



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

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

Board members absent: David Harwood

Council Liaisons present: Lou Rasmussen and Julie Cain.

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

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

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the June 11, 2013 minutes. Dave Coleman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Brook Beatty Park Progress

Brian reported that the sculpture has been taken down and placed in storage. The park sign was taken to a powder coat finishing business and looks a lot better. The lettering will be done soon. Excavation and digging work has begun for the playground structure. The playground could be available late July. The staff has also been busy preparing for the Fourth of July event and working at the pool. They usually set up for the theatre but this will be done by other staff to continue working on the park. A meeting is scheduled with Water One to determine meter usage cost; a sprinkler system and drinking fountain will be installed once established. Power is going to be an issue; he will research a battery powered valve system.

Chris added that the amenities have been selected including a dog/human water fountain, benches and trash receptacles with historic features. A picnic table and bike rack will also be installed. The landscaping will be complete mid-September, weather depending.

She received e-mails from the neighbors the day after the work began; she responded expressing that she asked if they were interested in discussing this prior to the beginning of the project. She is willing to speak with them but the project is moving forward. She hasn't received a response.

Dave asked if plaques are installed for historical purposes commemorating when a park is rededicated. Is there any information on Brook Beatty currently available at the park.

Chris reported that it is not but will be soon. . The new Fire Chief, Dave Williams is going to provide a plaque with more information about Brook Beatty, the city's first fire chief; it would most likely be mounted near the sign. She could add information about the original dedication date along with the rededication, if that happens.

Dave replied that this will be nice. He noticed a plaque at City Hall of when it was dedicated but it doesn't have a date.

Chris responded that to her knowledge it was dedicated in 1996 or 1997.

B. Ironwoods Restroom/Amphitheater Progress

Chris reported that the restroom is on the agenda, Monday, July 15; there will be a new contract with Continental who will work again with Kevin Cowan Architects to complete the plans and construction documents. Bids will be sought in late August depending on approval.

The vote to resend the acceptance of the Master Plan along with the ability for the Stage Company to raise funds was approved. We are essentially starting over, which is a good thing. There isn't any progress moving forward with improvements to the amphitheater. There may be more discussion when the restroom is complete. . There is \$301,000 remaining for construction. This cost for the engineer's and architect's fee project is \$28,000.

Chris added that a large number of people are fishing at the lake; more than ever before. This is another group that would appreciate the additional restrooms.

April reported that she agrees. The portable restrooms are heavily used.

C. Dog Park Progress

Chris reported that she, Brian and Council Liaison Rasmussen toured the area today and discussed the fence line in regards to our property and determined that we may want to stay on the south side of the overhead lines so as not to impede our ability to use the haul road and the open space in the future. It would also be more difficult for the power company to trim the trees from inside the fence. This is done approximately every five years.

Brian reported that he would suggest staying away from the easement on the north side. We may incur problems with the pond if we go too far south. It receives runoff from the interstate on the State Line exit ramp and may fill during heavy rains. During dry weather it is low and covered with algae and may not have much value for the dogs. This is totally different during a wet season. It is important to avoid complaints and the pond becoming an eye sore. A decision needs to be made if the pond will be included; if not, he recommends installing a fence with the pond on the other side.

Chris reported that the pond runs parallel to the berm, which runs parallel to the open space; if on the other side it would be cut out altogether.

Chris reported that the plan hasn't changed; the first priority is to remove the dead items. The entrance will shift slightly to the east. Council Liaison Rasmussen brought up a good point regarding deciding the fence type in regards to what our ordinance will support. The next step is to develop a plan and bring it back to the Park Board and then present it to the Planning Commission. The Hallbrook Office group would like to view the plan, which was part of the agreement when the land was donated.

Chris added that we will request at a minimum, a construction easement but may need a permanent ingress egress on the southwest side. It wouldn't be used for maintenance but the debris remaining in the woods will need to be removed. This can be done by renting equipment.

Lorrie asked if it is worth the effort to add a locked gate for future access if needed to treat the pond. It is easier to add it now than after installed. Will the cost increase drastically.

Brian reported that this is a good point. We should consider adding a gate. A tree may fall or access for other reasons may be needed.

Chris added at this point the directive is to keep the pond. She doesn't have the authority to change it.

Bob asked what the harm in keeping it is. People don't have to use it if they choose not to.

Council Liaison Rasmussen agreed. It is important to understand that retaining the pond will require a lot of upkeep. There are ways to address this and determine a decision in the future.

Chris reported that people wouldn't have an appreciation for it during certain types of weather. It looks good in the spring. She will research details with Patty, City Attorney, it could have been used to retain the run off regarding irrigation where the terraces were built south of the area or possibly feed livestock. It has been there a long time. .

Chris reported that she will meet with Joe Johnson, Public Works Director, to discuss retaining an outside engineer to complete some of the work

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the City normally puts fencing on the property line; there is a fence on the north side of the property along the highway easement. It would make sense to build it up to the easement but unfortunately there is water there during the storms and we are uncertain if it's back up water or flow water due to the debris. There is a power line running east and west through the area; in his opinion the fence should be added along the south easement line of the power line easement. We could face the probability of the power company needing access and possibly tearing up the fence at our expense if installed otherwise. The type of fence installed should be open for discussion because of the water.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that he asked Brian and Chris to meet him because he was concerned about the area. The water flows north and south during the storms in the flood way, which is a torrent going through the area. The force of the water could be hitting against the embankment on the west edge. The fence shouldn't be installed there. It should be moved at least sixty feet. We won't know this definitively until the area is cleaned out. He couldn't find the stakes during the flood but found them today on the corners. We may need to back off on historic preference from putting the fence on the property line and back it off to the easement. He wants the record to show for those who go after us why we do it if we do it. It is because there is an easement on the north edge.

Council Liaison Rasmussen will meet with Scott to discuss contacting the power company to determine the amount of clearing they will be responsible for. This may save us money.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we will be on the property line on the south end and the east side. There aren't any impediments to this, and it makes sense to keep this policy but we need to be more flexible on the north end. We will end with a solid four acres of land once all work is completed.

Chair Karen Reimer reported that she remembers four acres was the minimum acreage recommended; she was hoping for eight acres to eventually add a small/large dog area in the future.

Council Liaison Rasmussen replied that the ability to eventually add this may be possible in the future.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked when staff will have a definitive outline of the dog park. Will this be determined by fall of 2013.

Chris replied that it is difficult to determine at this time, as the foliage makes it hard to get in to the area. She would like to see the leaves drop first. They hope to get started before the August heat arrives.

Council Liaison Rasmussen recommends staff contact KCPL to discuss what they are willing to clear. There is a huge oak tree that appears it may fall soon near the creek. He is hopeful they will be responsible for clearing their easement.

Chris reported that a start will be for Dustin to mark all trees that are dead or diseased.

Chris reported that she agrees with Council Liaison Rasmussen, it doesn't make sense to do it that way in that particular area and as long as it is part of the record, future questions would be answered.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he and the Mayor met and we have some flexibility in terms of fencing on the west side because the City Council can decide. There are fencing regulations on the east side, particularly on the south side and perhaps the north side. The worst thing the City can do on the east side is violate the regulations. We need to be careful of the type of fence installed.

D. 40th Anniversary Events (Duck Derby Recap)

Chris reported that all ducks were sold for the event. Many bought multiple ducks. More could have been sold at the event if available. She suggests having more ducks in the future. The Fire Department probably needs to be contacted to participate next year, as their hoses have more pressure.

Council Liaison Cain reported that *Rockin Rob's* performance was fantastic. Did the City pay for the entertainment. Children were lined up and really enjoying the show.

April reported that the Arts Council paid for him to attend.

Council Liaison Cain thanked April and the Arts Council.

Chris reported that Bank of Blue Valley was nice to work with. They paid for the prizes and provided back packs for those who attended. They brought a very professional group of staff to help out. . They inquired about sponsoring the event again next year.

Lorrie reported that the back packs had a certificate worth \$5.00 to open a Ducky Kids Account, a duck baseball card and a Bank of Blue Valley notepad. It was a nice addition.

Chris reported that several accounts were opened as a result of the event.

Chris reported that she will notify Committee members when the photos are available to view. .

Lorrie reported that her husband took a lot of pictures also, some of which she passed around.

Lorrie reported that feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Many expressed that it was perfect for children and were pleased it was small scale to get up close and personal to the wadie compared to a similar event held on the Plaza. The only negativity was the confusion that some thought they could keep the ducks and the long wait for the face painter. It will be helpful to have two face painters next year if the attendance increases.

Chris reported that the event was easy to manage; test runs done prior to the event made a huge difference. Cleanup was easy. It will continue to remain small moving forward for many reasons. She is pleased everyone had a great time.

E. 4th of July Celebration Recap

Chris reported that the weather was perfect, which attributed to great attendance. Some complained about the lines for busses at the end of the night but they did the best they could with twelve buses. In speaking with the police, they agreed that the number of b busses and the way they handled the loading was great, some people were just very anxious. Some chose to walk to their cars; having the lit trail helped significantly.

Dave added that his family walked and it isn't long. We should encourage people to walk.. The buses can be used for those who need it only.

Chris reported that we can place signage smaller than the parking signs to encourage people to walk. They could be placed by the bus signs and display an estimated walk time and also the distance.

Chris reported that the fireworks were really good; in her opinion, the best we've had. The colors and display were better. The vendors were pleased that the lines were steady. There were a lot of activities for children to do. There also weren't any accidents reported which is good. The Fire and Police Departments did a great job and are easy to work with.

Chair Reimer asked what happened to the music this year. The fireworks are usually displayed to music.

Chris reported that she is uncertain if music was played last year but it wasn't done this year because Jack FM said they could not do remote broadcast..

Dave reported that he would suggest securing the music in the bandstand speakers, if so, it could be heard everywhere. Why isn't it simulcast.

Chris reported that a radio station would have to do this. We may be able to get someone different than we've used in the past. It will depend on staffing and equipment issues if the station can get there, especially if other events are held on the same day.

Dave asked if the music has to be synchronized with the fireworks company.

Chris replied this is correct. The fireworks company sends the timing for the display selection and we send it to the radio station. She agrees the music is missed.

Chair Ward Reimer would suggest informing the vendors that they should not drive during the fireworks display. Some loaded their trucks and drove through the parking lot with their lights as the fireworks began.

Chris reported that she will make sure they are aware of this for future events.

Brian reported that he was impressed with the attendees. They all cleaned up after themselves. Most of the debris his staff cleaned up after the event was from the fireworks. They didn't need to clean the perimeter or the parkway.

Chris reported that the Volunteer event was held at City Hall during the same time. It was also well attended and a nice event.

F. Revised Master Plan Visit - Recap

Chris reported that she is collecting data and directing them where to go for information. Those who they missed will have the opportunity to meet with them face to face when they return. The next step is to put together a Steering Committee along with Park Board Committee members devised of people connected with other things. They would like people from different locations with influence not directly connected to the City. For example, a banker, Chamber member or swim team parent.

Chris asked for input from those who interviewed.

April commended them for being prepared for their interviews. They were well versed of what she did before she entered the room and pre-read her questionnaire and did a good job asking the right question for specific people.

Chris added that she received positive feedback from Council who were interviewed.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she spoke with Council Liaison Bussing who was very impressed and expressed his appreciation.

Chris reported that technically they have 365 days to complete all three phases.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she was asked if she feels left out, as a resident of the north part of the city, that there aren't major parks in that part of the city. This must be an issue in other cities. She expressed that the north has the soccer fields and pool so it isn't an issue for her.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked when they are expected to return.

Chris reported that she anticipates they will return in September. There are some things she has to research for them to deliver upon their return.

Dave reported that much of his hour was spent educating them; they were narrowly focused on Leawood and what we have as a City perspective, which is great but he tried to inform them of areas adjacent to the City such as the Jewish Community Center, which they were unaware of. He encouraged them to visit other venues that give people other options private or public, as well as the Overland Park Soccer Complex and the Matt Ross Community Center..

Chris reported that they toured Matt Ross, and the Overland Park Soccer Complex as he recommended. She had already downloaded the Overland Park completed Master Plan. They asked for our Needs Assessment, the C.I.P. program, and the last two years budget with more to come. She is sure they will have questions moving forward.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

April reported that she is busy with the Sound of Music. Opening night is Thursday. Please contact her for reserved seating. She anticipates a huge crowd each night. Auditions for Harvey will be held the last weekend of July. The play will be in November.

Several Arts Council members traveled to New York to view the new sculpture. It is wonderful. The artist was a very nice person and held a reception including his archivist, welders etc., along with their spouses. *She passed a photo around.* The art piece is stainless steel and will be shipped in pieces. It will be reinstalled and mounted on a concrete pedestal north of the South Lake on Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

April added that while there she visited with Chris McCoy who worked the past three summers at the Schoolhouse but is now living and working in New York as an Assistant Director for a new Broadway Show called “Soul Doctor” opening in August.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked where we are regarding the Justice Center Art.

April reported that the Committee met and selected two artists. Scott received all submissions and would like the Committee to meet again to select three more with a better variety and closer to the dynamics of the building. Something less contemporary.

Chris reported that there is some concern that the work represented may not reflect the building as it should.

April reported that they will meet soon to get this done. All will be thanked for their submission.

Council Liaison Cain thanked April for her diligence in this. We have more modern pieces than traditional pieces, which was clearly the intent of the Council.

Brian reported that the bid opening for the 123rd Mission Trail will be held July 23. If all goes well a recommendation will be made at the August 5, Council meeting.

A public kickoff meeting for the Bike Pedestrian Master Plan will be held August 12, 5:30p.m., at the Lodge. A mini expo will be held and a BMX stunt show will be held in the parking lot. They do huge jumps and flips. Hopefully it's well attended.

Brian added that he is seeking people to form a Steering Committee for the Bike Committee to work on the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan project. He has received interest from several people including the Building and Superintendent from Blue Valley Schools, Manager of Town Center, and a bike shop owner from Leawood. He is also interested in anyone involved in healthy living. The consultants will hold stake holder interviews.

Chris reported that they also discussed getting someone involved in fitness walking to attend. She suggests contacting our Blue Cross and Blue Shield representative, they are proactive about keeping us involved in keeping fit.

Council Liaison Cain suggested contacting the Backwoods Store or Dicks Sporting Goods, a representative from Park Place and the new AMC.

Brian reported that this is important for connectivity whether walking or riding to gain access of the trail from both sides of Tomahawk Creek Parkway. There are no sidewalks or crosswalks.

Chris reported that people in the adjacent buildings would like to use the trails on their lunch break but have difficulty crossing the four lanes of the parkway.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this has been discussed this for years and never seems to develop..

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is what this is for. We have the complete streets policy now. We've come a long way.

Brian added that we should have a Master Plan by this time next year. The consultant was approved in June.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that it is good that Town Center is included.

Brian agreed, and he's local. Kevin Jeffries recommended him.

Brian reported that his staff has been busy mowing. They had an irrigation leak when an employee accidentally severed four irrigation wires while putting a stake in the ground to prop up a tree.

Chris reported that the fall program guide will be delivered in August.

Chris reported that the General Manager for Ironhorse resigned. We are very close to acquiring a new General Manager.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if this needs prior Council approval. He is certain the contract states that approval is needed.

Chris reported that it does not. The contract states that the City has to be in agreement with the recommendation. The candidate has been interviewed and seems to be a good fit.

Chris added that there is a contract on the agenda for July 15 for the expansion of the clubhouse. This is just for Continental Engineers to put together the RFP for the Design/Build team.

Chris reported that the pool has been busy to date. It has been hot but we haven't experienced the extremely hot weather as years past.

Chris also reported that upcoming events are the Doggie Dunk which will include something to recognize the 40th Anniversary. It will be held the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 3. The Labor Day Run, as well Freaky Fall Fest are approaching. We don't have the resources to recreate the "scary" trail how it used to be. We will bring Halloween affects in on a smaller scale. A costume contest and trunk or treat will be incorporated again this year. She is also researching a "clean" petting zoo for the children.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she misses the Doggie Dunk every year because it is always scheduled on a Council meeting night.

Council Liaison Rasmussen agreed. He has attended with Hershey but he allows his dog to jump in quickly in order to attend the Work Session. It works out when there is a Council meeting only.

B. Misc.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she was contacted by a couple of her neighbors inquiring how to access a daily master calendar of events. One is a grandmother with grandchildren coming in town who wanted information on events to participate in while here. It was difficult maneuvering our website.

Chris reported that we don't have a daily calendar on the website.

Chair Ward Reimer added that this request is logical. This information should be easily accessible on our website.

April added that the Arts Council and Schoolhouse has events listed on the website.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she understands it may be there but a grandmother seeking events for her grandchildren should not have to go to different areas on the website. The information should be in one location.

Dave reported that he has sought information from the program guide. This is helpful. The KC Parent Magazine also list daily activities and events.

Chris reported that there are very few activities we offer that don't require pre-registration. We have camps etc., but you must register. If you access a calendar it wouldn't provide much information. It would be a good idea to be able to access this information without going to the schoolhouse, arts, etc., separately. The staff has a calendar of events that could be converted in calendar format. She will work with staff to see what can be done.

Chair Ward Reimer replied that this would be helpful. This shouldn't be an isolated event where she was contacted. She is certain this would benefit others.

Dave reported that one of the prime objectives of the city should be obtaining open space. He is interested to know if the Council has moved forward with his suggestion. He and Council Liaison Cain had an extensive e-mail conversation pertaining to this nearly six months ago.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that land recently became apparent to the City Council adjacent to the Baptist Church on State Line Road but it was an impossible land to consider. The Council denied acquiring this space. The idea is still open.

Dave reported that it is more of a priority for the City to preserve open space now while open space is available. There should be a formal aggressive policy.

Lorrie reported that she agrees. She had this discussion with her interviewer. It may be in the best interest of the City to be proactive and acquire space. We need to look for vacant lots in the neighborhoods we reside in. Check on the price and availability.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she presented this idea to the Council. She appreciates Dave's suggestion and following up on this.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – August 13, 2013

Chair Ward Reimer reported that the next meeting will be held August 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department