

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

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

Board members absent: Doug Stevens.

Council Liaisons present: Lou Rasmussen and Julie Cain.

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

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:47 p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the December 11, 2012 minutes. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Discuss Brook Beatty Improvement Plans**

*Chris passed around a revised diagram of the proposed park improvements and reviewed all of the changes/additions. The handout will be presented to the residents who attend the upcoming Interact Meeting January 15, 6:00 p.m. in the Oak Room at City Hall.*

Chris discussed a few changes that will be added to improve the park. A cheek wall and landscaping will be installed on the east side to help contain the area. The park sign will be relocated in front of the playground area, which will be visible when traveling from the North or South. Landscaping was added on the west side near the rear of the park with a drinking fountain featuring a pet bowl to avoid children coming close to the street. A bench will be added and also a round picnic table similar to Gezer Park. The sculpture will be relocated to the north close to, but not right on the sidewalk and additional landscaping added.

Brian reported that a concern brought up by several residents at the preliminary meeting last August was people cutting through the neighbor's yards to get to the park. The evergreen trees and landscaping will provide a screen and help with this. ADA accessible engineered loose wood fiber mulch will be inside the play area up to the sidewalk.

Chris opened the floor for questions/discussions.

Dave asked if a small parking area can be added; something similar to Franklin Park on Roe Blvd.

Brian reported that this would be extremely tough.

Chris reported that the police will not support street parking on Lee, as previously discussed with them. . Parking may be allowed on one side of the street only.

Brian reported that the playground is designed for 2-5 year olds and probably won't attract high traffic. Amy asked if there are sidewalks near.

Brian reported that there is a sidewalk along Lee for pedestrians to walk to the park.

Bob reported that he drove by recently and didn't notice No Parking signs. Will the residents request this once the park is complete to prevent driving to the park.

Chair Ward Reimer remembers it was discussed at a previous meeting where citizens attended that the parking situation would be left as is because the park will probably receive more walking traffic. The topic would be revisited if it became a problem and was being abused.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the current proposal is for the drinking fountain, which requires the water line boring and the water meter but not the irrigation. Will this be done as an alternate?

Chris added that they are looking at the alternates in segments. It was broken out because when looking at the drinking fountain it is more than just that, it is the boring, etc. She feels it would be heavily used by dogs and people but is very expensive. The playground with installation is roughly \$31K.

Chris added that if a split rail fence is installed all the way around it will look incredibly odd.

Brian added that he likes the idea of the wall for seating possibilities.

Lorrie reported that the wall is a good idea, She attended the first interact meeting and feels the neighbors will appreciate this around the playground to avoid people from going to the creek and onto their property. This will allow access to the park from Lee and it keeps the kids within the confines of that wall.

Chris added that expanding the rain garden will also force park users to that area. They feel good about the proposed diagram after completing the process. The biggest issue will be irrigation; should we include it or not?

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked why irrigation is an alternate considering the City's policy in terms of irrigating medians. Why wouldn't they irrigate this area since there is a policy? Is there a difference. How will the trees and bushes remain alive if we experience a summer like we had last year.

Chris reported that it's considered to be an option because of the expense and the fact that we don't have irrigation to all of the parks. She would like some feedback.

Brian reported that the park plants would be hand watered, which happens at other parks. His staff will take care of the park as needed.

Chris added that this biggest expense is the water meter. .

Council Liaison Cain reported that the drinking fountain, water meter and water line add up to \$15,000.00 but we can't have irrigation without the water line boring and the water meter. Is this correct?

Chris reported that this is correct. If we don't do the split rail fencing, which is \$5k, we would probably have enough wiggle room to get the irrigation and the park would definitely look nicer.

Brian reported that he agrees. The lawn and landscaping would look nicer if irrigated. He would like to replace all of the grass from the sidewalk to Lee Blvd.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the park should be irrigated to make it look presentable. The Parks Department shouldn't let the area go to weeds. A lot of money was spent on Lee Blvd.

Chris reported that they do plan to sod but irrigation is an option. Staff is not opposed to it. The cost estimate shows available options.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that everything presented is within the amount authorized by Council.

Bob reported that everything should be able to be done.

Amy asked how much the sitting seat wall is. Are the fence stone columns also included. She doesn't see if reflected in the report.

Brian reported that he is confident it can be done for \$6,000.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the Parks Department have built similar walls before.

Chris added that Scott Fanning is our Mason.

Brian added that Scott did a couple wing walls on the bridge as you leave City Park heading across the trail.

Chris reported that he also did the entrance to Ironwoods.

Brian reported that the numbers reflected on the report represent the Parks Dept. completing the majority of the work, with the exception of the purchase and installation of the playground.

Chris reported that there was concern by residents if all the money has to be spent because it is available. We will save a lot of money doing the majority of the work in house.

Council Liaison Cain understands that it is best to do the split rail all at once but is it a possibility if the work is done at a later date that it would tear up what has already been done. We may not need it.

Chris reported that this can be done later if it becomes necessary.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if consideration was given to a contractor for completion of the entire package. This is important considering all of the work will be done by staff, especially regarding the problems with our trees. It may be best to consider a small contractor who may be interested in providing a bid.

Chris replied that this is an option. There may be someone interested in the work. The estimate for commercial from Continental was \$50,000 to \$60,000-sixty thousand more than what we have. It is really a pretty simple job and we have the staff to do it.

Amy reported that it is important to do a good job at this park; she lives south near many beautiful parks and feels sorry for the north residents because there aren't a lot in that area. It is unfortunate that they don't get a fair deal as they are also tax payers. She agrees it should be irrigated. She appreciates Lou's concern regarding hiring a contractor but prefers the work being done in house. She likes their work.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he appreciates the work done in house as well but is concerned because this project will be very time consuming. We've recently added forty-five acres to the park land.

Chris reported that she is going to request additional staff in the 2014 budget, especially with the responsibilities of the new Justice Center once occupied.

Brian added that they are responsible for the landscaping and there is a lot of it. .

Chris reported that according to the 2010 census report, provided by the Planning Department, there has been a significant increase of young children within the last ten years in north Leawood.

Dave Coleman made a motion to accept the enhanced plan and move forward with the full package of amenities as planned. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chris reported that they are moving forward with rezoning from R-1 to Rec. and it will be presented as a preliminary and final plan to the planning commission on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January.

Chris believes this is an improvement from what was originally shown at the first meeting.

Lorrie agreed. She attended the first meeting and the resident's concerns have genuinely been addressed.

Chris reported that something could be considered along the west property line that would not have any impact of work already done if trespassing becomes a problem.

*Committee members had a discussion about the fence and if it should be added at this time.*

Council Liaison Cain added that a fence shouldn't be added unless needed. This is unknown at this time. The landowners will be the only people to say they want a fence but we don't know if it will be an issue.

Bob Wright amended the previous motion to accept the proposal as revised with approval of the budget for the fence without installation at this time. Monies budgeted for the fence could be a future contingency and reassessed after one year of park installation. The amended motion was accepted by the motion maker and was carried unanimously.

Bob added that this will assure residents that the money is budgeted; it's been approved, and can be revisited. They can have a voice at that time if needed.

Chris also reported that the money could be taken from an operating account if we decide to install the fence at a later date.

David reported he has seen in Colorado these types of parks two sections of split rail fence would be done at the angle points along the property line to define where the corners were but wouldn't continue the fence through the full straight to give a sense of boundary to the facility without having a complete fence around it. This can be fairly easy to do and easy on the eyes.

Chris reported that this is a good concept to consider.

Amy asked if the split rail fence will keep people out of the surrounding yards. Will it really stop kids.

Bob reported that it's a deterrent only.

David agrees; it is visual barrier.

Council Liaison Cain asked why this should be addressed. The addition of the fence is based upon what. What will be the basis for the decision.

Bob reported that it will be based upon need and trespassing problems.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that complaints will also be factored in.

Chris reported that this is a valid point.

David asked if Kansas has a statute for fencing your property. Other states have this law, especially in regard to cattle. It is the homeowner's responsibility to keep unwanted people off of your property. It could be their responsibility.

Chris reported that this is an interesting concept. When the Golf Course was completed, the City made the developer, in almost all cases, install a fence.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is the same with Ironwoods Park. The City didn't pay for the fence; the developer did.

Lorrie and many Committee members agreed that this is a valid point.

David Harwood amended the previous motion that the budget should be retained and eliminate the fencing option. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The amended motion was approved unanimously.

Chris reported that she will complete a revision with the correct date and send a new one to the Chair tomorrow.

#### **B. 40th Anniversary - 2013 {Re-Cap of 01/08/13 meeting}**

Chris reported that they were unable to meet yesterday as planned but she encourages input from all Committee members. She asked the men on the Committee how they feel about *40 and Fabulous*. She asked several people and was told it seemed more appealing to women.

*Most male Committee members agreed.*

Chris opened the floor for ideas.

Lorrie suggested *Leawood Anniversary A Park Place; not Park Place*; it differentiates it from Park Place. This is better than *40 and Fabulous*. Or *Still A Park Place at 40*; she likes including Parks and Place with Parks and Recreation. The event is all about parks.

Amy suggested *Over The Hill at 40*.

Council Liaison Cain suggested using a reference to New York; *40<sup>th</sup> & Park Avenue*. It would be cute to come up with something that ties into an intersection.

Chris reported that it would be important to determine when this will be launched to come up with a timeframe for a slogan. It was discussed at the meeting to have the event kick-off in the spring. It is important for everything to tie together.

Amy added if we had a Facebook page there could be a contest for people to name the anniversary slogan.

Dave suggested 40 *and Fantastic*.

Council Liaison Cain agreed. She likes this idea; Fantastic 40.

Chris reported that she likes Fantastic at Forty. She will talk with Marica tomorrow and work on this as well as Google ideas.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris when a definite decision is needed.

Chris reported that a decision is needed by February 20. It is important to be able to advertise in the summer program guide for the first event. Before the next 40<sup>th</sup> meeting they will tie down dates.

### **C. Rotary Clock Update**

*Chris passed out handouts of the proposed revised site. She was appreciative of Dave visiting the area again, and taking photos.*

Chris reported that she met with the Rotary Club and expressed how appreciative the Committee is that they are willing to fundraise and place the clock in the park. They discussed the concerns expressed by the committee of each proposed site. She told the Rotary that, in her opinion option C is more of a focal point and is the first thing you see when entering the park. Brian had a good idea to locate the clock in a circular area just off of the trail path as you come across the street. The path could go around the clock centered in a “roundabout”.

Chris added that the Rotary Club members who visited the park, as well as our previous meeting, aren't opposed to the area but have concerns about the amenities that may go with it and asked if we will be responsible for this. She didn't promise anything but is happy to put numbers together and discuss options. They should make a decision soon because their Bids for Kids is coming up. She is certain we will hear from them before the next meeting.

Brian reported that he and Chris will work together to provide an amount for the amenities to present to the Rotary Club so they are able to include this in their fundraising efforts.

Chris reported that this will be tabled until a commitment from the Rotary Club is received.

### **D. Facebook & Twitter Update**

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the Committee would like him and/or Council Liaison Cain to put this as a short term goal with City Council. They are currently being solicited for goals. The goal setting session is January 14, 6:00 p.m.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is a good idea.

David reported that we need a comprehensive social media plan for all Leawood Departments and Services.

Amy reported that we need this done by April.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the Mayor and City Administrator are aware of this and agree that the right course of action is to begin with a Work Session where a presentation can be given and we all can learn together. It doesn't take long to set everything up once a decision is made. They have always been resistant about interactive social media. It will be one directional.

Chris added that Mark, IT Director has everything in place and is ready to move forward if given the direction to do so.

David reported that he spoke with Craig Denny of the Shawnee Mission School District who is very involved with the City of Lenexa and their operations. He suggested Mayor Dunn speak to Lenexa and inquire how they are using their Facebook account and allowing open comments, and how well its gone for them.

Council Liaison Cain reported that Peggy, Scott, and Mark have met several times and also involved the City Attorney. They are trying to make progress but the next step will be the work session.

Bob reported that we may be able to fast track it if we use it as a communication distribution tool out and revisit after set up if we want to open communication.

Amy reported that we need some urgency in getting this done. If we continue to wait we will be a step behind. "Like Us On Facebook" really needs to be in the upcoming program guide. It needs to be on the bottom of everything like everyone else does. Most television commercials now have the Facebook logo on it. Our goal is to get the word out and getting started is most important. Everything else may fall in place later.

Chris reported that our most read issue is summer.

David doesn't feel we will miss the opportunity because it will be a soft start when done but it should be available as a resource when people sign up for summer programs. We will be able to let them know that they can now communicate via Facebook.

Chris reported that the Work Session will be important.

Dave asked if everything the Council passes, legislation or policy wise require a Work Session.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that it does not.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she will talk with the Mayor and Scott in regards to discussing initiating Facebook and Twitter, one direction, and have the Work Session whenever possible to discuss additional layers at a future date (in the interest of time) if we can't get on until the proposed date of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Committee members agreed that this would be best. They thanked Council Liaison Cain and Rasmussen for moving forward with this to hopefully bring it to fruition soon.

## **C. II. New Business**

### **A. Consideration of Short/Long Term Goals**

Chris reported that we are very close to an agreement on the land for a possible dog park. Patty Bennett, City Attorney, met with their legal council recently. We are currently in the word smithing stage on the agreement. This is still in the CIP as an “unfunded project”. She would like to get this resolved to have the opportunity during the CIP to discuss funding for 2014.

Chris added that she thinks we can still establish short and long term goals aside from what may be going on in the revised Master Plan. They can be similar yet different. She asked the Committee to notify her if they think of anything. Ideas can be broad in the spectrum of things we do without necessarily being related to the Master Plan of the Parks.

Brian reported that he’s heard people comment about renovating the corner area near the Parks Maintenance Shop. It flooded in the past and wonders if there a long range goal or thought of moving or renovating the building. Could this be a long range project if not necessarily a long term goal?

Chris asked the Committee if they have an interest in establishing a yearly session such as Council has for their goal setting.

April reported that some of her Committees have annual retreats. This is a good idea for the Parks Committee to talk about; if we are meeting the needs of our residents and put together a list and establish a proposed direction we’d like to move in.

Chris added that it wouldn’t necessarily need to be done every year; it could be every two years.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that we’ve discussed having a retreat for a while.

Chris reported that we are already into 2013, is it better do this at the end of the year. We have ongoing projects as well as the 40<sup>th</sup> Celebration underway currently, but we could start discussing goals for 2014.

David asked when the City’s budgeting process is.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the Council meets the last week in June.

Chris reported that it is typically due to Finance the first Friday in April.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is a valid point to meet. The Council will do the same next week.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the status of the design for the restrooms at Ironwoods.

Chris replied that a meeting is scheduled next week. There hasn’t been any progress since we last talked. The consultant we are working with has a large contract with AMC that has required a lot of traveling and is doing his best to work us in. He will have concepts to review next week. She should know more by the next meeting.

While reading the work session minutes discussing the RFQ of the Master Plan for Parks, it was noted in Phase II that the Park Board would look at prioritization. It may be a good tool if we had goals and objections to work from. She would like to see the Park Board being more proactive about some of the planning. All of us collectively have done a better job on the Committees within the last few years; certainly this body. She always likes to get in front of things and be proactive instead of reactive whenever possible. It is much harder to react when you are not prepared.

David asked if we are talking about things like the interactivity of all of the parks having trails and designating bike ways to connect all of the parks in the City of Leawood.

Chris reported that this is correct; this would be a part of it. There are a lot of different things we've discussed including the kiosk on the trails and place markers. It may be best to compose a list and whittle it down to derive a proposed plan.

Amy asked about the acreage at Ironwoods.

Chris reported that this is a long term goal. She believes it is waiting on the Master Plan. The original process was put on hold until this is completed, which many would agree was the right thing to do. She doesn't think monies are available until 2015. She is uncertain if any of the money is in the "funded" or "unfunded" column.

Bob reported that long term goals should be brought to the next meeting.

Chris reported that at that point it can be discussed how to handle them moving forward. We may want to dedicate one meeting solely to discuss this.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that our meetings usually last until 7:00 p.m. or beyond. It will be best to set aside a specific meeting to discuss them. It would be nice to get it all done at once instead of continuing to discuss at the monthly meetings and meet in a fun atmosphere rather than our usual meeting place here or at the park.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she's stressed often that the City Council needs to know what the priorities are. She thought this was part of the Master Plan process.

Chris reported that it is, but the Master Plan is specifically geared towards parks, greenways and trails. It doesn't specify if we'd like to consider other demographics of the overall operations. Are there other things not specific to a project that may be a goal? What do you think of when you think of Parks and Recreation? She agrees with Bob; it is best to discuss them another time. We have been talking about this for a year. It is always good to have Council Liaisons on the Committee who are willing to report things like these to the Council.

The Committee determined a "brainstorming" work session will be held Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 at *LaBodega* at 5:30P.M. Ideas can be sent in ahead of time for those unable to make it.

## **B. Discuss Monthly Upcoming Events**

Chris passed around the department's yearly calendar of events.

Chris reported that items in red are events that Committee members wouldn't need to attend/volunteer. Items in black may be opportunities to volunteer or attend to see how everything works. She will add the contact person for the event. It is rare that additional events are added. Additional 40<sup>th</sup> event will be added to the list later.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she requested adding this to the agenda to give Committee members the opportunity to look at the upcoming events to discuss questions about the event and determine who might be able to attend.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the list can be sent electronically to upload it to their calendars.

David suggested sending each event as outlook calendar events.

Tonia reported that she suggested this but some Committee members can't open them when sent that way.

Chris reported that the list will be condensed and sent electronically.

### **C. Staff Reports**

April reported that the artwork for Arti Gras was selected last night by the juror. Forty-nine (49) artists are participating this year. Surprisingly half are different. Many artists participating reside in Leawood. February 22, is the Gala Opening Night and the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> are Open House dates to view the art. Invitations with a reply card will be in the mail soon. Tickets to the Friday night Gala are \$30 per person. Checks can be made payable to The Leawood Foundation.

April reported that there was a Work Session for public art at the Justice Center. They will move forward with an RFQ soon. There is a committee working on a piece for the sculpture garden. She would like to clarify that the *Kononia* art piece currently at the Lodge will be coated and moved outside once a determination is made as to where to place it. The artist will create a base and be responsible for a portion of the installation.

April reported that *Introspection* is now lit and looks great. *Lllooppi* lights also look great. She appreciates Brian's staff for doing a good job.

April added that she is taking reservations for spring field trips and scout groups at the Oxford School.

April reported that Sarah Lamar Blue was selected as Director for *Songs For A New World*. . It will be held the first weekend of April. They will complete Director interviews for *The Sound of Music* Sunday of this week. Anyone with children who would like to audition should do so the first weekend of March. Details will be on the website next week.

April reported that "Tea with Shakespeare" is a fun event and will be held the end of April and one-third of the room is already sold out. Contact her if you would like to attend.

Kim reported that they are accepting applications for summer employment. The aquatic center received over 70 in five days. Interviews have started. Anyone with children who are interested should apply soon, positions are filling fast. Applications are only available online. Camp applications are filling slower but the pool is really popular. Fourteen and older can work at the pool.

Kim added that cabin rentals started and there are, eleven dates rented so far.

Kim reported Daddy Daughter Date Night will be held in February. We are going back to a formal theme this year. This event is for ages 4-12, for dads and their daughter(s).

Kim also reported that the soccer deadline is January 30. Registrations are starting to come in.

Brian reported that his staff has been chipping Christmas trees and hauling the mulch to Suburban Lawn & Garden. They allow us to do this for free, they take it and incorporate it in their yard waste and turn it into compost.

Brian also reported that they have been doing ice chipping on the trail. It is warm enough to melt then refreeze and become icy.

Brian reported that they had graffiti on the trail under the bridge on 119<sup>th</sup> Street. His staff pressure washed it off today. He will review it tomorrow and see how it all came out.

Brian added that at the last meeting he announced that a volunteer offered to take over improvements to the mountain bike trail. He developed a route to move the trail that is too close to the creek, which will make it longer. He will have a volunteer work day January 20, from 1-5p.m. Brian is appreciative of his efforts and it will be nice to have constant work in that area. His goal is for this to become a good learning place for families with younger children. This won't be a big mountain bike draw but a single track for families.

Brian reported that he received a call today from a Leawood Falls Homes Association to discuss their tree trimming ordinance. He will meet with them, look at the area and provide advice.

Brian reported that he had a second meeting of the redesign of the stabilization of the creek bank on the 123<sup>rd</sup> Street Trail. They discussed what the work will entail moving forward.

Chris reported that they've had ongoing measuring of the water levels at the North Lake. The test pits were dug and the north pit close to the overflow had no water. The south test pit had water seeping in from both sides (pond and creek). After looking at everything, they agree there has to be some fracturing that occurred during the drought, when the pond was empty, allowing water to seep. She and Brian will meet with Joe and Brett to discuss options moving forward. There isn't any way to determine how far down the cracks may be. One option being considered is to sprinkle or till in more bentonite on the sides where the water is seeping.

David reported there are additives that can be put into the pond water that will work towards the seepage and help seal them. It works very well on small ponds.

Chris reported that she and Brian will also talk to David further to discuss options. She is hoping to come up with an inexpensive solution or possibly leave it as is. Continental has worked way past their money to assist us to figure out the problem.

#### **D. Misc.**

*No miscellaneous items were discussed.*

#### **E. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – February 12, 2013.**

Chair Ward Reimer reported that the next meeting will be held February 12, in the Maple Room.

David Harwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

