



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2013 - 5:30 p.m.
Ironhorse Golf Course Clubhouse

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

Board members absent: Bob Wright.

Council Liaison present: Lou Rasmussen, Julie Cain.

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

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

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

I. Old Business

A. Brook Beatty Park Rededication

Councilmember Rasmussen asked what the current situation is with the fence.

Brian explained the existing stakes are the location of the potential land swap with the neighboring homeowner. The drainage swale is currently on our property. The homeowner would definitely have given more than the City would receive when they suggested also giving us the north piece. Since this suggestion, coupled with a request for money from the City, staff has determined not to go forward with this piece. Just swap out the two triangular pieces. It will still be more to the City but not by much.

Chris thanked Mayor Dunn, as well as the park board and council members who attended, along with Fire Chief Dave Williams for coming. She also shared that despite the frigid weather, there were about 40 residents (adults and children) who came out to participate. Lisa Harrison from Leawood Lifestyle also came and took photos of the event. There will be an article in the January issue.

Chris shared some questions that were asked at the dedication by residents. There is still concern about the front of the park and its proximity to the street, along with the current speed limit.

Chris promised to at least look into it and discussed this very briefly with Public Works Director, Joe Johnson and Police Chief, John Meier. This will be discussed again, in more detail in late winter.

B. Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update

Brian passed out an updated map and explained the colored icons and routes. He also explained and showed pictures of some potential way-finding signs.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that we need a degree of uniformity in signage as Leawood is situated between two larger cities. Will this be discussed moving forward?

Brian said that he actually just attended a meeting on trails and there is definitely a desire between municipalities to coordinate the connection of trails and signage.

David Harwood suggested that we engage public works for a unified standard.

Brian said that the consultants are following the unified manual guidelines in development of the master plan.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that in regards to 143rd street improvements that involve the bike/hike trail, we need to consider federal funding. South Carolina has 10' trails and bike shared use paths. We should recommend this to the City Council. We should approach MARC or other federal groups to maximize the efforts.

Brian said that he and the others are in contact with MARC and their bicycle coordinator and that this can be discussed.

Amy said that a column in today's newspaper discussed proper bicycle etiquette.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked the committee to recall his request to staff regarding bicycle regulations in Leawood, which they provided, and there really are none. Basically, cyclists are only required to follow the same laws as motorists. Others, however, have come up with some other requirements such as lights on bikes, speed limits on trails, reflective clothing, etc. We need to come up with some reasonable regulations and an ordinance that defines behavior and ensures safety.

Councilmember Cain said that currently, there are only a few complaints coming in only to Councilmember Rasmussen.

David Harwood said that California has posted speed limits on mixed use trails.

Brian stated that trail user conflicts are not unique to Leawood trails. We need to determine what the guidelines might be and how they could be enforced.

Amy said that many of the issues are a matter of good manners.

Councilmember Rasmussen suggested that the committee should give this some thought and establish criteria for some level of safety. Right now we have dogs, baby strollers, runners, walkers, bicycles, etc.

Chris asked Brian if the consultants working on the Bike/Pedestrian plan will prioritize walking and biking together.

Brian confirmed that they will do this. They are writing a plan and going into the Tomahawk Creek area now to see what is happening there. The goal is to have a draft completed by the end of February and schedule a work session with the council in April or May.

Chair Ward Reimer suggested that as the plan moves forward, this issue should be brought up again and the committee can consider suggestions and make recommendations of same with potential implementation of a plan.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that part of the recommendation needs to be the collaboration with MARC, the state statues, traffic control on trails, etc. Consideration should be made for the same on sidewalks per state statute. Sidewalks being installed/replaced in Leawood has not been easy. They are owned and maintained by the property owner.

Councilmember Rasmussen went on to say that the committee needs to consider all the issues. He has been working hard, as has councilmember Cain to get connectivity improved in the City of Leawood.

Doug suggested that this could also be considered in the master plan efforts. He asked Brian if the plan will propose implementation and priorities.

Brian confirmed that this will occur moving forward with the development of the plan.

C. Dog Park Updates

Brian shared that in looking again at the property, we should end up with about 5.5 acres of land inside the fenced area for the actual off leash Dog Park. Dustin's crew has been clearing out dead and diseased trees, along with vines and understory and the space is now really opened up.

Councilmember Cain asked if the small stumps will be removed so as not to injure the paws of the dogs.

Brian said that large stumps will be ground out and the others will be removed.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked if the construction easement has been secured.

Brian said that it has not at this time, but discussions with the property owner are very favorable to move forward.

Brian said that once the additional land transfer and easement is in place, and the weather breaks, we will be ready to install the fence. Staff will do as much work as possible to save money on the project.

II. New Business

A. Upcoming Council Work Sessions

Chris announced that two work sessions will be upcoming that the committee may be interested in attending.

The first will be on January 6th at 6:00. The Governing Body will be discussing the expansion of the clubhouse at the golf course. During the design phase, the square footage increased from 4500 to 5300 square feet. In addition, the preliminary estimates for construction exceed the budgeted amount.

Councilmember Rasmussen reminded the committee that the expansion's primary purpose is to accommodate golfer, particularly larger tournaments than what the space can handle now. The Council will have to decide if they want to spend the extra money.

Amy stated that this will be very welcome space in Leawood as we really have no public event space, other than the Lodge.

Councilmember Rasmussen said that the current plan, specifically the expanded northwest side, has no access for the golfers to get to the deck other than cutting through the new space. The Council needs to get their oars back in the water as the mission has creped.

Doug referenced the additional square footage as what appeared to be the corridor/hallway. Is this needed?

Councilmember Rasmussen said that it definitely needs to be looked at and that is what the Council will do on the 6th.

Chris stated that the second work session will be held on Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00. Chris Camp of Lose & Associates will present the results of Phase I for the Parks & Recreation revised Master Plan to the Governing Body.

B. Staff Reports

Kim reported:

- Breakfast with Santa had excellent attendance with an attendance of 396 for 400 places.
- Holiday Camp is coming up soon and Brock has planned some good field trips and activities for the kids.
- Seasonal hiring (return) letters for 2014 will be mailed out on December 18th.

Brian reported:

- His staff is watching the installation of the landscaping at the Justice Center
- Dustin's crews continue to work on the Dog Park

Chris said that Brian and Dustin have done an excellent job of monitoring the installation of trees, sod, etc. and they are to be commended for watching out for the City's best interest.

Brian further reported:

- The 123rd and Mission trail project has been temporarily suspended due to the weather.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked if this section of the trail will be asphalt or concrete.

Brian stated that it will be concrete.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked if it will be 10' wide.

Brian confirmed that it will be 10' wide.

Councilmember Cain asked why the stones installed for the wall at the end are so white. It is too stark.

Brian stated that the wall behind the homeowner who gave us this easement will be stained. We will also add a few plant materials to get things started here. At this time it is not part of the project cost to stain the wall at the end. They are different stones, same as those across the street, and they should weather in time.

April reported:

- The schoolhouse and the nature center were also busy during Breakfast with Santa.
- Auditions for "Watch on the Rhine" will be taking place soon.
- The deadline for adult Arti Gras 2014 entries is this week. Children's entries will be due at the end of January.
- The selection committee for the Justice Center art piece could not come to a terms so they plan to go back to the preferred artist and ask for additional "ideas"

- The Paley piece, previously on Park Avenue, New York, will be coming in the spring. The engineers are currently working on the site plan. The goal is to have the dedication in late spring.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – January 14, 2014

The next meeting will be held January 14, 2014 in the Maple Room of the Community Center at 5:30p.m.

David Coleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department