

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2012 - 5:30 p.m.
I-Lan Park , 127th and Nall

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair), Lorrie Hamilton, Bob Wright, David Coleman and Amy Vlasic.

Board members absent: Doug Stevens and David Harwood.

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

Staff members present: Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brian Anderson, April Bishop, Jeff Peterson, Dan Mahanke, Shelly Pollock, Cody Kennedy, Brock Shafer and Tonia Morgan.

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

Chair Ward Reimer thanked everyone for meeting at I – Lan Park.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the August 14, 2012 minutes. Dave Coleman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chris asked everyone to introduce themselves as all may not know the full time staff attending tonight.

Guest attending: Angela Paul (Resident of Leawood)

I. Special Business

A. Discuss Bridge at Gezer Park

Mrs. (Angela) Paul (resident) reported that she was invited by Brian tonight to share her story of what happened to her son at Gezer Park. She is the mother of six year old triplets. While visiting Gezer Park recently (August 2), as they arrived, her sons ran across the bridge towards the play equipment. While doing so, one of them stumbled on the bridge and was seriously injured after falling head-first off the bridge and into the wadie. He cracked his head on the rocky creek and also broke his glasses. A parent drove them to Children’s Mercy South. The cat-scan came back negative but it was a very scary situation. He ended up with a deep cut on the hair line and a concussion. She passed around pictures she took of the area of the creek and where he stumbled on.

Mrs. Paul reported that while waiting for the friends to arrive, she took mental note of how many children walk through the park on their way home from Mission Trail Elementary School; some are alone, some with parents, either on foot or riding scooters. A lot of children utilize the park.

Mrs. Paul reported that she talked to Brian prior to the meeting and understands that the bridge deck is within code and a rail system wasn’t required. She is proposing the City does something to prevent this from happening to other children in the future.

Mrs. Paul reported that she spoke with other concurred moms whose children also run the moment they arrive at the park. They question what will happen if a child was riding a bike and

falls into the creek. Aesthetically it's a beautiful park but the City needs to do a better job protecting children there.

They chose to reside in Leawood twice; once when they married nineteen years ago and when they moved back four years ago. They chose it because it is safe; there are good businesses, and the community is nice. If this were to happen to a single child walking home alone it wouldn't be a good situation.

Brian reported that since this happened he measured the height from the bottom of the creek on every bridge; all are thirty inches or less. He checked with the City building codes and this is the standard threshold for not requiring a guard rail or barrier. The plans were reviewed thoroughly during the planning process as well.

Brian added that Mrs. Paul sent he and Chris an e-mail regarding this. Both agreed it best to bring it before the Park Board for further discussion.

Mrs. Paul reported that she is here tonight to make sure something is done. Her son missed three days of school due to this accident. She has spoken with many moms who are now evaluating the park every time they go since this accident happened. The mom she was with the night of the accident now refers to it as "the stumble". When she took pictures last week she noticed a fair amount of elderly who walk in the park. This would be unfortunate if one of them lost their balance and had a similar accident. She added that it would be different if it was a grassy area underneath but it is water and rocks. She hopes the Committee considers recommending a rail system. She is going to work diligently to get something done and stated that she isn't going away until this is resolved.

Mrs. Paul asked the Committee for any questions/thoughts.

Dave reported that he too has three small children who do the same thing with jumping around. They also attend Mission Trail and visit Gezer Park often and has also noticed that there are rocks used everywhere throughout the park. Was this considered when the park was first thought of? Was there concern about the rocks in the area? Rocks are up and down the stream.

Brian reported that the intent of the wadie was aesthetics. It also serves as drainage way as we get natural drainage when it rains. It was purposely built as shallow as we could get it and still keep the water moving. He added that using natural stone was an attempt to bring in the elements found in the Gezer Region of Israel to Leawood. A wadie is usually a dry creek bed that typically has stone and sand and collects water when it rains.

Dave asked if staff has received reports of any past injuries.

Brian reported that to his knowledge we have not.

Chris confirmed this.

Brian added if a railing is not designed correctly kids will climb it. If a railing is considered, design standards and safety guidelines must be met. Kids always find a way to climb things even if the structure is not intended for that purpose. He is uncertain of anything that wouldn't be climbable.

Bob added that kids also find a way to use railings as skateboard ramps too. Is there some way to soften the landing; possibly one big rock instead.

Mrs. Paul reported that her final thought is she ultimately wants to know what the City is going to do about this issue. This has to be resolved in order for she and her husband to not be very vocal about this with the public. They are not going away.

Chris reported that the Committee and staff are willing to take a look at this. They will research options that can be considered.

Chris also addressed Dave's comment regarding concerns about the rocks when the park was designed. The rocks weren't a focus concern. It was the water that was discussed as staff went through the planning stages. Each time we've done water at a park there are always questions about the details. When working with the architect for Gezer, they made sure the width of the bridge was adequate for two-way passing, which it is.

Chris added that after she received the call from Mrs. Paul, she visited the park. She is certainly willing to take a look at the options. She and Brian will take a look and report back to the Park Board at the next meeting. The Park Board is a recommending board and not policy making, although their input is desired and considered.

Council Liaison Cain reported that state regulations are followed when accidents occur at intersections and people contact the City regarding a possible light in the area. There are set policies for the state. She is assuming if we have a thirty inch code we can't be the only one. Will this be investigated?

Chris reported that we are only accountable for our own code in this case. It would also potentially be something we can visit by looking at other parks in other communities. We have a lot of resources with other agencies to see if they've experienced similar issues. It would also be helpful to ask if they have suggestions of what can be done.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it would be nice to know if there are trouble spots in other parks. She is also a mother of three and has experienced broken bones, and gashes. We can't rubber bumper all of Leawood. We can't guarantee that accidents won't happen.

Mrs. Paul added that she doesn't have any design background but the bridge side is like a parking block. It was poorly designed. It would be different if it were water and sand but this is more of an issue, especially when dealing with jagged rocks.

Council Liaison Cain asked Mrs. Paul if she thinks the accident occurred specifically because he tripped on the rock rather than the fact that he ran off the end.

Mrs. Paul reported that he didn't run off the end, he tripped and went down head-first.

Bob asked if the side was sand, would it prevent this from happening.

Mrs. Paul added that she isn't asking for this type of redesign but this area is an issue. She would think the City would want to look into this.

Amy asked if the landscape architect can look into this and find a safer way to landscape the area. Can the rocks be removed and add something softer, possibly grass. She suggests planting some of the tall grass near the ends that could be a buffer for a softer landing.

Chris reported that we could research options for the bridge but looking to replace the entire 700' of creek bed would likely not be an option.

Council Liaison Cain reported that there are multiple bridges in multiple areas. She is there almost daily and agrees that the park is heavily used.

Mrs. Paul reported that Loose Park in Missouri has walkways near water and there is a small park in Prairie Village with a shallow screen but there are no walkways. They waded through the water but there is nothing to get hung up on. She asked Brian if she will be contacted once this moves through.

Brian replied that she will be contacted.

Bob made a motion that the Committee recommends Brian works with the citizen to come up with a few alternative suggestions and research further to bring it back to the next Park Board meeting for further discussion.

Lorrie seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Brian reported that he will do this. He appreciates the good ideas discussed tonight.

Mrs. Paul added that she understands it won't prevent every kid from running through the park because they are excited to be there, and it is a long haul to get to the actual playground from the parking lot, but she would also like to propose signage that reads, "Please slow down, please be careful on the bridges". These would help and may catch a mom's eye. The City of Leawood can do a better job.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested painting the four raised stone ends of the bridges a bright color to draw your attention and identify the area more clearly. Another suggestion would be to place shrubs at the ends to funnel people towards the middle and not the edge of the area.

Mrs. Paul reported that she likes these suggestions. She thanked Brian and the Committee for their time. She looks forward to hearing the options.

Chris thanked Mrs. Paul for coming.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she would like to have it on record that Mrs. Paul is very determined to get her concerns resolved. We have to be careful when people say, "I will not go away until my problem is resolved", this needs to be taken seriously.

Amy reported that she understands the parents' concern. This is a park with multiple water features, which is very beautiful. The wade in general can be a hazard to small children. The park is full of water hazards and is not toddler friendly. The area is to look pretty not to trounce on. She has noticed children running around the creek a lot and their parents are standing there. It would be nice to put something soft under the bridge in case someone tumbles off.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she fell off of a bridge once but it happened because she wasn't paying attention.

Bob reported that softening the landing is a better solution rather than raising the height of the fall, which a railing would potentially do. He also agrees with Lou's suggestion about shrubberies to encourage crossing in the middle versus on the side.

Lorrie reported that she agrees. The City should look at it but shouldn't devote a lot of hours to it. Accidents happen; it is a park.

Dave reported that his three children have run across that bridge several times; he tells them to walk but kids don't listen most of the time. Adding shrubbery would be nice. Kids can fall on the

side without firm footing. He questions what can be put down there that won't hurt a kid. It is a couple feet drop and if a child falls it's going to hurt them but they won't fall off if they don't run.

Amy and several Committee members agree that this is nearly impossible. Children run a lot.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that children also fall off jungle gyms and other play equipment.

Amy reported that she agrees that accidents do happen.

B. Request for Geocaching in Parks

Brian reported that following a request from someone who called him, a guest was invited to attend the meeting tonight to discuss this but they are not here.

Chris requested that this topic be tables if and when the person can be present.

Amy and other Committee members asked for a definition of what geocaching is.

Dave reported that he researched this prior to the meeting and Wikipedia describes it as: "An outdoor recreational activity in which the participants use a GPS receiver to hide and seek containers called catches anyway in the world." They bury them and use the GPS system to find where it is.

Lorrie reported that it is high-tech hide and seek.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it is hide and seek for adults.

Amy asked why we would have a problem doing this.

Kim reported that it is a high-tech scavenger hunt. The problem is they dig holes to hide things in the parks.

Bob reported that people are already burying Tupperware boxes and posting the location to find it on line. From what he has seen they are already doing this in the parks.

Brian reported that the person who called inquired about receiving permission to put a geocaching stop at the new North Lake area. He researched on line and found that one has been notified as being located at I-Lan Park. We weren't aware we had this.

Jeff reported that there are several at Ironwoods.

Tonia reported that she has received requests from Girl Scout Troops and birthday parties to do the same at City Park.

Committee members expressed it was nice to receive a request for permission to do this.

II. Old Business

A. Update on Brook Beatty Park

Chris reported that there was a preliminary meeting on August 23rd at the Leawood Police station. Council Members Rasmussen, Osman, and Filla attended, as well as Lorrie Hamilton from the Park Board.

Chris added that most comments concerned: potential trespassing on the neighbor's property, the traffic on Lee Boulevard, and parking on Meadow Lane. There is a drainage creek that is at least 50% on the resident's property not on the Park property. They commented there were three purposes for the park; a place for people to rest when they walk, dogs can drink at the creek and so children can go play in the creek.

Chris reported that they felt the City should look at the big picture that money might be better spent once the Master Plan is done. Some asked how the property line will be identified. There were ten residents who attended. There were also many e-mails received. The meeting fell on Corinth Back to School Night which may have prevented some from coming who wanted to attend, but many of them sent an email instead, with nearly all of them favoring the playground.

Chris reported that in the Council's box there is an updated packet that consists of e-mails received and comments from that evening. In regard to the revised Master Plan the Council may decide to exempt Brook Beatty from the scope.

Chris reported that she had the property surveyed. The maps and aerials are nice but she encouraged Committee members to visit it personally so you can see the boundary lines.

Chris also reported that she looked at the cost estimate to install split rail around the north and west side of the property. It would be an additional \$2,000.

Chris added that two work sessions for the Parks Revised Master Plan are scheduled. One is Monday at 6:00 p.m. The second is Oct. 1, same time. She encouraged all to attend if schedules permit.

Chris passed out a copy of the topics that will be discussed. Packets will be distributed Thursday.

Lorrie reported that due to Back to School Night many who would have been in favor of it weren't there. She doesn't recall anyone who spoke in favor of it. There was an exact similar situation in a pocket park near the 97th block and Roe. A big contention there is the storm sewer and ditch area on the southwest side of the park; they also have no parking but it seems to be a functioning park.

Amy asked if anyone attending were in favor of the playground.

Lorrie reported that in her opinion none of those attending had any positive comments.

Chris added that Council member Filla has a spreadsheet identifying thirty – forty homes within ¾ miles of the park, with up to seventy kids that would be interested in using the playground. She is uncertain when this will be discussed but it was a good exercise for the residents to be able to express concerns. None of the comments in her opinion make the playground construction impossible.

Chris reported that she doesn't recall the area by the art piece ever flooding but one citizen was concerned about the mulch being washed away. Many commented about the drainage ditch but fifty percent is on their property and hasn't been maintained.

Brian reported that in regards to the ditch concerns from that night. We've experienced a six inch rain since that meeting; he looked at the ditch in the aftermath and didn't find flooding at all.

Brian added that he contacted the Johnson County Wastewater Department who confirmed the small concrete square brought up as a concern shouldn't be an issue. He filled it with dirt.

Amy asked the closest park to the neighborhood for children.

Chris reported that it is Weltner. It isn't very close. It is approximately 1.7 miles from Brook Beatty.

Chris also reported that those in attendance expressed that they already have sufficient access to playgrounds.

Lorrie reported that some referenced church play areas. They technically don't count. Someone at the meeting pointed out that many times the church playground is locked and must be accessed through the church. Most comments were one-sided.

Chris reported that she wasn't going to consider the church as a park.

Amy reported that if a church has a Mother's Day Out program or elementary schools in session, you can't use them anyway.

Council Liaison Cain asked for clarification if we saw the plan, know the cost and vote to recommend it to the Council. She's been asked by other Council members if the Park Board was in favor of this. There will be conversation that some feel we should wait and not put a playground here because we will potentially do something with the current police station location once it is vacated. This could be a long while before it comes to fruition.

Chris reported that the Park Board had discussed this and was in support of adding the playground to the park.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that a guesstimate was taken, which was a very basic start to get it into the 2013 budget, of \$100,000. This included the basics of adding the path around the playground, putting down mulch, etc. The possible only complaint he felt had some validity was concern about trespassing on private property. As a result, staff came up with an estimate of a split rail fence roughly 500 feet around the perimeter. Another possibility may be to install a rod iron fence around the entire area. We must be careful because the fencing wasn't included in the guesstimate. This could cost \$2,000 to \$20,000 depending on what decision, if any, the City makes. If installed a decision must be made if we want to allow creek access. The creek on the south of the park, not the drainage ditch, was the scene of a disastrous flood and multiple deaths. The creek bank is not only rip rapped but it is concreted in. He was comfortable with the guesstimate and checked it out himself. It seemed like a reasonable number to get it into the budget.

Council Liaison Rasmussen wants to make sure people realize that it may go over \$100,000 if Council decides to add additional amenities. He is in favor of the playground but we must take all of this into consideration.

Council Liaison Cain wants to be clear in her mind what the Park Board thinks about the playground. Is there a definite sentiment that we should wait and not spend \$100,000 at this location.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that very early on in our history and still today there are a lot of orphan lots throughout North Leawood left over from developers. The Council in the late sixties or shortly before asked the people who adjoined the property if they wanted to purchase it etc, because they were very small. The current people residing there may not have been there as long as he and many others have lived there. He is sure the opportunity is different to buy it or not.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he feels strongly that an attempt was made to give the adjacent property owners the ability to take on the orphan lots. Now that we have what's left, the citizens of Leawood should have a use for it. There aren't any pocket parks in the North end.

Council Liaison Rasmussen also reported that in his opinion we need to look very seriously at replacing the footprint of the fire station at 97th and Lee. He is unsure to what extent that footprint will exceed the present one, whether it will go east or south. This should be considered.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that suggesting making this part of the master plan is simply a delay and essentially will get nothing done.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is certain this will happen. There are Council who are going to suggest this. She wanted to be extremely clear what the Parks Department thinks.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he understands that there are Council who feel this way.

Amy reported that she doesn't feel the Park Board has all of the information. What are the plans for the old Police Station?

Chris reported that this is currently undetermined.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that nobody knows what will happen until 2014, at the earliest, to get out of there and then consider how much of a footprint of a rebuilt fire station there will be.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there is a possibility to move the playground equipment if one is installed at Brook Beatty and the current Police Station if there were a lot of issues with trespassing etc. She was told "yes". If so, this is a valid point.

Chris reported that this is correct. Anything can be moved.

Amy asked if there are any trespassing issues with other City Parks. She doesn't hear of any and has friends who reside near the trail.

Lorrie reported that she anticipates this with the homeowner that backs to the park. She made this clear at the meeting.

Chris added that the homeowner pointed out that it is o.k. if she knows the children going through her yard. But it will be a problem if she doesn't know the children.

Brian added that he has spoke with the mowing contractor and asked why they hadn't maintained the ditch near that homeowner and he replied that the workers have been scolded several times by the homeowner when they were trying to mow the area.

Lorrie asked Chris about the survey. She has experience in that field and questioned if the neighbor made comments about if her property is where she thought it was. Has the City surveying the area upset her.

Chris reported that she hasn't heard anything from them. Continental Engineers were sent to do the survey.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that it is the consensus that the Park Board is in favor of Brook Beatty Park with the playground and other upgrades. It is in the hands of the Council.

Bob asked everyone to remember that what started this was a gradual increase by the citizens of north Leawood who don't have a playground to take their children to. The Park Board reacted to the request and determined that this pocket park, with a playground, would be a benefit for the majority of the citizens in that area, which is why the initial recommendation was made. We understood that there were immediate challenges but if they can be remediated, we'd support it.

Chris reported that she will e-mail Chair Ward Reimer the date it was discussed. It has been awhile. She will research this and make sure she has the information.

B. Discuss Further Developments Re: Facebook & Twitter

Chris reported that there have been no further developments.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is aware that Parks and Recreation isn't the only department interested in this. The Green Committee, Arts Council and the Police Department also want it.

Chair Ward Reimer asked to keep this on the agenda and in the forefront so the discussion isn't lost.

Lorrie reported that there is a need. Recently she noticed Leawood Stage Company has a Facebook page. Someone wrote a post questioning if the concert scheduled for that evening was taking place. People are looking for anything that says Leawood. They are trying to reach out for information.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is in favor of it and it needs to be pursued.

C. Follow-Up on 40th Anniversary – 2013 Suggestions

Kim reported that she made a list of what was discussed at the last meeting. (*Kim passed out the list of suggestions*) She and Chris took a field trip today and tried the experiment of sending the ducks down the wadie as suggested at a previous meeting. It was determined that the right type of duck would be needed for this event. Some fell over and some sat in the water without moving.

Kim reported that she spoke with Brian to see how fast we can get the wadie going.

Brian reported that it is currently set at a 4-5 out of 10. He can make it work.

Kim reported that she researched the cost of the ducks and can purchase them for \$7.95 a dozen. They are on backorder at U.S. Toy but once available she will place an order and redo the experiment. She will report her findings at the next meeting.

Amy suggested that they could be sold for \$10.00 at the event.

Kim reported that she was going to sell them for \$5.00 but is open to other suggestions.

Amy added that she agrees, \$5.00 is a better price.

Chris reported that Dick Fuller suggested putting a washer on the bottom to keep it in an upright position and possibly float better.

Chris added that they will investigate further once the supplies are received.

April reported that there is a woman who has a garment history museum in Sedalia and travels doing fashion show and talks. This would be fun to do a history of recreational clothing. The older women, especially the Women's Club would love this.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if it has been discussed that a celebration will be held all over the City at the same day.

Chris reported that this would be difficult to do with the size of our staff. What might work is trying to do things throughout the year at events already happening.

Chris added that they will be using the City Hall display case for the next year working with Alice Hawk and the Historic Commission.

Chris reported that we might be able to do one event and invite people for hot dogs and cake as a party.

Council Liaison Cain and Amy think it is a good idea to incorporate the duck event at Gezer.

Chris reported that staff is open to all suggestions but we have to be mindful of staffing and expenses.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that her husband runs a car show every year for United Way with UPS if we decide to have the seventies car show. He has names of car clubs and notes that the wheel wouldn't need to be re-invented. Just let her know.

III. New Business

A. Discuss "Smoke-Free" Parks

Chris reported that there are some municipalities who have completely smoke free parks and some have smoke free zones. She feels this is something that we should discuss for Leawood parks moving forward. She didn't expect a decision tonight but she would like to have a conversation in the future. She sent a survey out to other agencies but has not gotten all the replies back. When the data is returned and compiled, she would like to have further discussion and a possible recommendation.

Lorrie reported that there are regular smokers using the trail daily.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she agrees. She walks her dog in Gezer and usually takes a bag to pick up trash and often sees many discarded cigarettes laying around. The world is not the people's ash tray.

Chris reported that she will e-mail several articles she's received to all Park Board members.

Chris reported that smoking isn't allowed in any City buildings or near the entrances.

B. Staff Reports

Dan reported that soccer started Saturday; there are 1600 kids with 125 teams. It continues to grow but we keep losing older teams. We don't have any seventh or eighth grade teams and there are two sixth grade boys teams. This was the first season for fourth grade 7v7.

Dan added that a coaches clinic is being held tonight for two different grade levels.

Dan also reported that flag football reserves Ironwoods fields for practices Monday – Thursday 4:30- 6 and 6 – 7:30. They aren't reserved on Friday due to events at the Lodge. The fields are heavily used.

Dan reported that baseball (t-ball and coach pitch) ended over the summer with 42 teams. There were more than 600 participants.

Jeff reported that the Ironwoods Challenge Course has had a great year. This is the busiest spring so far. They are open through October. Revenues have increased. They will do TWP inspection in the spring and maintenance in the fall.

Jeff added that the cabins are full most weekends and some weeknights when school is out the next day.

Jeff reported that Brian signed a painting contract to paint cabins 1 and 2. Cabins 3 and 4 will be painted in the spring of 2013.

Jeff reported that they also have scheduled fire ring rentals.

Jeff added that the Nature Center has been busy with birthday parties and scout programs.

Jeff reported that they have a lot of new weekend programs scheduled. They will host a Learn to Fish program on Saturday.

Jeff also reported that they are cooperating with the Kansas Master Naturalists. This will be similar to the Master Gardeners and the K-State Extension Service. He has attended several meetings.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the area he brought to Park Board attention behind Mission Farms is in the process of being developed. He would like to discuss the opportunity of adding additional practice fields. This will be on his agenda.

Dave asked Dan if most of the children come from North of 435 for Soccer. His children attend Mission Trail and most of them participate in Blue Valley soccer program.

Dan reported that we are considered mid 435. It is a 65/35 split with non – residents being the majority. Blue Valley school district has always given Blue Valley soccer club all schools for practices. There are enough kids out there for both programs.

Cody reported that fall begins his busy season for lodge wedding receptions. He has a few community center receptions scheduled as well.

Cody added that he recently ordered new all purpose tables for the community center to match those at the Lodge.

Cody invited Park Board members to the Lions pancake days October 19th - 21st.

Cody reported that they will meet in the fall to research better ways to make summer camp in the years to come.

Brock reported that the Labor Day Run was held September 3. We were slightly down from last year. There were 450 participants this year. This is a good number and puts us at the highest it has ever been, other than last year.

Brock reported that his summer camp name was changed from Tween Camp to Camp K.C. It went really well. There were two weeks without enough participants but were up over all with participation this year.

Brock also reported that the tennis program was re-tooled along with the Junior Tennis League (JTL). We painted USTA ten and under tennis lines are on our courts but unfortunately we didn't have anyone in this age group sign up this year but it makes our tennis courts more useable. Hopefully next year the program will increase. It was a big shock for some of our tennis people to have a big change versus people who were in tennis clubs were used to it.

Brock added that the fall classes began this week. He sent a request today for people to submit information for spring and winter classes.

Dave reported that the USTA is offering grant programs for tennis courts if they ever need resurfacing providing we take the responsibility of painting the lines on the court.

Brock reported that he researched this option but the City felt it was best to paint it ourselves; the grant requires you to run specific programs exactly how USTA expects you to.

Shelly reported that the pool closed this week.

Shelly reported that the Doggie Dunk event had 235 dogs attending. This was 37 more than last year. There were also more vendors attending than years past.

Shelly also reported that swim team did very well. Five kids were high point winners at Conference. The dive team was up in numbers. The swim team numbers continue to max out each year with a waiting list.

Shelly added that swim lessons were down a bit, but she feels confident the numbers will increase next year. She received a lot of positive comments. People were happy with the changes she incorporated this year.

Shelly reported that she is busy working on the Fall in the Park Festival. She's added new events this year; a magician from Magic Creations will perform a magic show, a dance and cheer team from Lynn O'Brian Dance Studio will also perform as well as our first annual craft show. Craft vendors will be small this year as you have to notify most vendors a year in advance. Food vendors and inflatables will be the same as in years past. The movie *Zookeeper* will be shown at 8:00 p.m.

Shelly reported that she offered water aerobics this year for the first time. The class wasn't offered due to low enrollment. This is a reason social media would be great. New programs aren't noticed as much. It would be nice to have social media to get the word out. Instructors were ready to go and equipment was purchased so this was unfortunate. Hopefully the numbers will increase next year.

Dave asked if the City has ever considered adding a dome over the aquatic center, similar to Roeland Park, for indoor use. Overland Park has one also but there isn't one in the southern part of the county.

Chris reported that this was discussed before but it poses challenges the way the facility is constructed and how the pools operate. The pools run on one system. The best opportunity to consider this would have been when the pool was remodeled in 1997, so that modifications may have been made.

Kim added that it would be more efficient to construct a new pool than to reconstruct the existing one again.

Kim reported that she is appreciative to Lorrie for volunteering at Labor Day Run. She was very helpful with registration.

Kim reported that Brock and Cody came up with a great idea to have a television behind the counter that has a revolving PowerPoint slide show of upcoming events.

Kim also reported that she completed 2011 Proragis which a Benchmarking Program of NRPA.

Kim reported that The First-Tee fall session began August 27 and will run for 6 weeks.

Kim added that Police and Fire Open House is scheduled for tomorrow evening. She and April will attend and distribute promotional items. This is always a heavily attended event.

Kim reported that the Holiday Lighting proposal has been received. It goes to Council Monday. This will be a two year agreement with an option of two, one year extensions with the vendor.

Kim also reported that she is working on 2013 fees. They will be available for Park Board next month.

Kim added that all seasonal pre-employment screening and paperwork and training dates have been set for 2013.

Brian reported that the north lake project has been seeded. The trail was shut down during the hydro seeding process. Hopefully rain will continue to help us with the seed coming up and growing.

Brian reported that the north lake is full due to the six in rain we received. It will be stocked with channel catfish from the State next week.

Brian also reported his staff has worked on seeding areas. They tried to aerate I-Lan Park and mow it lower than it is now and seed it this week. The ball diamond at Tomahawk Park was also seeded. Fields 20 and 21 on the north side of 119th have also been seeded. They will put seed at the fields at Ironwoods soon.

Brian reported that Shelter A and B at City Park received new roof shingles.

Brian reported that a new shower tower and drinking fountain was added by the volleyball courts. It is galvanized stainless steel. The old one was worn out and rusted.

Brian reported that we've experienced a lot of water leaks due to the drought. The main line at the pool leaked the week before it closed. They managed to get it fixed but it was a challenge. The main line at the soccer fields on the west side of Lee at City Park also broke. It was fixed today. The valve on the water fountain near the playground broke recently and the pump house door isn't opening. They have been busy.

Brian added that they received good news on the climbing wall. Jeff and Dennis were concerned about shifting soils due to cable lines that were tight and one side had grown slack. He's been here have been working with Continental Engineers who have contacts with KCPL and Par Electric, who came out with a tension reader and were able to determine we are well within the limits. It is safe. They will benchmark it and watch it every year to make sure it isn't physically moving.

Brian added that Large Item Recirculation Weekend is Saturday with clean up on Sunday for the areas of 95th Street to 435.

Amy asked how who put the koi fish in the pond at Gezer. It is full of them.

Brian reported that he is uncertain who did this. They will be a problem trying to figure out what to do with them when the pond is drained. People are probably putting them in there.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the status on tree replacement.

Brian reported that there is money in the operating budget to replace some trees. The plan is to replace lost trees as a result of the drought in the fall. They will replace as many as possible. They will replace enough to keep the crews busy.

Chris reiterated that the trees replaced will be in the parks not in the greenway.

Chris added that a Tree Planting Workshop will be held September 29, 9:00-1:00 in the Oak Room.

April reported that the Schoolhouse was busy this summer.

April reported that they recently changed to fall hours. They are open on Saturday and Sunday or by appointment for field trips scheduled.

April reported that the next art show will be held at Rice Gallery in Park Place, Friday, October 12th. Postcards will be sent soon.

April added that last night the Stage Company cast *Nunsense*. It will be held at the Lodge, November 9th- 11th. It is a hysterical show.

Tonia reported that the shelters continue to be busy. There are five reservations of all shelters we have on Saturday alone. There are numerous back to back shelters on most weekends. Weekly shelter reservations have increased. A lot of companies and birthday parties are scheduling during the week due to the unavailability on the weekend.

Tonia added that we are also booking some fall fire pit reservations at Gezer Park.

Chris reported that she received an e-mail from Fred Logan the third week of August. He will draft a proposal to transfer the land over for the area we would like to entertain as a dog park. She hopes to receive this soon. She will report back to the Park Board when more is known.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested bringing this to fruition without carry it out too long. The recommendation was approved by the Parks and Recreation Committee some time ago. This is important.

C. Misc

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if any additions to the list for the desires of the parks. It will be beneficial to have an updated list for the meeting.

Chris reported that she has one addition. She recently received a call suggesting adding an outdoor pickle ball court.

D. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – October 9, 2012 – [Suggested agenda items]

After a brief discussion it was determined that the October meeting will be held outside again. It will be held at the Ironwoods Park.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

DRAFT