



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

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

Board members absent: Amy Vlastic and Bob Wright.

Council Liaisons present: Lou Rasmussen and Julie Cain.

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

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

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the July 9, 2013 minutes. Dave Coleman seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Dog Park Progress and Future Maintenance**

*Chris provided a revised layout and a short summary of the progress of the project.*

Chris and Brian met with Brett of Continental Engineering yesterday; the map layout is a starting point and the first blush of the plan; it is different than what was shown before. She and Brian would like the pond to be reconsidered. She provided pictures that show the pond is nearly empty and what water remains full of algae. In regards to the water fountain, Brett is confident the correct water pressure can be extended into the actual dog park area.

David asked if it will be an above grade water line attached to the bridge that would require winterization, which would be useable during the months of May – October.

Brian replied that this is correct.

Chris reminded everyone that if the pond is filled or improved it would trigger a permit. It would be easy to spend \$100,000 on improvements to the pond. She is proposing some clearing of the rest of the area by removing dead trees and making necessary ADA adjustments to the trail east and west of the bridge. Brett will discuss a proposed permanent easement (off College) with Hallbrook regarding access to remove debris as needed.

Chris added that they are proposing benches with canopies instead of shelters. This will spread out the shade around the area. Installing an additional dog waste bag area was also discussed as opposed to locating them close to the benches. There will also be a few scattered throughout the park.

Council Liaison Rasmussen likes the canopy idea. People need to be able to see their dogs.

Chris added that it is best to determine placement once the treed area is cleared of dead trees and understory.

David reported that we are currently approving numbers and concepts because locations will be fixed in the field based on conditions at the time of construction.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the fence chosen is in accordance with our Development Ordinance. It is important to get this done. He doesn't foresee any problems with the West side; it belongs to us but he anticipates a difficult time with the East side. We need to make sure the fencing is in accordance; if not, this must be discussed with the neighbors. He is aware of two areas in Leawood that considered the same type fencing and both were grandfathered in. One is on Mission Road near the Saddle and Sirloin, the other, without the wire is on 96th street from State Line Road to Leawood.

Chris replied that she hasn't inquired yet but will check soon.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that the chain link on the north goes to the highway and should be considered with the easement we are trying to obtain. Would the north fence be dropped farther to the south edge if recommended to City Council to abandon the pond.

Brian reported that this will be done.

Chris reported that this is correct. It can be removed if future Council decides differently.

Brian reported that he spoke with KCPL; they are on a 4-5 year rotation trimming back trees. All is dropped in the area but not removed. They are scheduled to return in 2015. Leaving a tree buffer to prevent damage to the fence from floods will be important.

Chris reported that it would be beneficial if KCPL will be amenable to look at it before we get started.

Brian reported that they are willing to do this.

Council Liaison Rasmussen thanked Brian for adhering to the Committees request to contact KCPL. Where are we regarding a construction easement on the road. This is crucial.

Chris reported that Brett plans to meet with the Hallbrook Property Manager to discuss dog park access.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if our goal is to obtain a temporary or permanent construction easement.

Chris replied that we will ask for a permanent easement.

Brian reported that it would be for maintenance and construction purposes only.

Council Liaison Cain asked if Continental will bid this out. She would like an itemized bid and cost attached before moving forward.

Chris reported that the fence may be the only work that will be bid. We will purchase and install the amenities. We need to decide what we are comfortable with proposing. The water line is an issue from the expense side, although not as expensive as was originally thought. The most important issues are the location of the fence, water lines and the ADA issue. She would like a general consensus from the Park Board about what is being proposed tonight.

Lorrie asked what type of walking surface will be installed. Is it paved or crushed gravel. There will be maintenance issues if the pathway isn't installed now. This should be established from the beginning instead of people creating one along the fence line on their own.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he suggested permeable concrete.

Doug agreed this would be best.

Chris also agreed that people will likely follow the fence line , making their own path around the park.

Council Liaison Cain wanted to reiterate that cost should be determined before approved.

Chris reported that Committee members can agree with the concept understanding that price adjustments can be made. It is hard to determine fencing cost and layout if it is uncertain what the Committee wants. They will move forward with what's presented tonight if there is a general consensus. This is a starting point. The interior permeable contents are a choice. The Council as a body can say no.

David reported that the Committee is looking to approve or provide concurrence with a concept plan to move forward with pricing and specific locations, numbers will be presented at a later date. The pond is a high risk liability issue regarding the maintenance, upkeep, and potential injury to animals and people who try to wade out into it. He would love to see this outside of the park.

Lorrie reported that the concept is good. She suggests providing pricing options; Council can choose those that fit within the budget they approve.

Brian reported that David Ley had different ideas than Brett's on how to approach the ADA trail issues than when first presented; there may be a different way of meeting ADA requirements that are less costly.

Chris reported that they will meet with Public Works and review the plan once a consensus is met.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris to provide a report within thirty days. This is important before moving forward too far.

Dave reported that he apologizes but has to leave early to attend a school event but wanted to share an article published in the *CNN Money Magazine* featuring Leawood in the Top 25 Top Earning Towns; the article mentions: more than 400 acres of parkland, eight miles of trails and hometown events such as a fall festival with face painting and hayrides, which cement Leawoods allure. *The article was passed around.*

## **B. Brook Betty Park Progress**

Chair Ward Reimer asked Committee members if they've had the opportunity to drive by and look at the progress.

*Many reported that they are pleased with the work being done.*

Brian reported that the rain delayed the work slightly but the stone wall that goes around the east side of the playground will be built soon. The footing for the sculpture will also be poured soon to reset the art sculpture. The signs are ready and will be installed. An irrigation design was presented to Water One. He and is waiting on a response as to where to set the meter. The sprinkler will be installed at that time.

Chris added that a significant amount of money was saved by finding a solar source for the meter and eliminating the need for electricity.

Council Liaison Cain asked if further discussion has been addressed with the neighbor who expressed concern prior breaking ground.

Chris reported that she asked Brett to tweak the northern portion as she would like to put an easement for access to work on the drainage ditch if needed. This was expressed to the neighbor and included in the email that was recently sent.

Chris is happy that a playground was selected that did what it was intended to. The park still has a lot of green space and the playground did not overwhelm the space. People are sharing positive comments as they walk by the park.

Lorrie reported that she agrees. It doesn't jump out at you and is a nice addition.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that it was tastefully done. It looks like it was meant to be there and has always been there.

Chris reported that she spoke with Chief Williams regarding the plaque. It will have a facial sketch of Brook Beatty and blurb about who he was and when the park was originally built.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if it is still in budget.

Chris added that it is. Additional money was spent on engineering initially and we are watching the budget as the project progresses.

Chair Ward Reimer asked a tentative opening date.

Brian added that they work as time permits. It helps to have most of the materials here. They may be working on landscaping into fall but the play equipment could open in early October.

Chris added that she will check with the Mayor in hopes that she would like to have a rededication ceremony.

#### **C. Ironwoods Restroom/Amphitheater Progress**

Chris reported that the biggest thing is the bid docs; we should be able to start early November with a six months completion date which should be by next summer and before the production.

April reported that the kid's events can move inside if needed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the design is complete.

Chris reported that it is nearly complete; Continental is waiting on Greg Hasselwander (architect) to finish the changes so they can update their plan sheets. The footprint didn't change but required some tweaking.

#### **D. Revised Master Plan Update**

Chris reported that she has been busy putting together a steering committee to meet with the consultants when they return next Wednesday and Thursday. The workshop for the steering committee will be held one night with public input the next. She hasn't confirmed that everyone is able to commit but will know soon. She would like to have a soccer person who resides in the North; she asked Bob Wright to recommend someone. She has a representative from the Shawnee Mission School District but would like one from Blue Valley as well. She also needs one for the Arts, and is trying to find general citizens with an interest in what we do and are not currently serving on a Committee. It may be best if the consultants reschedule their visit since time is short. She will contact them..

Brian added that he is concerned it may interfere with his stakeholder interviews for the Bike Pedestrian Plan if pushed back another week. They would like to interview the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as a group August 27, and 28.

Lorrie suggested her neighbor, Rick Thompson who teaches in Blue Valley. She will speak with him and forward Chris his information if he is interested.

Council Liaison Cain reported that Ann Blessing is on the Arts Council but is the Coordinator of the Blue Valley Educational Foundation. She would be a good resource for the Arts and Blue Valley. Another person who may be interested is the owner of Artichokes Restaurant in Mission Farms, Becky Pashia. She wants to stay active, has small children and is in the Arts. She recommended Chris contact Deb Filla and Andrew Osmond for other recommendations.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that a young newlywed couple moved in her neighborhood recently; she is a teacher at Shawnee Mission East and he works for J.E. Dunn; she will ask them, either would be a great addition.

April suggested Jacquie McKinney.

Chris reported that Jacquie may be busy. When she retired from Park Board she expressed that she was pursuing other things. She appreciates everyone's input and should know by tomorrow to include information with the memo in the packets to be distributed. They are still gathering information. There will be other opportunities in future phases.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked what they expect to gain.

Chris reported that whenever a Master Plan process is done, they are interested in public input. Her job is to make sure they stay focused on what we have without gearing to the next phase of what we want to meet the objective of the first phase and not lose sight of what the Park Board Committee and Council agree to. They are trying to get a good representation across the City and are receiving data which is good and relevant to future development. They want input and special interest as well.

#### **E. 123<sup>rd</sup> and Mission Trail**

Brian reported that this was approved at the last Council meeting. A pre-construction meeting will be held Thursday to review everything. They will start August 19. The engineers estimate was \$1.2 million but the lowest bid was \$1.4 million; five bids were received in all. The expense and difficulty of making the drilling all of the holes was the biggest driver, along with a miss by the engineer.

Chris added that \$100,000 in failure was also added from the heavy spring rains. She was hoping to come in at \$1.2m and not spend the entire \$1.4m but we came in slightly higher due to a break in the engineers estimate coupled with the additional damage and access points issue.

David asked if the contractors were allowed the estimate for proposed value engineering options.

Brian reported that they did. There was another option for that area. There was a low bidder for the preferred method if we went with value engineer options but another contractor was lower but a large amount of rip rap would be piled in and it wouldn't look ideal and could be seen from Mission Road.

Chris reported that they were also worried about how it would perform. She was asked if it would be a permanent fix. She is uncertain she could answer that if rip rap was chosen.

Brian added that they have 150 days to complete the job; the engineering walls should be done and the trail should be open within that time frame, understanding we may be waiting on landscaping. They've experienced flood damage to an abutment on the College trail bridge for a while. Public Works was concerned with the erosion on the east abutment and received bids; all were higher than what we expected. Mega was asked to provide a quote since they were doing the job. They actually gave a better price than anyone else. Public Works will attend the next Council meeting with a change order to repair the bridge.

#### **F. Ironhorse Clubhouse Expansion**

Chris reported that they are moving forward, the Mayor will appoint a Task Force at the next Council meeting. The design is 4500 sq. ft. and should complement the current building (exterior) and accommodate 220 people. The primary reason for expansion is for golf outings. The days of sitting under a tent in the parking lot after a tournament are gone. Also, at least five potential renters are turned away daily from the Lodge. It will be nice to offer another option for groups smaller than three hundred. It will have a great ambiance, with a fireplace overlooking the golf course with wood floors and a deck. They are proposing additional restrooms. There will be a separate outdoor entrance.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if an engineer has been chosen, as well as an architect with the original plans for the expansion. What are the design criteria.

Chris reported that Continental is the engineering firm. The bids for Design/Build will be opened September 5. The RFP is very detailed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if expansion costs are near \$900K.

Chris reported that the budget is \$1,000,000- \$900K for construction and \$100K for the engineering and design. The RFP is very thorough in terms of our needs.

David asked if user fees will have a five or ten year return on the investment.

Chris reported that the proforma prepared by Troon shows a five year return.

Council Liaison Cain reported that Park Place has plans of opening a banquet space for weddings in the future.

#### **G. Report on Bike/Ped Master Plan Kick-off Event**

Brian reported that the kickoff event was held last night. It was well attended, with nearly fifty attendees and several vendors. The consultants did a good job of displaying information. A huge map of the City out was displayed. Feedback was received by allowing attendees to highlight the areas they are having difficulty cycling or walking. The BMX show was also well attended; kids received autographs. He received positive feedback about the event. A lot of the organizations will help spread the word. A board member from the Johnson County Transit Authority attended and presented information about completing a survey beginning August 20, at Active Leawood.com. People can log in and provide feedback. This is the project website. Information will be posted about neighborhood meetings.

Chris thanked Brian for organizing a great event. Kim and the Nature Center staff also helped. She was pleased with the turnout.

Brian reported that consultants hope to host stakeholder interviews with breakout groups the week of August 26. They would tentatively like to meet with Park Board members and some Council members Tuesday, August 27, 3:00 p.m. He will send an e-mail once confirmed.

Brian also reported that neighborhood studio meetings will be held in September for North Leawood. He is researching a location in the area to have the meeting. The meeting scheduled for September 16, will be held at the Lodge from 6-8p.m. A meeting will be held at City Hall, September 17. People will have the opportunity to share their neighborhood concerns. Consultants will travel by bike and car to access the streets in the part of town where the meetings are held. Park Board members are welcome to attend.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Leawood Foundation Proposed New Initiative**

Chris reported that she met with Alice recently who is confident the Foundation's next initiative will be to replace and enhance the play equipment at City Park. It was installed in 1995 and added to it later. It needs to be resurfaced and the grade changed. It will be enhanced as an inclusive playground accessible for all children even those with disabilities and may be moved slightly to the west. They were interested and may decide to fundraise this as a two year initiative. She will report further developments at the September Park Board meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that he hoped they would consider the old City Hall site.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is a good point. She is glad he brought this up.

Chris added that they are also discussing this and may consider this in the future.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there are any developments with the signage at Gezer Park.

Chris reported that she is working through this with the Foundation. They are trying to combine information to make sure it isn't overloaded. The signs need to be clean looking and minimal throughout the park. We need to determine where to place the talking posts as opposed to a sign. They discussed talking to some former donors to possibly fund projects moving forward. They also suggested incorporating virtues of the Blue Valley School District matched to certain amenities in the park. They would like to draw students in if they can relate to it.

She is concerned about potentially paying an artist for something that could be difficult to incorporate and; paying someone else to coordinate the educational program as neither has been budgeted.

### **B. Staff Reports**

Brian reported that he recently mowed the dog park area.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked how long it took to mow it.

Brian replied that it took two hours.

Chris reported that we will have an idea of maintenance costs and supplies once we get a final to take to the Planning Dept. We need to determine the cost to maintain four waste stations and how many times per week we will mow, as well as who is responsible for removal of the dog waste. She is certain it will be heavily used.

Brian reported that they will also need to weed eat the fence. This will also take time.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he has noticed dog parks closing certain areas for maintenance on a rotation basis during the week. We may need to consider this.

Brian reported that this is a good idea. They normally mow that park on Thursday and it takes all day to complete; this may be the best day to consider the option of closing it.

Chris added that the City Administrator agreed to consider requests for new employees for the next budget cycle (2015).

Kim reported that pool start half days tomorrow. Schools are, or will be, in session soon. She has also been busy working on replacing the Facility Supervisor position.

Kim added that Labor Day Run is September 2; Doggie Dunk is September 3; and Freaky Fall Fest is October 11. Soccer starts September 7 and there are currently 1500 children enrolled. She anticipates an increase when school begins and the four and five year olds build teams.

Kim reported that we have a new partnership with Midtown Tennis Club for indoor tennis; programs will run through January.

Kim also reported that the First Tee Program begins next week.

Kim reported that she will request approval for the fees at the September meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if anyone has expressed interest in adding a ping pong table to the Lodge.

Kim reported that this was done in the past but the tables have been relegated to the upstairs.

Chris reported that she would like to incorporate Pickle Ball. It is popular and a lot of fun.

April reported that the last of three American Girl doll events will be held Saturday. They have been popular.

April added that a Back to School event will be held the following Saturday. She has already received calls from several teachers booking field trips for the fall.

April also reported that Jazz in the Park starts Sunday and runs for three consecutive Sundays at Ironwoods Park. They are a lot of fun. Church of the Resurrection is the sponsor this year and will distribute water bottles.

April reported that *Harvey* was cast this week. Rehearsals start the beginning of October. The show starts in November.

April reported that the scanners are working on the art pieces. She tried it and all are correct.

April reported that they are looking at six artists for the Justice Center. Visits will begin late September and October.

Chris reported that to reiterate what Kim reported, the fees and charges are usually not until October but information was sent from the City Clerk that they will be up for Council review in October, which pushes them up a month earlier than normal.

### **C. Misc.**

Chair Ward Reimer reported that recently while visiting City Park she noticed several buses transporting older handicapped adults who played on the equipment and ate lunch in the Lions shelter. She was concerned about the ratio of the size of the adults to the younger children. She didn't want a younger child to get hurt but understands that they need a place to play. We may need to address this in the future.

Brian added that he has seen the same group. The playground is designed for twelve years of age.

Chair Ward Reimer added that they may mentally be that age but their size is of an adult.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he saw an advertisement recently that a dog food maker and Pets Mart are granting money for the construction of a dog park.

Kim reported that she researched this information by downloading the brochure. You have to name your dog park after the company for the rest of its life. It would be the Pets Safe, Pet Dog Park for its entirety.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he is uncertain but thinks the dog food provider for the advertisement he saw was IAMS. He doesn't have a problem with naming the dog park after them if we can possibly receive \$50k. Does the City have the capability of approaching this. We discussed naming rights very early on.

Doug and Chair Ward Reimer agreed that this may be a great opportunity for sponsorship.

Chris reported that there is a difference in sponsorship versus naming rights. She vaguely remembers from reading past Park Board minutes from ten years ago that the City isn't supportive of naming rights. But things change and this could change.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that we have a budget of \$300k and \$50k was dropped early on for dog amenities. Taking advantage of this opportunity may offer us a chance to bring the amenities back regardless of if it has to be named after them. We will have an ideal dog park and this is what they are willing to support.

Chris reported that we can discuss funding in general. People love their dogs and will support many different things.

Kim reported that this may be different than what she researched. The one she received had one week turnaround window.

Chris reported that she received information similar from NRPA with grant information.

Council Liaison Rasmussen request staff research this further to determine if it's still valid, and if so, the terms and conditions. It is worth an inquiry for \$50k.

Chris reported that the inquiry can be done but the issue is if the City is supportive of the naming rights. Another concern would also be if someone suggests using the amount to subsidize the budget we currently have.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this is true. He appreciates staff researching this. He will contact the Mayor and City Administrator tomorrow to discuss this.

Kim offered to research this.

Chris added that the information will be brought back to the next meeting. She will also look at other opportunities other people have used. She is certain there is more than one.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she was on a Facebook page today regarding miniature schnauzers and she commented on the page but was redirected so the comment can be reviewed first before automatically posting on the Facebook page. She noticed her comment later in the day once it had been approved.

Chair Ward Reimer added that she tried to post her *I Love Leawood* button on the Parks and Rec Facebook page but was denied. Why did this happen.

Kim reported that personal pages allow this but a business page does not. Currently Leawood doesn't allow posting pictures. She will research if something has changed.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she would appreciate this. The public is out in the parks and may have cute pictures of children playing soccer or swimming. This would be nice to share on the Facebook page.

Kim reported that she was advised by the City Attorney that a signed waiver must be on file before any pictures are shared.

**D. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – September 10, 2013**

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

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug Stevens seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department