

ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Board members absent: Bob Wright

Council Liaisons present: Lou Rasmussen and Julie Cain.

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

Guest in attendance: Vernita Hairston-Mitchell, mom of Joshua Mitchell (Scout Troop #10), Tod Hueser, father of Colin Hueser (Scout Troop #282). Both attended to observe the meeting to earn Scout badges.

Chair Ward Reimer thanked them for coming.

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:53 p.m.

Dave Coleman made a motion to approve the May 14, 2013 minutes. David Harwood seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update – Dog Park

Brian reported on the areas flooded in the recent storm. This was a good opportunity to observe what will happen in the event of high rains. The donated open field area received water, 30 feet past the timber line only. The grass area was o.k. The tree line held the majority of the flood debris. He recommends placing the future fence outside of the trees as stopping source for logs and debris in the event of another flood. Staff mowed the area today. It's taller than a manicured mow as it would be when developed, but is knocked down for now.

Council Liaison Cain asked when we will begin and a completion date.

Chris reported that it was determined at the second work session to move all funds into 2014 for completion date of same year. The Council decided to keep a minimal approach to the project. No separate entrances for dog size, water will be located outside of the park, with benches added at 1/2 circle at the entry and a portion of the treed area cleared once the year turns. We should be cognizant and strategic on the amount of trees removed and where depending on the water flow. She isn't sure everything can be mitigated but it will be considered so that clearing trees doesn't flood more of the open area.

Council Liaison Cain asked how the pond did during the flood.

Brian reported that he will visit the area soon and take depth measurements from a boat.

Council Liaison Rasmussen passed out photographs of other parks showing amenities and gave a brief overview. He suggests staff bring ideas to the committee including

recommended boundary lines of all the issues he discussed. It is important to determine what is in the best interest of the City of Leawood.

David Harwood reported that it would be great to have a list of items to address, with a basic outline, including direction in advance so committee members can make notes prior to another dog park discussion. A fairly high quality exhibit, and aerial map of specifics outlining proposed placements of amenities, along with large colored photos of the various areas in their current condition will help facilitate the discussion and expedite the process.

Chris reported that she will provide the most recent excerpts of dog park discussion from park board meetings in the past year. Most things discussed have been discussed before. She will scan them into one document and e-mail them to Committee members for point of reference.

Amy asked if schematics will be done soon. This would be extremely helpful to visualize.

Chris reported that this will be done in August or September.

Dave suggested having a meeting in or near the dog park area in the near future.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that this will be at the discretion of Chris regarding an appropriate time. September may be a good month.

B. Update - Brook Beatty Park

Chris reported that we wish we were further along but unfortunately the lowest and best bid was unable to meet the insurance requirements. We decided to move forward with the second lowest bidder- Little Tykes. They are a reputable company. The company representative resides in Leawood. The sculpture will be moved soon to make way for the grading of the playground area.

Chris reported that water backed up during the recent flood but didn't reach the playground area.

Chris reported that the next step is approval of the new vendor on June 17. They will be notified to order the structure the next day. Upon arrival it is a two to three day installation.

Brian reported that an irrigation and component supplier provided an irrigation design on the area across the creek.

Chair Ward Reimer asked for a timeframe.

Brian reported that they will begin by disassembling the sculpture next week. The sign will be taken apart and held until needed. He will meet with the engineer to stake areas to excavate soon and move forward from there.

C. Update - Ironwoods Restroom/Amphitheater

Chris reported that the restroom is ready to go. She is waiting on a price from the engineer and architect to finish the construction plans and bid documents. She will finalize a timeframe at that time. This will be a fall project once bids are received.

Chris added that there will be an agenda item on the Council Monday to discuss revisiting the amphitheater concept they accepted years several, which authorized the Stage

Company to move forward and raise funds. The notice is on the website and was sent to the HOA Presidents of Steeplechase and LeaBrooke, and to Leo Ashner the developer of Wilshire at Leabrooke, as well as the Stage Company, Amphitheatre Steering Committee, and Mary Tearney.

Dave reported that today is he and David's one year serving on the Committee and asked for a brief overview of the history of this project.

Chris provided a short summary of the development of the project.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that there could be additional problems with this if and when the park land is developed. He receives e-mails often regarding this. He would have never purchased it for a million dollars with the concept it was going to be a burden. Leawood needs recreation facilities. This will be a tough fight.

April reported that it is difficult to move forward and raise money and request money from a large donor because it hasn't been approved. Donors request concrete information.

Chair Ward Reimer asked April how it will affect the future of the amphitheater if they are not allowed to raise funds.

April reported that they would like to have a plan for everyone to support their fundraising efforts in the near future. At this current time they don't have this so it doesn't affect them.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the agenda he received is specific about whether the Amphitheatre Committee will remain in existence.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is glad this is coming before the Council. This has been a spinning wheel that hasn't gone anywhere for years. It is time it is brought to a head to discuss moving forward.

April reported that keeping it in its current state isn't working in their favor. It will be in their favor if acceptance is rescinded. Any outcome will be a better result than their current situation. The space is difficult to use as is. It is hard to consider moving forward without improvements to the space in some format. They will have no other choice but to consider other options if Council decides to not do anything for years to come.

Chris agrees with April and Julie that this has gone on too long. She encourages all who are able to attend to hear the opinions and discussion. Committee members can read minutes but they are never verbatim and can't capture everything. She is pleased the Council is doing this. It has become very convoluted with a lot of misinformation.

Chair Ward Reimer asked Committee members to show support and attend the meeting if possible.

D. Update - 123rd Street & Mission Road Trail

Brian reported that the trail is currently closed due to a slope failure as a result of the recent storm. It is posted on the website. The engineers visited the area today. They are making adjustments to their construction plans. He hopes to receive them this week for review by the City Engineering Department. His goal is to have it bid and as an agenda item for Council approval July 15.

Brian reported that a lot of what was present is gone, with the exception of the work previously done. They will research dirt/gravel to add in. A tree on the hillside of our property fell and landed on the other side of the creek and has been removed by staff. Once the project begins it should be completed by year end.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he was under the impression that this was to be done in 2014. Is it being moved forward to 2013?

Chris reported that it was actually in 2012 but was pushed to 2013. She is hopeful the amount won't increase once the redesign is received and is still hoping that less will be spent than the budgeted \$1.4 million.

E. Update - 40th Anniversary Events

Kim reported that final new event will be the Duck Derby. Staff has been busy selling ducks with 43 sold so far. A test run will be done soon to see how they float. She will notify committee members when this is scheduled if they would like to attend.

David reported that it would be nice to post video and pictures on Facebook.

Amy asked if ducks will be sold at the event.

Kim reported that duck sales will hopefully increase but remaining ducks will be sold at the event. Volunteers are needed the day of the event if anyone is available to attend.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the Taste of Leawood is next Saturday and it will be a good time to sell ducks at the registration table.

Chris reported that this is a good idea but this is a Chamber event. We would need prior approval and it would probably conflict with everything that would be going on.

Amy reported that she could contact Kevin Jeffries, Chamber CEO, to ask for permission.

Chris reported that Bank of Blue Valley is sponsoring a portion of the event by paying for the prizes. The Arts Council donated the money for the entertainer, Rockin Rob.

Chris reported that future upcoming events are the 4th of July, with the Volunteer Appreciation Picnic being held at City Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. preceding the fireworks display. "Save The Date" cards were sent and an invitation will be going out soon. The Labor Day Run, Fall Festival, Holiday Lighting and Breakfast with Santa will follow with something recognizing the 40th anniversary in the upcoming months.

F. Update – Revised Master Plan

Chris reported that Lose and Associates received their notice to proceed with the Master Plan and would like to come in town soon. They would like to visit the parks on the first day and interview Council and Park Board members the second and third day of their visit. She will contact the Committee once this has been finalized.

II. New Business

A. Recent Floods

Brian reported that the ball diamond and the entire infield were washed away at Tomahawk Park. The cost is \$1,000 for 100 tons of more ball field dirt that will be installed. They have outfield work to do soon.

Chris reported that they talked with Dan and collectively decided to add a grass infield, mowed shorter particularly for tee ball.

David reported that the ball won't roll. It will have to be similar to putting green to do so.

Chris reported that if cut short enough it should be fine for these age and skill levels. This is going to be a repetitive situation costing thousands of dollars. This is a good compromise to provide practice facilities and is in the best interest of the facility. We wouldn't do this on a game field.

Kim reported that it has stayed closed for weeks in the past, which is unfortunate because they can't use City Park fields Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursdays because of games.

Brian reported that his staff has been cleaning debris piled in the woods south of the North pond.

David asked if it would be helpful to have volunteers assist with the cleaning efforts.

Brian reported that they've had this offered before but he worries about volunteers near the equipment and machinery used. It may be best to have an organized effort and people worked in other areas similar to the spring cleanup event, which would be beneficial.

Lorrie reported that the morning trail users are pleased with how quick the trail was cleaned. They praised Brian and his staff for doing a good job.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported that he met with Brad regarding the Rotary Clock project last week and discussed the potential site. He will use the files Brian submitted from the original park designer to develop a site plan. He will contact Brian with a budget and a total site improvement cost. Fundraising efforts will be determined at that time. It will be brought to the committee once determined.

Brian reported that the Bike Master Plan group will form a selection Committee. The Mayor asked him for the names once decided and she will recommend them for approval for the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. They would like to get this on the July 15 Council agenda in hopes to have their first meeting that week. A public kick-off meeting will be held July 22, which is aggressive but he would like to have a bike and walking expo at the same time.

Brian reported that interviews will be held and field research conducted within the City will take place along with Work Sessions and Public meetings of within the three sectors of the City moving forward.

Brian added that large item recirculation day was held this past weekend. It was a success.

Kim reported that most camps started last week. There was a rough start due to weather but fortunately she was able to post cancellations on the website as well as Facebook.

Kim added that the new Mountain Bike Camp was a success. She received positive feedback.

Kim reported that she is busy working on the 4th of July event in the absence of a supervisor. She passed out parking passes and asked all to remember this at the event as entry will not allowed without it.

April reported that her camps began last week as well. She had a concert by the Doo Dads but had to also move inside because of the rain. There were 314 kids and parents who attended. She hosted the Stone Lion Puppet program, which also moved inside, with 435 in attendance. Many families attended the Nature Center and Schoolhouse after each event.

April added that tomorrow is the second day of the reading club at the school house.

April reported that they are in rehearsals for “Sound of Music”.

Chris reported that signage will be posted soon in the shelters throughout the park system. (*Tonia provided an example*). Tonia will be responsible for updating a weekly schedule for each shelter and Brian’s staff will change them weekly. Scott Fanning made some nice wood cases with a clear facing to hold the signs.

Chris added that there are times shelter users won’t leave once they set their picnic even if asked. This will hopefully alleviate or at least minimize the problem with people using the shelter when it is reserved. This will be a “courtesy method” of informing them when it is reserved.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – July 9, 2013

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

Dave Coleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department