

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

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

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the March 12, 2013 minutes. Dave Coleman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update - RFQ for Master Plan

Chris provided a handout and gave a brief overview, along with a basic evaluation, of each firm.

Chris reported that seven submitted; all are within the same price range with the exception of Land 3 Studios, their fees are significantly higher and includes meetings as well as other types of citizen information gathering that we probably wouldn't do or need at this time. The first phase is an assessment of what we have and then we will move into phase 2. Leawood's approach is always lowest and best when making a recommendation.

Chris reported that MIG is based in Portland, but their partner, Schlager & Associates are local and together they completed Overland Park's Master Plan. We may be able to garner more information if a decision is made to complete a short list and bring groups in to interview. She asked for three Committee members to form a sub-committee to meet and make a recommendation to bring to the entire Committee in May.

Council Liaison Cain asked Council Liaison Rasmussen to serve as the Liaison as she is busy with Complete Streets.

Council Liaison Rasmussen replied that he is happy to serve as the Liaison.

Chris opened the floor for questions.

Dave asked why each consultant needs a partner.

Chris replied that it is based on the work they perform; some are local and often work together. This isn't unusual on master planning.

Chris added that the scope will be reviewed to make sure that the firms recommended to interview will represent what we want them to do.

David asked if a scoring criteria has been established to have a relatively uniform approach regarding their qualifications.

Chris reported that it hasn't but this will be done before the short list process begins.

Council Liaison Cain asked when all is factored in will the project cost \$85K.

Chris reported that this is correct. She asked all of the firms to provide good estimates. We aren't focused only on the money but it's important to have an idea. While reviewing the information submitted, she selected her top choices she'd like to interview. Conversation during an interview process is good and has worked well in the past.

David reported that it helps to understand their personalities, what they are bringing and if they work well with City personalities as well as understanding the community and the culture.

Chris reported that this is definitely part of it. She will make copies of the information and distribute it for review prior to the meeting.

David asked if all who submitted are aware that a short list of the teams will be compiled and interviews scheduled the first part of May, with a recommended selection to the Committee at the June meeting.

Chris reported that she will notify everyone of the revised timeline.

Chris asked for any concerns or comments regarding anyone on the list.

Chair Karen Ward Reimer reported that there are definitely three or four that stand out.

David reported that he previously served on an evaluation committee for a Colorado assessment and interviewed GreenPlay. He is familiar with their services. They were very strong.

Chair Ward Reimer, David Harwood, Lorrie Hamilton, and Council Liaison Rasmussen volunteered to meet Wednesday, April 17, 9:15 a.m. to review the RFQ. Amy Vlasic said she could also be available if needed.

Chris reported that she will send a confirmation and provide the necessary information for review by the end of the week.

B. Update – Dog Park

Chris thanked Doug for sending her the article from the 913; the reporter who attended the work session did a good job of capturing the meeting contents. Council would like to take a minimal approach by building a fence, keeping it natural, clearing some of the trees (dead or diseased), and installing a few tables. Water access will be added near the basketball goals. Another Work Session will be held on Monday.

Chris added that she met with Shawn Eliff from Travelers Insurance who recommended not allowing human food in the dog park for the safety of small children. He also recommended establishing a minimum age to enter the dog park. Most of the claims they receive on Dog Parks are of this nature.

Chris reported that she will provide costs to the Council for a three and four foot fence.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked why it went from a six foot to a three or four foot split rail fence.

Chris replied that she was asked to research a three and four foot fence with a screen behind it. Fencing averages \$10-\$12K for each additional foot. The off ramp on the north eastern property line may require a 6ft. fence without boards similar to Thomas Stoll Park. This is the closest point to any potential vehicular traffic.

Lorrie asked if there will be two entrances.

Chris reported that there will be one entrance for all dogs; it won't be sectioned according to size either at this point.

Brian added that City Attorney, Patty Bennett suggested that it should be checked for ADA accessibility. This is doable but will require grading work to be done. He will research this along with options for the trail that would enter the dog park.

Doug reported that it would be beneficial to add railings the length of the ramped area.

Brian reported that he will take this into consideration but is unsure if this is required.

Council Liaison Cain asked if any other Johnson County Parks & Recreation dog parks are ADA accessible and comply with the no human food allowed and age requirements requested by Travelers.

Brian replied that he is unsure about the other parks.

Brian added that the property line has been staked to College Blvd to determine what we own. There is an access road that would be a great path to use but we don't own all of the property so an easement or permission will need to be attained to complete the tree cleanup if we need to go in that way.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he received suggestions regarding adding tables, benches, and concrete areas to walk around while their dogs are in the dog park. They also requested water access inside the dog park to avoid unleashing and leashing their dogs.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she received a lot of calls after many read the newspaper article. When she referenced that there were more families with dogs than children, there are actually 43 million more households in the United States that have dogs than children; 39% percent of households have a dog, and 33.5% have children under the age of eighteen.

Council Liaison Cain added that her ideal goal is to be economical yet functional with hopes to have another dog park in the future on our new acreage at Ironwoods Park. This could be done if \$300K is budgeted and are able to open the dog park for \$150K. She would like water in the dog park, but if it makes more sense and provides a huge savings to install it near the basketball goals it will also be accessible to the volleyball courts and trail access. A faucet to wash dog's feet near the parking lot would be nice. She thanked everyone for their attendance and comments. She is thrilled about the dog park even if it comes to fruition in 2015.

Bob asked the estimate for going under the creek to provide water in the park.

Brian reported that the water would cost \$41,000; irrigation cost could over \$100,000.

Chris reported that she and Brian will research water options.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested using Google to provide a preliminary layout of what we want. We need to know what will fit, what won't and our perimeters. Determining utilization of the land is important.

Chris reported that this can't be done until the treed area is dealt with. Right now, it is a visually obstacle from every direction. This will be done in the early part of the winter months.

Chris reported that there is a pond approximately 1/3 of an acre that will be kept as is. A permit will be needed if it is touched in any way (filled or improved).

Lorrie reported that she is certain dogs will use it if it is there.

David asked if there is a concern for environmental impact based on a change in use of a potential wetland.

Chris reported that it should be fine as long as we don't change it. Most of the east end is currently wetland. She was asked by Council Liaison Rawlings to monitor it during the summer months. It will be checked by Brian's staff the first of each month, May to September to watch how the water fluctuates. We will know more by the time we start working.

C. Update – Brook Beatty Park

Chris reported that a few minor changes were made. Planning Staff felt the wall may be too close to the sanitary sewer line. The columns were also relocated out of the right of way. Brian is finishing completing his specs and the playground structure will be bid out soon.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked where we are in terms of land swapping.

Chris added that she reached out to the property owner but hasn't received a reply. The City Administrator advised her that no further action will be taken on behalf of the City at this time. This won't prohibit us from moving forward with the project as any fencing would be installed at the end of the project.

D. Update – 123rd Street Trail

Brian reported that easements were received from two of the three homeowners needed thus far. A meeting was held with three different property owners to review the project. A letter will be sent inviting residents along the trail to a public meeting to inform them of the plans moving forward. The trail has been a constant maintenance issue. Minor repairs in the past lasted a minimal amount of time but extensive repairs to the entire trail length have never been done. The trail will be changed from asphalt to concrete to provide a stronger bridging that will allow repairs to be done in sections if needed. The ledge will also be stabilized and stormwater improved. The engineer will begin working in the summer with a rough estimate of a late fall completion date. All repairs should be a long term fix.

Chris reported that it will be closed for a while once the project begins.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked who is covering the repair cost.

Chris added that the cost is near \$1.1 million dollars. She doesn't think it was all budgeted in special parks, but she will check and let him know the exact funding sources.

Brian reported that a portion of the money for the trail project is fixing the wing walls at Mission Road and the storm box not related to the trail. They are taking care of where the creek comes in under Mission Road.

Council Liaison Cain asked how much of the \$1.1 million will cover the cost of these repairs.

Brian reported that he has the actual breakdown at his office and can provide the exact numbers if needed.

Chris reported that it will be similar to the wall on the southeast corner of 123rd Street.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he is not in favor of a trail that will adversely affect Brook Beatty Park or the dog park, or any other funding needs the park department has and there are many. It isn't wise to spend that much money on the trail compared to other needs we have. He is uncertain of the priority. The budget hasn't been finalized. It is going to be crucial if the cost of the repairs will adversely affect the schedules we have. He doesn't want to be faced with another Gezer Park.

Chris reported that she will research the information and contact him tomorrow.

E. Update – Ironwoods Restroom

Chris reported that a Town Hall meeting was held Tuesday, April 2nd at the Lodge and there was a lot of great discussion. The biggest concern from some neighbors at this point appears to be the size of the restrooms. She expressed that they will be used other than the Amphitheatre. We don't want to use portable restrooms when spikes occur in the audience counts. If one woman's and one men's are removed we may save three square feet, which may cause us to require bringing in portable restrooms at that time. She doesn't want to have to spend money for restrooms and still using portable restrooms.

Chris added that overall many were pleased with the changes that were made (materials and style of the building) Richard Coleman, Community Development Director, Patty Bennett, City Attorney and Scott Lambers, City Administrator also attended the meeting. She appreciates them taking time out of their evening schedules to attend. She is working on the meeting summary for the Planning Commission packets. The Planning Commission meeting will be held April 23, at 6p.m. in the Council Chambers. All are invited to attend.

F. 40th Anniversary Events/Display Case

Chris reported that she and Alice Hawk will begin working on the display case next week. Anyone who would like to add photos, metals, pictures, etc., should bring them to her office for consideration. Kim has taken the lead on planning a lot of the events. She appreciates those who have volunteered to help.

Chair Ward Reimer added that she has a lot of items. She will bring them in soon.

Brian reported that the Arbor Day event will be held on Friday, April 26; 12:00 p.m. at City Park. Lunch will be served. The Mountain Bike Trail volunteer will bring students from his high school to help plant seedlings and shrubs to improve the separation of the trails and fill the area.

Chris added that a significantly sized tree will also be planted in recognition of the Department's 40th Anniversary.

Chris reported that she attended the area directors meeting and Brian and Dustin Branick were mentioned regarding their hard work on the Emerald Ash borer plan. She has received a lot of requests for a copy of the plan. Many agencies didn't have anything in place. She likes to be proactive instead of reactive and this is a good example.

Kim reported that the Barks in the Park event will be held April 27, 1-5p.m at Ironwoods Park. The Police Department is excited to partner with us. A costume contest will be held at 3:00 p.m. Dogs will be chosen by category.

Chris reported that Kim will send detailed information to those who volunteered to help.

Kim reported that promotional items have been selected. The 40th logo will be added to tennis balls that will be given away. She is waiting to hear back from the group Chair Karen Reimer suggested for the car cruise, but hasn't heard from them yet. She will research other avenues if they don't contact her soon.

Amy suggested contacting the Church of the Resurrection. They have a car show every summer.

Kim reported that she and Chris will meet tomorrow to discuss the budget for the Duck Derby. Another vendor expressed an interest to bid on the ducks. She is waiting to hear from them also.

Lorrie asked if sponsorship was researched. Sponsors could have a banner hung at the event. Bank of Blue Valley may be a good place to start.

Kim appreciates the idea but the ducks won't be printed with a sponsor's name in case it becomes an annual event.

Amy agreed that Bank of Blue Valley should be contacted; they sponsor a lot of events. Hy-Vee also sponsors a lot of the high school activities.

Kim appreciated the suggestions. She will contact them soon.

April suggested that the Plaza has a duck event and sells racing ducks in addition to a participation fee for those who would like one. Our event could do the same.

G. Introduction of Scout Guest

David Harwood reported that he is the Scout Master of Troop 117; they are working on the Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge that requires the troop to attend a public meeting. Some have attended Council meetings but it is good to see other ways things get done in the community. Attending the Parks and Recreation meeting tonight is a great way for them to see how we take care of our community and provide for recreational activities.

The troop introduced themselves.

Chair Ward Reimer welcomed the troop. Committee members thanked them for attending the meeting.

II. New Business

A. Approve Recommendation to Participate in Super Pass Program (Aquatic Center)

Kim reported that she is requesting the Committee's approval to participate in the Super Pass Program again this year. Leawood partners with five Johnson County pools and offers pass holders the opportunity to pay an additional fee to swim at the participating pools. Leawood pass holders are also allowed to use their pass at the other pools on days when our pool is closed for swim meets or mechanical issues without purchasing the add on. The price increased five dollars this year; resident families consisting of five family members will pay \$50; non-resident families are \$55. Singles resident cost is \$25, and \$30 for single nonresidents. This is an option only program.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked how each City balances the fees.

Kim reported that each City keeps accounts of their visits and the fees go into a pot. At the end of the year, visits are used to determine the split. We generated an additional \$7000 last year.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to approve the Super Pass Program participation again. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Staff Reports

Chris reported that she is working with Julie Bartels Smith (Leawood Foundation) regarding an article that will be published in the "Leawood Lifestyle" Magazine focusing on the 40th events and other upcoming events. The article will also feature nice pictures surrounding park developments. It is tentatively scheduled to be in the June issue.

Brian reported that new trees were planted as part of the emerald ash plan. Trees in poor condition are being removed selectively. They are replanting and treating others. Larger trees will be injected with the necessary chemicals for EAB control.

Chair Ward Reimer complimented Brian and his staff for their hard work. She read an article recently about the ash problem in Prairie Village. They are far behind what we are doing. It feels good to be with a City in control and on top of the problem.

Brian reported that Gezer Pond was drained and cleaned last week. Gold fish were transferred to the ponds along the parkway. His staff worked hard to get this done in a short amount of time.

Brian added that shelter reservations are starting to pick up. His staff will be busy soon.

Brian reported that he received five proposals for the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan. The Bike Committee, Council Members Cain and Filla, as well as selective staff from other departments will meet April 17, to decide who they would like to recommend or who they want to interview before moving forward. All came in within budget. They are hopeful for a May selection timeline.

Council Liaison Cain reported that Ironwoods Park lake is full with algae.

Brian reported that it is a part of the management plan with the treatment company. They should begin treatments soon to correct the problem.

Kim reported that soccer started Saturday after a two week weather delay. The First Tee golf sessions begin Monday. T-Ball registration deadline is April 24. The cabin season opened with their first rental this past weekend. The swim team has available openings. We lost nearly fifteen people to the Country Club of Leawood based on lower fees. They are offering a swim and fitness package for a monthly fee.

Amy reported that she knows people who took advantage of the offer provided by the Country Club. There are additional fees other than the package they are offering. She is certain families will return to Leawood once they figure out all the upcharges.

Kim reported that her staff has been busy getting summer staff on payroll. Two of the pool animals were refurbished for the upcoming poolseason.

Kim reported that the challenge course will host a giant swing event on Friday, May 3 at 6:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

Kim also reported that Movie Night will be May 10, behind the amphitheater. The movie will be "Casablanca".

Kim added that Facebook has 100 friends already and the numbers continue to grow.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if we've received many Facebook comments.

Kim reported that she hasn't received many. Everything has been positive so far. Most comments are from Committee members. There was also a compliment regarding plowing the trail and a question about the egg hunt. She appreciates all of the feedback.

Kim added that the Facebook logo is on the bottom of all e-mails sent and also on a mass e-mails recently sent to 680 people. This will help get the word out.

April reported *Songs for a New World* ended Sunday. Rehearsals for the *Sound of Music* will begin soon. The Schoolhouse opened the first week of March but visitors are low due to the weather. Field trips and scout troop visits are scheduled in the near future.

April reported that the RFQ for the future Justice Center art is due the first of May.

C. Misc.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she attended a soccer game Saturday and the water fountains weren't on.

Brian reported that they are usually turned on April 15 and are weather dependent.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if Chris has received any additions to the list of wants and desires for the new park land since the last Committee meeting.

Chris reported that she hasn't received any additions to the list.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked where we are regarding the Rotary Clock for City Park.

Brian reported that it has been tabled. The Rotary Club decided to postpone generating funding at this time.

D. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – May 14, 2013

Chair Ward Reimer reported that the next meeting will be held May 14, at 5:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department