

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – March 12, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.

Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Board member absent: Doug Stevens.

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

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

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the February 12, 2013 minutes. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Brook Beatty Park

Brian reported that everything passed since our last meeting. The next step is completing a survey to determine the exact grading to understanding the amount of dirt needed to level the playground area. He will request bids from various playground equipment vendors. He is also moving forward with the retaining wall design and stone selection.

Chris reported that that the survey will be completed by the end of the week. A homeowner expressed interest to do a land swap. We are willing to discuss this, but are trying to determine what makes the most sense and is closest to an even swap. We will know more after the survey is complete.

Dave Coleman asked if an opening target date has been determined. Will it be done this year.

Chris reported that this hasn't been discussed. It isn't a huge project but most of the time will be spent on the wall and playground installation, which will be done by the supplier. The playground equipment will take at minimum six weeks to arrive.

Brian reported that most work will be done in-house. He will need to balance staff between projects and day-to-day maintenance.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there is a loose deadline for conversations with the homeowners so they don't drag out in perpetuity. It will be unfortunate for this to become a stumbling block.

Chris reported that she will send an e-mail correspondence to the homeowner soon.

B. Facebook & Twitter Update

Kim reported that the Facebook page is up and running. This will be a great tool moving forward. Seventeen people “like” the page so far. She will send a blast e-mail to notify past participants soon. Once we receive fifty “likes” it will show analytics of how many people looked at it and shared it which will provide good data. She thanked everyone for getting this accomplished. Staff added the Facebook logo to their signature line on all e-mails and promotional materials that are sent from (where? No end to the sentence.

Lorrie reported that she asked all of her friends to “like” it. She hopes this helps to get the word out.

Kim thanked Lorrie for doing this; the more people who “like” our page is better.

Lorrie suggested that if Committee members ask their friends to like the page to remind them that they can unsubscribe to the news feed if they aren’t interested in everything going on in the department.

Kim reported that the news feed will slow down. It is new so she has posted a lot of information.

Council Liaison Cain asked what procedure was put in place by the City; who’s in charge of monitoring the account. Is Mark, the I.T. Director required to approve all information received.

Chris replied that she and Kim are the administrators of the account.

Kim added that prior approval isn’t needed from Mark. She has done a lot of work on the page.

Chris added that the timing is right to advertise Facebook in the summer program guide that will be mailed by the end of this week. The Facebook logo will also be added on the brochures that will be distributed. .

Council Liaison Cain asked if City staff is aware of our Facebook presence; we should be able to get fifty in house.

Kim added that The City blocks all types of social media. Staff is unable to access Facebook accounts at work. They will have to do so on their own time.

C. Dog Park Discussion

Chris gave an overview and passed around a diagram of the proposed dog park area to use for talking points as well as pictures of other dog parks.

Chris reported that a Work Session will be held April 1.

Council Liaison Cain asked if pictures have been taken of dog parks in the Johnson County area. She offered to take photos if needed. It would be nice to tour other dog parks together.

Chris reported that pictures would be nice to have for points of reference. She likes Lee’s Summit’s dog park and uses it as well. It may be close to what we have in mind and closer than Shawnee Mission Park. She agrees with Julie, it would be nice for the Committee to tour others in the area.

Amy asked if our dog park will be named.

Bob added that it should be named after Dick Fuller; he has taken his dogs there for twenty years.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that we tried to name a road after Dick years ago and he didn't approve of it.

Chris reported that it is important to determine how much of the area should be developed. It has been discussed to incorporate the tree line on the north side that runs along the trail. This could pose a problem depending on the type of fence used. There is a difference between Brook Beatty being in the flood plain and this property being in the flood plain; the water moves in this area and will leave debris along the fence.

Amy reported that it would be nice to have natural shade areas and possibly add benches under the trees. Are there trees in the area that can be fenced in.

Chris replied that it is mostly hedgerow and undergrowth, but doesn't mean trees can't be taken out.

April reported that she's heard feedback regarding Blue Springs Dog Park; it is mostly in a treed area which prevents grass from growing well under shade and dies when dogs tromp on the area. This isn't a good combination. Dogs are usually filthy when in a dirt area. She understands the need for shade but it will cause maintenance issues if dogs run around the base of the trees.

Chris added that it will be helpful to stake the area to have a better idea of what's needed. She will contact Continental to get this done to develop a visual representation of what we have.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if this can be done soon so Committee members can tour the proposed area before touring the dog park in Lee's Summit.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that an ideal dog park is roughly four acres divided into two sections, especially in high traffic and noise levels. Some people need line of sight, use hand signals or oral communication. In this particular area sound is important. The current noise level is pretty high. Four acres would give dog owners the opportunity for a twenty minute walk with our without their dog. It would be nice to get four acres or as much as possible.

Chris reported that we will receive a large contingency of users from a ten to fifteen mile radius. The more turf we have will allow more room to close sections as needed when the area is worn down. We have to measure the cost versus experience; the cost will increase depending on the fence size, height, type, and length.

Brian reported that he figured two thousand feet of fence in the original estimate.

Chris reported that it will be nice for those who haven't visited the area to do so.

Council Liaison Rasmussen thanked staff for bringing this to fruition. He agrees surveying the area important. He has visited many dog parks in many states and this is the most ideal area he's seen for a dog park. Parking is oriented to the proposed site; trail access is a plus; people can walk the trail and utilize the dog park in one visit; and we won't offend neighbors who are opposed to it in their back yard. The biggest complaint he received while visiting many dog parks was that the designer experts forgot the dog owners in regards to determining which way the sun comes up

to prevent an excessive amount of sun exposure. It is important to keep as many trees as possible. The trees will need to be protected due to dogs using the restroom on them.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the Lee's Summit dog park separates small dogs from large ones. None of the dog parks in Johnson County do.

Chris reported that they do and it is recommended.

Brian reported a dog park in Leavenworth also separates by the dog size.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he is willing to accept all of the area that we can.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she agrees; this is important when throwing a ball or a Frisbee.

Brian reported that some dog parks with ample room will set up in sections during different periods of time and rest areas as needed when the grass is beaten down so staff can reseed and renovate the area.

Chris reported that usually most have bull pens as a transition zone, which prevents dogs from taking off.

Chris added that there isn't a rule of how tall the fence has to be. Those she's talked to say the majority of dogs don't jump once inside the confined area.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that most are six feet. He's talked to many veterinary offices that have an organization that require six feet if running a dog camp. They can't get accredited if it's not. Some dogs can climb over a four foot fence. This is a decision that we must make.

Bob replied that this is good information but we aren't using ours for commercial interest.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she along with other Council members would like to know the price difference between both. To her knowledge none of the Johnson County dog parks have six foot fences; some aren't even four feet. She hopes it doesn't cost the full amount allotted. She is afraid that if an excessive amount of money is spent for a high-end dog park we will feel the need to charge people to use it and she is opposed to this. Others don't charge and we shouldn't either.

Bob reported that he agrees; use of the dog park should be free.

Committee members agreed. There should be an open gate policy but wouldn't recommend a swipe card.

Chris reported that the staff approach is to work with the number given of \$300,000. We have to look at fixed and variable costs. We don't have to use all of the money allocated. Some items can easily be removed. She is interested in talking with others in the area to discuss what works and what doesn't and what they did that they wouldn't do again. This will be important information moving forward. There have been so many built; we have a lot of resources. She isn't saying Lee's Summits' is the best but is a good example. Agility items weren't purchased from a dog park supplier; they used items they had on hand and built them in-house.

Amy reported that the questionnaire stated lighting the park. This isn't necessary.

David asked if corporate sponsorship was considered. There is enough commercial interest supporting the pet loving community who should be willing to do this, as well as dog owners through independent fundraising efforts for some of the improvements. The City could provide up to a certain amount with matching funds from the community. It could be funded in phases. It will be important to offer the community an opportunity to be a part of the improvements.

Brian reported that the more improvements we have the more demand and visitation we will have. It won't become a destination park if we steer away from a lot of bells and whistles.

David asked if this will coincide with license registration requirements for all dogs in Leawood. All animals using the park should be licensed. There is an opportunity for the Humane Society to also be there at some point and encourage pet owners to license their pets. If we are looking at revenue generation at some point, this could be helpful.

Council Liaison Cain added that she is in favor of this; signage should be posted that all dogs must be licensed in their respective cities. Statistically nearly 30% of dogs are actually registered in any community. The City of Lenexa dropped this rule because most weren't following it. Other cities have done the same.

Dave reported that the City of Prairie Village is also considering doing this as well.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested using football turf or something similar rather than mulch that can get in dogs paws and cut them.

Amy asked if it will be irrigated.

Brian reported that this hasn't been discussed. It wasn't in the initial budgeted plan.

Bob reported that the larger it can be made will result in less concentrated wear and tear. It could be done like the soccer fields resting certain fields per season. If we develop four acres, the large dogs can have two acres, small dogs can have an acre on the other side that can be out of cycle and rotated. The little dogs will have plenty of room constantly rejuvenated with a divider.

Chris reported that some facilities close portions of their dog park for this reason.

Council Liaison Cain added that it is important to have water access and a way to wash dogs off to prevent muddy dogs getting back in cars.

Brian reported that they factored in water service and a hose bib could be added easily.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we have to be careful with the type of water fountain we use to prevent the spread of disease.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that signage is important to make people aware of what is and what isn't acceptable. For example, dogs in heat shouldn't access the park as well as dogs who aren't current on their vaccinations. These could be health risk for other users.

Chris agreed. She has examples of signage from many dog parks with the main components about dog owners being responsible regarding aggressive animals, licensing, inoculations, and wearing identification tags etc. Staff isn't available to monitor the dog park so rules should be posted.

Council Liaison Rasmussen also reported that he agrees. This will cover the City.

Council Liaison Cain reported that we also have to be careful of snake bite issues. Johnson County had snake warnings on each of their parks due to many dogs being bit.

Chris reported that Lenexa had a huge problem with their newest park that had many people being bit by snakes. .

Brian added that this is a good point. A rattlesnake has a habitat in our proposed dog park area. He has seen quite a few different species of snakes in the area near the creek.

Bob asked if the land is officially ours. Is the only delay completing the dog park internal. What is the timeframe to open the park.

Chris reported that we are waiting for the deed. From a project standpoint it could be open in late 2014. The delay is moving funds from unfunded to funded. This will be discussed at the April 1, Work Session.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it will be important to have tables and benches. They don't have to be fancy but seating is important.

Chris asked input about a perimeter trail around the dog park. Should this be added.

Committee members are interested in this but would like to know cost before agreeing.

Chris reported that she understands it is preferred, but cost is a concern.

David reported that he wouldn't recommend hard surface, an asphalt trail will be a maintenance nightmare with a lot of thermal issues because it will not be used the way it's intended.

Chris reported that she will provide the Committee with an operating budget to be able to discuss a maintenance budget moving forward.

D. Ironwoods Restroom

Chris gave a presentation to the Committee of a review the proposed building.

Chris reported that the footprint has not changed since the last review, just the roofline and the exterior elements. An application is in place for the April 23, Planning Commission meeting. She worked with the architect, Continental, Brian and April to develop the plans. A Town Hall meeting will be held inviting neighbors residing within five hundred feet of the building to review the plan.

Chris reported that she met with Scott Lambers to discuss the additions suggested by the stage company but was directed to keep the same footprint. This is what will go to the Planning Commission and then back to City Council. If the Council decides to invest more money to add the additional items requested, they will be the ones to make that decision.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the footprint will be changed at that point if they decide to do that. She was under the impression that we were giving them things needed within the footprint.

Chris reported that the City Administrator said it can't be done this way. It does not follow our process.

Chris added that she was to come back with something that didn't change the footprint and could stand alone if there was never anything else built there and a plan that fits the look of the park. We have used the same stone with a pitched roof as the nature center and siding similar but darker brown than the Lodge- more like the cabin restrooms. There will be a shade structure attached to the roof as shade in that area is very limited and it is very hot during the summer months.

Chris added that a small amount of landscaping will be added around the building itself due to a lot of foot traffic from the camp children, theatre/ musical groups, etc. However, heavier planting will be done just across the drive to help block the building from residential to the north.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the cost will exceed the \$323K budgeted for this project. We should be able to incorporate additional elements previously discussed if the cost is less.

Chris reported that \$323K is budgeted but it hasn't gone to bid yet. The team tried to be selective with materials but in her opinion the cost could exceed monies budgeted. Everything is bid by line item to be able to make changes (materials, amounts, etc.) as needed.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the estimate will be finished prior to being sent to the Planning Commission and City Council. How do we approve something without knowing the cost, especially hoping the other options would be considered.

Chris reported that Planning Commission will review the plan, after which, feelers will be put out to a couple firms we know to get some feedback on estimates. We have done this in the past with other projects It may be closer to \$350K but really, the cost is unknown. We will try to save costs on certain areas wherever possible. The landscaping will be done in house. The concrete patio and overhang can also be reduced if needed.

Chris added that we are trying to decide if this is conceptually acceptable.

Council Liaison Cain expressed that she is very disappointed, personally, that none of the elements previously discussed were incorporated. She supports the elements and overall look, but a faucet for water access, utility sink and concession window are needed.

David and many other Committee members agreed. They accept the architectural structure but the structure is missing a lot of key elements previously discussed that the Committee would like to have seen incorporated.

Chair Ward Reimer added that this was discussed at length at the previous meeting.

Chris reported that the point is well taken but she received her directive from Scott. It will begin with the Planning Commission who have never seen this before and are approving it as a Final. Additional options would be discussed once it goes to Council.

Lorrie reported that if the Planning Commission passes this; it is passing the exact footprint. This is a problem. Council Liaisons Rasmussen and Cain are the only Council members who understand that key components were missed. It won't be good if it passes Council.

Amy reported that this is true; we don't want these things to slip through the cracks.

Chris reported that Council will vote and the majority will rule.

Bob reported that this means it will have to go through an additional time.

Chris reported that this is correct; Council will vote on the design discussed tonight and aren't aware of what was previously discussed. Although it delays things, this is the process. Greg and Brett researched adding onto the building but not directive was given them to proceed with this.

David reported that any addition would likely be an elongation of the building and should have been designed with the alternative of being able to extend the building. On a normal set of bid plans this is a dash line addition as alternate one. He would have envisioned that we would have received a plan showing the Alternate No. 1. Evidently we don't have the ability to ask for this.

Chris reported that we don't have the authority to do this. One of the issues driving this conversation is taking a building with funding available of \$323,000 left of the bond money and adding the other amenities that the architect and Brett thought could be an additional \$150K. She believes this another reason the City Administrator has concerns. We don't have the funding available for this. You can say it is wanted it but Council has to make the final decision.

David reported that the architect should refigure his cost. The additions the Committee is requesting aren't \$150K.

Chair Ward Reimer read the motion approved at the last meeting and doesn't understand why Council wasn't asked to reconsider the additional options and aren't able to do that.

Chris reported that they can but it must go through the proper steps first.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that it was voted upon to go back to Council to reconsider prior to approving the designs presented today. Why wasn't this taken into consideration.

Chris reported that she understands that it has been stated in the minutes and that many Committee members are disappointed.

Amy reported that we would hate to go back in a couple of years and make additions at that time. This could cost more money than if done now.

Chris reported that she doesn't believe this will happen. Council will make a decision whether they want to build what is presented or consider the additions. This is not an add-on project.

Bob added that the process seems to be driving the product versus the opposite.

Chris reported that they try to keep meetings with the architect as short as possible to avoid paying additional costs.

David Harwood made a motion that the Committee concurs with the architectural concept for the restroom facility, noting that previous motions have asked for inclusions of storage, concessions or other auxiliary functions that are not shown in this plan, and that we would appreciate Council to consider these when it comes before them after the review of the Planning Commission.

Dave asked what happened after the motion was passed at the last meeting.

Chris reported that she met with the City Administrator who expressed that it couldn't happen the way the Committee requested.

Council Liaison Cain reported that unfortunately Council hasn't seen the minutes where this was discussed. The minutes when this was discussed will be included in the Council packet at a meeting soon.

Dave clarified that the motion is being approved but asking for additional items the Council hasn't allocated the funds for yet. What will be done once it goes to the Planning Commission.

Chris reported that this is correct but Council can override the Planning Commission's decision if they desire.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is counter-intuitive. If they approve it not knowing, and it comes to Council to override, it takes a super majority to override as opposed to agree with a decision already made. They can't agree to what they don't know. This body has done all that it can do. She will do what she has to, to bring this to fruition.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this process is destructive. Looking at the history of fees paid for numerous architects to redesign; the more you can eat up of that remaining bond money the less feasible even eleven toilets become. The last toilet including the bathhouse for the cabins cost \$400K. We are eroding what was approved by the voters. This is irrelevant to some people. If it continues to go back and forth we may end up with no toilets at all. The big argument for Council is if we will be prepared if the budgets come in over what's remaining in the bond fund are they willing to vote in favor of it.

Chris reported that if they vote no for the plan discussed tonight they may vote no for more.

Dave reported that according to the minutes, Council has already approved the remaining amount of the bond issue; this is the immediate need. We can make a request for separate funds to include the other items.

Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-1 with one opposer; Dave Coleman.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

Kim reported that soccer season begins next Saturday. There are 1,750 children registered, which is 139 teams so we are growing again. Dan changed some leagues to seven- on-seven, up to fourth grade, which has helped a lot.

Kim reported that swim and dive registrations have been ongoing for the past two weeks. There are 23 spots available for the younger age group. Non-resident individuals who haven't participated before begin tomorrow. The eleven and older ages have 5 spots available.

Kim added that cabin rentals begin April 1. Everything is empty until mid-April. They will fill soon.

Kim also reported that her staff has been busy working on 2014 budgets.

Kim added that she has been busy updating the website with summer program guide information.

Kim reported that she is working on the 40th Anniversary event. The car cruise will be June 8. She anticipated 50 cars but Scott Fanning is a great resource in house and expressed that she should expect 200 cars.

Kim reported on April's behalf (April left to attend the Planning Commission meeting) that "Songs for a New World" is April 5, 6, and 7. "Frost and Friends", a senior's poetry reading event will be held in the Oak Room this Saturday. The "Sound of Music" auditions were held recently and the cast is now posted on the website.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the Happy Feet and the Legends are working with the City anymore. Were there enough children enrolled in the Monday Happy Feet class held at City Hall to participate.

Kim replied that the classes normally held at City Hall weren't consistent. We'd have a full class one month and wouldn't have anyone enroll for the next few months. This will be re-evaluated in the future. Ideally, the facilities in the Community Center aren't conducive to holding a soccer class. The Happy Feet League still has classes at the park Sunday afternoons. The Legends are also doing the Legends Academy again and will offer a camp in June.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the financial results of the Arti Gras event are favorable.

Chris reported that the turnout was great as there were nearly 300 people who attended. Several more pieces of art sold than in years past. The artwork was good. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow morning to discuss financials.

B. Consideration of Short/Long Term Goals (meeting to follow)

This portion of the meeting will be held at the conclusion of this meeting.

C. Misc.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if there is a fire hazard along Tomahawk Creek Parkway because of the underbrush. It is pretty heavy.

Chris reported that when trees fall down and they are a problem they are removed. The worst part is the leaves and there isn't any way to remove all of them due to the amount that falls regularly.

Lorrie reported that North Lake is full and the overflow works. It continues to run over the culvert across from the condominiums when she noticed it yesterday.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we have CID applications in front of us for this immediate area and are waiting for a plan for an overall look at pedestrian access in this area. Where are we in terms of completing this.

Chris replied that the authorization for staff to move forward with the RFQ for the Revised Master Plan will be soon. It is on the Council agenda scheduled for Monday. She asked Joe about

the sidewalks at Camelot court and he directed her to Dave Ley and Brian who were more involved with the project. Brian believed that Mr. Peterson may have been referencing the sidewalk on the other side of Town Center Drive. The one on the south side should be eight or ten feet. This will go all the way down to the Parkway, Justice Center and the north side of Camelot. Brian worked with David Ley and Richard on this project so she advised him to discuss this tonight but he had to leave early to attend Planning Commission meeting for the art piece. She will advise him to contact Lou soon and discuss the details.

D. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – April 9, 2013

Chair Ward Reimer reported that the next meeting will be held April 9, at 5:30 p.m.

Dave Coleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department