

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – Aug 14, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

Board members in attendance: Amy Vlastic, Lorrie Hamilton, Bob Wright, Doug Stevens, David Coleman and David Harwood.

Board members absent: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair)

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

Staff members present: Kim Curran, April Bishop and Tonia Morgan.

Staff members absent: Chris Claxton and Brian Anderson

Amy Vlastic called the meeting to order at 5:47p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the July 10, 2012 minutes. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Suggestions for 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - 2013**

Amy reported that she and Council Liaison Cain would like a dog parade. It would be nice to offer food for the dogs. Maybe a local dog vendor can be contacted to possibly set up a booth.

Council Liaison Cain added that it would be fun to have the dogs parade in costume.

Kim reported that it could possibly coincide with a City event such as the Doggie Dunk, 4<sup>th</sup> of July or Fall Festival.

Amy reported that it would be best for staff to discuss this. They can decide what event is best.

April reported that there are historic baseball games that could be implemented, with turn of the century rules. She will research this for more specific information.

Council Liaison Cain and Amy liked this suggestion.

Amy reported that we could also incorporate an ice cream social and invite Mr. Stinky Feet to perform and make it a family day.

Dave reported that Overland Park recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> but is uncertain if their Parks and Recreation Department did anything special.

Amy reported that she would like Chris to look into this.

Kim reported that she is sure something was done but isn't sure.

April reported that a 40<sup>th</sup> logo for camp t-shirts etc. can be created and used throughout the year; Similar to what was done for the city's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Dave suggested that everyone can dress in 1970's outfits for the event. This would incorporate the year we actually began, which is 1973.

Amy added that if we decide to have a party, it could have a disco theme with a 1970's DJ.

Several Committee members suggested different bands. David pulled up the top ten groups from the seventies on his I-Pad.

David asked if a small event would be done at each park. It would be nice to take the celebration to each park in the community and incorporate it with events already scheduled for a particular park.

Amy asked if events have been held at Gezer Park or I-Lan Park in the past.

Kim reported that they haven't due to limited parking at both parks.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she has always thought we should do a regatta at Gezer Park. It would be fun to float little boats or floating ducks down the wadie. She suggested this when fundraising was taking place for Gezer Park.

Amy wonders if floating ducks can be done at Gezer Park. She wouldn't want to spend a lot of money but a duck for a dollar is reasonable.

Kim added that the ducks could be numbered.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the amount of water flow at Gezer can be regulated. She believes it can be increased. This would be a good way to raise money for the dog park.

Kim reported that she can find this information out.

Doug added that the money raised could go towards the master plan.

David reported that it would be nice to incorporate this with the numerous Cub Scout troops in Leawood. It could possibly go along with their summer rain gutter regatta event.

Amy reported that she doesn't think they do this anymore. Cub scouts do pine wood derby's instead.

Doug reported that the dog parade could be tied into partnership with the Great Plains SPCA or a comparable organizational charity event.

Dave reported that it would be nice to have a 70's concert with a band.

Dave also suggested a car show with automobiles from 1973.

Amy reported that it would be nice to center it around the seventies if not 1973 specifically.

Council Liaison Cain agreed.

Dave reported that it would be a nice addition if we are able to afford a popular 1970's group still touring.

Amy suggested that Committee members should Google popular groups from the seventies.

Lorrie added that *Hard at Play* is a band that plays Chicago and Earth Wind & Fire songs. She is unsure how much they charge.

David searched the top ten groups/songs from the seventies and committee members had a brief discussion of popular groups.

Amy added that it would be nice to have our own special day to celebrate.

Council Liaison Cain added that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event brings huge crowds. It would be a fun event to have a dog parade along with a costume party while seventies music is playing but is concerned if it's a bad idea to have the dog parade that day with all of the dogs in the park.

Amy replied that the fireworks going off wouldn't be good for the dogs.

Council Liaison Cain agreed.

Kim suggested that an option would be to have it during the Fall Festival or in conjunction with Doggie Dunk.

Amy suggested Labor Day weekend would possibly be a good time. It is hard to come up with specific ideas until an anniversary budget is determined.

Amy reported that all are fun ideas but we need Chris, Karen and staff to discuss this further. Committee members can e-mail additional ideas to Chris or bring them to the September meeting.

## **B. Discuss Further Developments Re: Facebook & Twitter**

*Chris provided a report tonight during her absence.*

Kim reported that Mark Andrasik, Director of I.S. has researched the issue of social media and has Twitter accounts set up for Fire, Police, Parks and Administration. He also established a Facebook account that isn't published. She is uncertain if they have been released to the public.

Kim added that there are two items that need to be addressed before moving forward. 1.) Establish social media policies through Human Resources. He received Overland Parks as a guide. 2.) Determine who would manage the account moving forward. It is important to make sure this person would manage it responsibly.

Amy reported that she heard the Parks and Recreation Department would post items but people could not comment if/when it's established. It would be a read only account. She is unsure if people would be able to "like" on the account.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the Green Committee and Arts were hoping to possibly do the same. The list Kim reported is short sided.

April reported that they all fall under Parks & Recreation.

Lorrie asked if the Parks and Recreation Department would have a specific Facebook page so as not to be confused with a City of Leawood page. This is what we need. It should be used as a communication tool for specific summer camps, cancellations, closures, etc. We need to get more publicity to the public. She recently registered for a class that canceled due to low enrollment. Facebook is a great place to do this.

Kim reported that she is uncertain if it will be department specific. She agrees it will be nice to get the word out about last minute details.

Amy reported that more people may “friend” the Parks and Recreation Department, which is fun, and follow what’s going on in our parks rather than the City of Leawood in general.

Bob reported that there are Facebook policies that prevent the City of Leawood from having a Facebook page. They prefer us to have Leawood Parks & Recreation as opposed to the City of Leawood. It needs to be specific to the location.

Kim reported that we are in a holding pattern. The City Administrator asked us to wait while he investigates another option, Everbridge, a mass notification system is currently being considered by Johnson County, Overland Park, Lenexa and Olathe.

Council Liaison Cain asked if this is in addition to or instead of.

Amy asked if Everbridge would allow posting pictures.

Kim reported that she is unaware of either of these questions at this time.

Lorrie reported that the Committee needs to be very clear what we need. Anyone with a Facebook account can access Leawood Parks and Recreation. Hopefully, if chosen, Everbridge is the same. She hopes Everbridge doesn’t require each person to sign up first. This is important.

David reported that the City should research Denver Parks and Recreation; they have a great Facebook presence. Many cities have a Parks and Recreation Facebook page and are using them to effectively communicate. The Human Resources issue is a big issue as far as having the proper policies in place. Several groups have put together generic Human Resources policies for Communities. He is certain the HR Dept., as well as the Legal Dept. should be able to access this.

Council Liaison Cain asked the Human Resources issue from the cities side. What is the issue with the Parks Department posting a canceled swim class?

David reported that there isn’t a policy on how to administer the Facebook site.

Kim added that the issue would be a disgruntled patron posting undesired comments or an angry staff member commenting negatively about a patron. This would protect these types of issues.

Amy reported that photos could also be an issue. It would be nice to post photos of the musical, etc. but understands posting certain photos could be a problem.

Kim reported that photos of children could also be a problem, if not administered correctly.

Amy reported that her concern is if someone doesn’t want a picture of them posted in their swim suit at the pool, etc. How is this handled. How are pictures chosen for the program guide. Is there a written consent.

Kim reported that there is consent on the waiver which also includes pictures chosen for the website. But, there is also the *what if* case.

Lorrie reported that she likes Dave’s suggestion to look at other established Parks and Recreation Departments on Facebook; it is obviously working elsewhere. Maybe the concerns aren’t as big as Leawood thinks they might be. It would be beneficial to share the list with the City Administrator and the I.T. Dept.

Council Liaison Cain reported that eventually Parks and Recreation, Arts Council, and Sustainability should stand alone and have their own Facebook presence. This would be helpful for clear messages as well as clear followers.

Kim reported that she agrees. The Sustainability Committee is putting out an entirely different realm of information.

Council Liaison Cain added that this is her point exactly. They put out information about rain barrels etc., It is great if someone on the Parks & Recreation Facebook page is interested in this, if so, they can be a “friend” of both.

### **C. Follow –Up Regarding Receipt of Packets relating to the recent Forum**

Kim reported that an e-mail was sent to the Park Board Committee regarding the following:

Scott Lambers, City Administrator asked Chris to hold off distributing the packets until the meeting on Brook Beatty is held August 23, 6:30p.m. Tonia provided a handout regarding the upcoming meeting.

Amy asked if Committee members should attend.

Kim replied that they should attend the meeting.

Amy reported that all who are able to attend should make this a priority.

Kim added that the two Council work sessions regarding the master plan will be held Monday, Sept. 17 and Monday, Oct. 1. They will be held at 6p.m. It would be important for Park Board members to also attend.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the last time we ran into the planning process somehow it morphed into a Community Recreation Center discussion. This time out, the City Council voted to concentrate on parks and not Parks and Recreation that is i.e. Brook Beatty, I-Lan, Gezer, Ironwoods etc. and not get involved in all the other ins and outs of recreation activities. The scope of the work is crucial. In his judgment the intent of the City Council was basically the parks and inter connections like the greenways and the trails. We won’t get into school activities, yoga, etc. His vote was to concentrate on the parks.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she agrees totally. The vote was to update, not categorically review the entire department. It reads Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

Amy reported that if she understands correctly, we don’t need the recreation part analyzed at all.

Council Liaison Cain reported that we don’t want it. It will take everything just to get focused on the parks, the new land at Ironwoods, the trail system etc. If the meeting is spent discussing baseball and soccer etc., it will dilute the efforts.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we don’t want it to morph into something else.

Lorrie asked if this plays into figuring out what to put in the new space at Ironwoods. We need to know the needs and wants of the area.

Council Liaison Cain reported yes and no.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she wants to know what every department thinks; Parks and Recreation, Public Works, the maintenance staff etc. Everyone should have the opportunity to prioritize. Council should have the opportunity to look at it as a whole. Priorities could differ amongst Council members. We need to ask people in different departments their priorities and go from there regarding the parks and the trails. At that point the specific needs could be determined. We don't want to go through fee structures etc. This is high on her list.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that he agrees but speaking from experience there can be mission creep as we've experienced as a City. In relation to the example regarding soccer, etc. we don't want to get into the ins and outs of the soccer program, premier, the small vs. big kids etc. The meeting should be focused on the park facilities.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we are trying to develop a scope of work for a consultant to come in. We want to be very careful about what we are asking them to do.

#### **D. Mayors Thank You – {Continued from July meeting}**

Kim reported that Chair Ward Reimer asked to repeat that the Mayor sent her a nice note thanking everyone for attending the interact meeting in June, as several members of the committee were not at the last meeting.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Staff Reports**

*Kim reported on behalf of Chris and Brian due to their absence.*

#### Brian's report:

The North Lake & Trail opened August 1. It will be closed temporarily in September so the final hydro-seeding can be accomplished that will allow the grass to grow in the disturbed areas.

The lake is being back filled with the clay and bentonite layers. The contractor is hoping to be complete with the lake construction near the end of August.

David reported that the willow planting will be done in September with his oldest son. He is hoping to get a second Eagle project in the Spring. This depends on the Scout Council.

Kim thanked David and his Scouts for re-foresting us.

Lorrie reported that she was planning on asking Brian if the new overflow at the north end of the north lake has a man hole lid. Several people of her morning trail users have requested a pad lock. She can open the lid. They are afraid exploring children may climb in there to get to the pipe that goes to the creek. She assumes this will be taken care of in the project once complete and turned over by the contractor to the City but wants to make sure.

Kim reported that she will e-mail Brian to notify him of the concern.

Kim reported that the pool will be painted this fall. Open bids will be accepted on August 27. The work would be scheduled shortly after the agreement is approved on the September 17th Council agenda. Fall will be easier to do this than the spring.

Kim reported that Dustin and Brian will conduct a free tree planting class on Sept. 29, 9:00-11:00 a.m. in the Oak Room.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the Green Committee is aware. If not, they should be notified. She missed the last meeting but Brian is on the Committee so he probably reported it.

Kim reported that the maintenance staff will be seeding the north and south areas of Tomahawk Park this fall. The dry weather has killed most of the current new grass. They will also seed areas south of soccer field #1 and the newly constructed concrete sidewalk around the outside of the pool. The asphalt trail leading to Lee Blvd. on the north side of the pool has been redone. This work was done in house by Scott Fanning and his crew.

Kim reported that the pool will begin half-day hours tomorrow. The hours are 4:00-8:00 p.m., weekdays and 4:00-9:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Kim reported that swim team took third place in Junior Novice Level 2.

Kim reported that cabin rentals and scout programs are increasing at the Nature Center. The Challenge course programs are also busy.

Kim also reported that the fall soccer deadline has passed. Currently there are over 1400 participants enrolled. This number will continue to increase with four-five year olds and kindergarten registrations still coming in.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he was asked at the July meeting to find out what time he noticed the children practicing at Mission Farms. He went there after the meeting and they were practicing at 7:30 p.m. He left Chris a message notifying her of the time. Obviously this wasn't a onetime occurrence. He asked that they contact Chris if they need practice fields.

Kim reported that the Labor Day Run will be held September 3. The Doggie Dunk is September 4. The dock dogs will return this year.

Kim reported that the fall program guide has been mailed. Registrations will begin next week.

April reported that "Fiddler on the Roof" was a success. Hopefully all Committee members had a chance to see it.

April added that this has been a busy summer at the school house.

April reported that the last of three American Girl doll events will be held this Saturday. The following weekend she will host a free back to school celebration. Kids can make crafts and play games in the school yard.

April also reported that the Jazz Series begins this Sunday, there are three consecutive concerts held at the amphitheatre. It is a fun yet relaxing event for adults and children. Popcorn and water will be provided.

April reported that "Nonsense" will be performed in November. Tickets are available for purchase at the front desk of the Parks and Recreation Department. She anticipates selling out. Auditions will be held in September. She encouraged Committee members to spread the word if they know of any adult women interested in being singing nuns. It's a hysterical show. Purchase tickets early.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he had a conversation with the Mayor and City Administrator a while ago regarding the maintenance of Lllooppi and the absolute frustration people have concerning keeping the lights on. He has also received negative comments regarding the art piece at the Lodge and people complaining that it sits in the corner collecting dust.

Council Liaison Rasmussen brought these issues to the City Council who referred both back to the Arts Council. What are the options regarding the lighting issues with Lllooppi? Should we give up hope to keep it lit? And, should the art piece at the Lodge be sold? Both issues will be discussed at the Arts Council meeting next week.

April reported that she spoke with the artist, Nate Fors, and told him that unless he can come up with an alternative lighting solution the light fiber cable will be removed. The ball is in his court.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he thought we had total control once we transferred property from the artist over.

April reported that we do and we don't. It would be highly improper to altar the artist work. It is best to contact them before any alterations are done. In regards to the piece in the Lodge, the artist is putting together a cost estimate to clean and galvanize it, and give it a patina so it could move outside. That piece was purchased for \$4,000 and is currently worth \$40,000. This piece would probably move to the sculpture garden.

Council Liaison Cain asked who is responsible for the cost to have it galvanized. It is amazing that the cost has increased so significantly.

April reported that the Arts Council will incur the cost and it will come out of the public art maintenance fund.

Council Liaison Rasmussen recalls that it will rust if it is put outside.

April reported that this is correct. It is steel. It will rust everywhere without the patina.

Council Liaison Cain asked if a timeframe was given to the artist for Lllooppi.

April reported that he was not given a timeframe; she has played phone tag with him.

Council Liaison Cain suggested imposing a deadline.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if it would be wise to sell the Lodge piece since it's worth so much money.

April replied that we can't do this because a lot of people like it.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the selling price could increase due to its popularity. The money could be used for the Arts Council.

Council Liaison Rasmussen is happy to finally see progress being made on both issues.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is on the Arts Council; the Justice Center will be a huge space when built. We may be able to find a place for the art piece to stay inside.

April reported that Chief Meier won't allow them to do so.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he understands this. He is certain they don't want to build a Justice Center and become a dumping ground for pieces of art that were never originally contemplated for it.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the art piece is under-appreciated and undervalued at its current location in the corner at the Lodge. It would be more beautiful if given the opportunity to view it in appropriate light. This could be either outside or inside.

**III. B. Misc.**

*There were no miscellaneous items discussed.*

**IV. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – September 11, 2012**

Amy reported that at the July meeting Chair Ward Reimer requested having the September meeting in one of the parks. I-Lan Park was discussed.

Kim reported the Parks and Recreation Supervisors will attend the September meeting.

Amy reported that this is great. In the last year meetings have been held at Gezer and City Park.

Council Liaison Cain asked if Committee members saw that the recent issue of the 435 South magazine that voted on the "Cloud Gate" art piece. The piece was titled incorrectly but it was nice to be recognized.

Amy reported that the photo in the magazine was really nice.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the landscaping also looked great.

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department