



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

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

Council Liaison present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen

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

Chair Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Guest Attending: Christopher Ables, Ethan Vlastic, and Teddy Pope (of Nativity Parish School) Troop 396 and are working on their Citizenship Community Badge Requirement.

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

**I. Old Business**

**A. Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan Update**

*Brian provided an overview of the progress of the project.*

Brian reported that the consultants are in the final stages of the plan. They are interested in focusing on the Town Center/Park Place area. Hopefully the Planning Director will assist in any way possible to discuss future developments to help the consultants understand what they want to recommend regarding access, etc. A meeting will be held at the end of February.

Council Liaison Cain asked if she and Council Liaison Rasmussen could attend. A discussion was had at a recent Council meeting regarding certain pedestrian sidewalks in the Town Center area that were removed from the plan and another conversation took place at the most recent meeting this past Monday night. This is a focus of the Council and the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Brian replied that he is aware this was discussed. He was contacted by Richard Coleman, Community Development Director to discuss sidewalk issues and re/new development. There is a lot going on at Town Center, Camelot Court and the Justice Center. It will be nice for the consultants to review the area and make recommendations. There are private streets we want to recommend improvements for walkability and circulation throughout. Council representation is encouraged.

Council Liaison Cain added that it is dramatic what's happening in this quadrant regarding areas that need to be more pedestrian/bicycle friendly and currently are not.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the developer of Town Center will send letters to pad site owners but there are at least twelve to fourteen different owners in Town Center alone. It is not one entity, which will make it difficult to arrive at a consensus regarding walkability.

**B. Dog Park Update**

Brian reported that the weather stopped the last stages of the clearing. A disposal contractor has been hired to haul away waste materials but we have salvaged and split a lot of wood for firewood to use in our camp operations. Staff had one last walk through with the Hallbrook people recently, all who attended were supportive of the suggested new boundary and additional land, along with the location and terms of the permanent easement. The next step is to execute the legal documents.

Chris reported that all documents are in place, the quick claim, land development and permanent easement. It is on the February 3rd Council meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if a perimeter has been established.

Brian reported that a three layer, two by six wood fence on a four by six posts with a heavy mesh will be used, which will keep the dogs in but have a rustic look. We will need space between our property and the fence on the south side for an access easement. It was determined that we gained further land than originally anticipated once the area was cleared.

Lorrie reported that the area looks really nice.

Chris reported that the Foundation has received donations geared towards the dog park. One of their 2014 initiatives is to pay for the covered seating areas. Alice Hawk is researching additional donors to assist with larger donations. .

#### **C. Ironwoods Restroom Update**

Chris reported that nine bids were received; three were very close to each. The project came in at \$558,000+, which is greater than what is remaining in the fund (\$295,000). Of the \$500,000 from the original bond, \$172,000 was spent on design and engineering. The carry over amount was found in Special Parks to cover the residual. Council approved moving forward with the project. The construction contract is on the January 21 agenda.

Chris added that she and Brian met with the consultant, Combes Construction to discuss adjustments regarding the possibility of potentially saving \$25,000 to \$30,000. She suspects this amount make get absorbed by the engineers and architects working us through the project but Combes had good ideas of where we might save without compromising. .

Chair Ward Reimer asked if they've done anything else for the City of Leawood before.

Brian added that the architect who did the original master plan worked with them before and recommended them.

Chris reported that they feel confident they can make the July 1 completion deadline date . There should be a restroom for the "Hello Dolly" performance.

#### **D. 123<sup>rd</sup> & Mission Trail Update**

Brian reported that the weather has postponed further work. He will meet with the new Superintendent for Mega Industries soon to get reacquainted with them and determine progress moving forward. He was the Superintendent when the abutments were repaired on College Blvd.

Brian added that the soil is a fine powder similar to talc, which makes it very slick. With recent weather, they are in a partial work stoppage. They have requested that these days not count against their completion date.. They plan on cleaning debris behind the residents who gave us the main access easement in the downtime. Unfortunately we aren't further along than last discussed due to the weather.

Council Liaison Cain asked if everyone is aware of the amount this project cost.

Brian reported that the total cost is \$1.4 million.

Council Liaison Cain asked what the original estimation is.

Chris reported that the beginning estimate was \$1.4 but when the plan review meetings happened within the last year, it appeared that we would have been able to save \$150K-\$200 however; but more failure occurred in the spring due to the heavy rains. We had moved money somewhere else, and had to bring it back. It wasn't \$200,000 more than the original estimate of \$1.4 million. Some of the work completed several years ago has held well. It will be armored from the south to the north. There is a lot of steel on the hillside.

Council Liaison Cain asked when it will be open.

Brian reported that he will know more next week after their meeting. The goal is a spring completion date.

#### **E. Ironhorse Clubhouse Expansion Update**

Chris reported that this has been suspended with the potential to postpone the project to 2015/2016 due to overall costs exceeding the budget and competition with other projects also in the queue. A new estimate based on more completed plans will be presented before the C.I.P. on February 3. It will be up for discussion at that time.

Chris added that Council initially agreed to 4500 square feet but the project grew to 5300 square feet during the design process. They will move forward with the documents showing the additional square footage as an alternate.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he is doing everything in his power to get it started in 2014 for completion in 2015 due to the scheduling of tournaments. This is the main issue. The Sub Committee is going to the Council with two alternatives. If pushed out further we lose roughly \$300,000 per year. It behooves us to try to keep this schedule. This should be the goal. He is trying to avoid postponing it to 2015; if so, tournaments will need to be scheduled in 2017. This would be expensive and a loss of revenue.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that the Ironhorse Advisory Committee will meet at the end of January. The golfers should not be adversely affected. The amenities, in his judgment, are for other uses of the club. Council must decide if the additional square footage is worth the money.

Council Liaison Cain reported that many things were discussed regarding the different projects. The trail cost was more than expected, the restrooms cost more than hoped, the recommendation of removing the trailers and tearing down the police station and now the clubhouse expansion. Council wishes it all could be done, but there is only so much money in the budget.

#### **F. Work Session on Master Plan Phase I Presentation – 1/21/14**

Chris reported that nothing changed. She hopes there is direction and questions of when and how we move forward with Phase II. A Work Session will be held January 21, 6:00 p.m. for the consultant to present. Park Board members are encouraged to attend.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested that it is important for Park Board members to compile a checklist of what is needed in regards to design criteria moving forward.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Staff Reports**

Brian reported that the landscape crew has been busy chipping Holiday trees. A lot were received.

Brian added his crew is working on redoing the mulch at the Tomahawk Creek Park playground area. The mulch is worn down similar to compost. Fresh mulch will be added soon. It is nice to use it and not haul it away.

Brian reported that his facility crew is also refurbishing wooden signs and benches. They recently waxed floors at the Lodge and Nature Center. They will paint the interior restrooms at the parks soon. Gezer Park and I-Lan Park will also receive touch up paint as needed soon.

Brian added that landscape work at the Justice Center has been delayed due to weather issues. Irrigation zones need to be finished and there are still trees to plant.

Kim reported that her staff is preparing for summer and meeting with instructors. Shelly has already started interviewing her pool staff. Decisions should be finalized by the end of the month.

Kim also reported that Daddy Daughter Date Night is February 1. . Soccer deadline is January 29. It will be a busy day.

April reported that Arti Gras will be different this year; invitations will not be sent and reservations aren't required. It is free to attend in hopes to increase art sales. Also new this year, kids under the age of eighteen can participate in Arti Gras Junior. Instructions to submit are available on the website.

Council Liaison Cain asked if volunteer help is needed to assist with the event as in years past.

April replied that volunteers are needed for opening night as well as all day Saturday and Sunday.

April reported that "Watch on the Rhine" auditions will be held this weekend. It is a dramatic show with a small cast. It will be performed the first week in April in the Oak Room. Actors of all ages are needed. Please spread the word to anyone who may be interested.

April also reported that the Leawood Stage Company is hosting "Actors Choice", a group of Senior Actors who will perform a Valentines weekend performance on February 15 and 16. Refreshments will be served.

April reported that the Paley art piece originally on Park Avenue is currently in Rochester, NY, but will be shipped to us when the weather permits. It will arrive in the spring. The site will be prepared prior to its arrival. A dedication ceremony will be held. More information will be sent as it unfolds.

Chris added that poles have been installed to visualize the actual location of where the art piece will go. It has been determined that the orientation may be the same but will probably move slightly to the south.

April reported that the land will be filled to prevent flooding.

Chris reported that a wall, with a short "S" design approximately five feet high will be added.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if it will be above Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

Brian replied that it may be level or slightly higher. The point is just out of the flood plain.

Chris reported that they are trying to determine how to complete this to avoid spending more on the site design than the actual piece.

Council Liaison Cain asked the total installation cost and the cost of the art piece.

April replied that the installation cost hasn't been totally defined. The art piece cost \$160,000.

Chris added that installation cost will be determined by the fill, lighting, shipping, footing and sod.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the monies are used from the Arts or Parks and Recreation.

Chris reported that the money comes from Arts. Fifteen percent of the cost of the piece is always set aside for installation. Some come in under and some above. It has a way of balancing itself out.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the cost will be within fifteen percent of the \$160,000.

April and Chris replied that cost hasn't been determined.

## **B. "Did You Know" Initiative**

Chris reported that the Recreation Staff had a mini retreat to discuss repositioning and taking a different look at the way things are done and how we relate to everything in the community. They attended a workshop led by Dr. John Crompton from Texas A.M. He is very well respected in our field. It was a nice segway into the "Did You Know Initiative" which began with Missouri Parks and Recreation Department. Kansas has picked it up and it is starting to filter through other states. It is a way of telling a story about your department and takes valid statistics that people can identify with in their community.

Chris added that she was pleased with the staff during the retreat. All contributed and there was good interaction. Staff identified internal obstacles and things they would like to do differently moving forward. The second half will be held February 7.

Chris reported that an After Hours Chamber Mingling Event will be held at City Hall tomorrow evening, 5-6:30 p.m. This will be a great way to engage with the business community to learn more about our Parks and Recreation Department. Sixty people have R.S.V.P.'d so far.

*Chris gave a presentation of displays, incorporating the "Did You Know" initiative that will be posted in different locations around the Oak Room to give attendees an opportunity to visualize the different opportunities we have to offer.*

Displays will focus on the dog park construction, the challenge course, classes, the lodge, the master plan, the Sustainability Committee, camps etc. Prizes will be given for tickets to "Watch on the Rhine", Oxford School Program, Golf Course, and a give card to Aloft Hotel.

April reported that staff as well as the business community should be aware that we offer Holiday Camp and Spring Break camps. The boards display a lot of good information that many people in the community aren't aware of.

April asked the committee to notify her or Chris of anywhere the display boards should be used moving forward.

Council Liaison Cain and Chair Karen Ward Reimer reported that they should be displayed at the upcoming HOA meeting.

## **C. Chamber Mingling Event – 1/15**

*Chris covered this Agenda Item in the above report.*

## **D. Misc.**

Council Liaison Cain reported that she is still baffled by the many people who aren't aware of the significance of Gezer Park or I-Lan Park.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it was discussed at the goal session meeting held last night that when the Parks & Recreation Facebook page was instituted that it would be evaluated in six months which is fast approaching. The Council will expect the Committee to provide input. It is important to determine if it has been successful, how many friends we have, if it should be expanded etc. A

report will be issued and a decision will be made at that time. She certainly likes it and doesn't see a reason why we shouldn't continue it.

Kim reported that we have 213 friends but she also is notified when people actually view the page. We have more views than friends but many like or share information we've posted. A lot of popular activities such as Daddy Daughter Date Night and Freaky Fall Fest receive a lot of interest. Most posts link followers to the Leawood website and also directs them to our program guide.

Council Liaison Rasmussen agreed. This is the time to determine if it will be expanded to other departments and what needs to be done to the existing Facebook page moving forward to make it more accessible or if anything should be done at all.

Amy reported that recently she *liked* a magazine's page and invited her to send it to all her friends. Can this be done for our page.

Kim reported that she will research this. Facebook gives you the option to pay a fee to boost a post but we aren't interested in this at this time.

Council Liaison Cain asked Kim to also research the number of hours spent versus the benefit. This question will be asked. An analysis will be expected when the Council meets.

David reported that his family used it this summer for swim to know when the pool is open. It was helpful.

Lorrie reported that the young, social media savvy parents are resulting to Facebook first for information. Especially for soccer, swim team etc. Facebook is a benefit.

Bob reported that he agrees it is a benefit but he as well as everyone on his teams uses Textcaster, which automatically sends him a message regarding soccer is canceled due to weather etc., rather than continuously going to the Facebook page to find information or calling the rainout line.

Dave reported that it is important to have many options.

David reported that the goal wasn't to get out in front of the entire world when the Facebook page was implemented and make it the most popular place. It was a small experiment to determine the reaction if it were able to use it effectively and if it caused conflict. There were also questions about comments and whether that could be open. We've experienced a great trial period that showed commenting hasn't placed us at risk and that there is value in being able to post and with a little bit of effort in spreading the word, we can make this another viable alternative. It's been a great tie with the website and how the links work effectively. A lot of positives have come out of the trial without putting the City at risk. The question now is if it can take it forward and move more aggressively.

Kim reported that she would also like to establish a Twitter account. They also have web based products that can be updated at once.

Council Liaison Cain asked why we need both.

Kim added that many people use both together. It is less personality driven. Twitter displays facts. Having both wouldn't be any more labor intensive than what she is currently doing.

Bob added that Twitter is merely a distribution of information. Many have gravitated away from Facebook and utilize a Twitter account. People appreciate relative information being sent to them versus filtering through hours of Facebook pages to find out information. Facebook has resulted in being a huge time waster to get useful information. It is a social aspect used to see what high school friends are doing but using it for the City to push information to people who want information about the City is less efficient. There is a need for both. He is uncertain of the cost but it is needed.

Dave reported that it is beneficial for a Parks and Recreation Department to utilize all technology capabilities available. Twitter is another opportunity to get information out about Leawood Parks and Recreation. We need other avenues to get information about our department and what we do. Twitter would also be an avenue to get all aspects of the City to the public. It could notify of accidents, etc.

Lorrie agreed. It is important to cover all clientele.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she doesn't disagree but she and Lou are unfamiliar with either. Someone from the Parks and Recreation Department or the Committee should be prepared to make a presentation and provide information regarding Twitter to the Council.

David reported that there is a need for a broader social media policy and presentation. We discuss specifics of Facebook and Twitter but there will be an evolution of these services when/if something comes up to replace them. This change is happening rapidly. If the City were in the position to adopt a broader policy on social media and how it can be used, and the expectations used as a guidance document would make the approval process easier for the Council.

Lorrie reported that this is exactly how it needs to be moving forward. Council needs to realize that social media isn't going away. It is only going to get bigger. This is how the world communicates.

Chris reported that she believes Council Liaison Cain is trying to express that a report needs to come first to analyze the effectiveness, which may be an opportunity to discuss how to move forward. We haven't experienced any problems. The Facebook account was created taking baby steps. The questions may arise regarding what could happen if we expand.

Bob asked what the plans are with the old police station. He is often asked this question. He hopes a park is built on this site but is interested if more specific information is available.

Council Liaison Cain reported that money is available to remove the trailers and surplus them. Eventually the fire station will be replaced with another one on the other side. The thought is that it will be turned into a park but if so, it won't happen for a while.

**E. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – February 11, 2014**

David Harwood made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department