for each art piece that could be available sometime this summer.

April added that a reception will be held for Stretch (“Guardian”) on July 10. The time is undetermined but she will coordinate it prior to the Park Board meeting. This date was chosen due to a lot of activity at City Hall that day.

April reported that the last art show was at Leawood Fine Art. The next one will be held in October at the Rice Gallery.

April added that they are in the middle of the Grinnin & Groovin series.

April reported that the stage company is in rehearsals for “Fiddler on the Roof”. It will be in July. April added that they will audition for “Nunsense” soon, which will be presented in November.

April reported that the schoolhouse has been very busy. They are reading the “Wizard of Oz”. An activity is also done in relation to scenes in the book.

April reported that her summer employee Chris will begin working again soon.

Chris reported that the Taste of Leawood was again a success this year. The Leawood Foundation provided discount coupons for next year’s Arti Gras event.

Chris reported that a Work Session will be held Monday to discuss Parks and Recreation cost recovery. She is pleased with the Parks and Recreation team and what they are doing. We are above the national average. She, Kathy Byard (Budget Manager) and Dawn Long (Finance Director) met to discuss everything prior to and make sure the slides were current before presenting them to Council. She will bring this information to the next Park Board meeting.

Chris added that we’ve also reinvestigated fees to see where we are in the market. This is done yearly. We drive our own fees. The only reason to test what’s out there is to make sure we are not competing unfairly.

Chris reported that the golf course continues to do extremely well. A recommendation will be made to Council to request an extension of the Troon Golf Management Group through 2015, at which the bonds will be paid off.

### **III. Misc.**

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he vaguely recalls a policy in regards to food vendors in our parks. Has there been any thought about food coaches at our facilities and/or special events such as the fourth of July. We have been tight about this issue and understandably so, but wondered if staff or Committee members have any thought about using them.

Kim reported that the food truck vendors are popular but we haven’t explored that option. We have a number of vendors for special events for which we get a booth fee.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that during his many trips to California, he noticed in Beverly Hills food coaches are used in their parks. The City receives revenue from them.

April reported that she spoke with a pizza truck vendor who is being considered for the jazz series. She doesn’t have a volunteer base to staff people for food concessions.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris if anything is in writing regards this.

Chris reported that something is in writing regarding what is prohibited and when and also the licensing.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris to provide him a copy of the policy in his inbox.

Chris reported that vendors are charged a minimal booth fee for the two major events we have, which are both weather dependent. We hope the vendors are successful and come back each year.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that Tonia provided a committee roster for each member tonight. Please notify her of any updates and she will send a final copy to the Committee.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she would like to discuss details regarding the celebration of the Parks and Recreation Department being in existence 40 years in 2013. We need to start thinking seriously about this. She would like a fifteen minute brainstorming session at the July meeting. She is excited about the possibility of having a dog parade.

Chris reported that an additional \$5000.00 was added for fireworks display next year for a total of \$30,000.

David Coleman asked if the City has a policy regarding land acquisition. Is there a certain percentage of land that should be provided by developers as open space? In his previous home town in Connecticut (similar to Leawood in terms of land size and population) they had them same issues. For example if an old farm becomes available, the Council is working with the State to purchase it for open space. Looking ahead, does the City of Leawood have a policy regarding a certain amount of land that should be used for open space?

Chris reported that in her opinion, the City grew so quickly that most of what might have been available was already owned by a developer. The City of course is always interested in what might be available. There isn't a policy currently to address this.

David Harwood asked if there are lists of documents and a map of information that could be helpful to himself and David, new members to research to get on board with the Parks & Recreation Department.

April replied that the program guide is a wealth of information. There is information about the parks, and programs we provide. This is the best for quickly understanding Parks & Recreation.

Chris asked David if he is more interested in a strategic plan. Is that what you are talking about?

David Harwood replied that he would prefer strategic plans, general plans, comprehensive plans or projects in the works or monumental things that have happened that affect the way Parks & Recreation is run. He would like an understanding and history is a valuable teaching tool.

Chris reported that this specific type of information isn't available but she is happy to meet with them to go over a synopsis of the history of the department, etc.

David Harwood requested, if possible, a "lunch and learn" where he and David Coleman can acquire this information.

Chair Ward Reimer agreed that this is a great idea. She, Chris and Park Board members that are available can attend. At this time, they can ask questions and information can be provided. She will discuss potential dates to bring them on board before the July meeting. This will be very beneficial.

David Coleman reported that when he was on the Overland Park Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, the new members were given a tour to familiarize them with all things in the City; a staff member took them on a road trip to welcome them to the Committee.

David Coleman added that this would be great. He is familiar with City Park but isn't aware of some of the smaller parks discussed tonight.

Lorrie reported that when she joined, she found the website to be very helpful. It lists all of the parks and information about them.

April added that all of the art pieces are on the website as well.

**IV. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – July 10, 2012**

Amy Vlastic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Harwood seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

DRAFT