



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Leawood City Hall – Maple Room**

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

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 5:36 p.m.

Bob Wright made a motion to approve the February 11, meeting minutes as amended. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Ironwoods Restroom Update**

Brian reported that they broke ground on the main sanitary sewer line extension. The main sewer pipe that will connect to our extension was uncovered. The permit needed to extend the main line tap has been received but they are awaiting approval from Johnson County Wastewater to finalize the sewer extension. As a result, obtaining a Leawood building permit is postponed which will delay digging the foundation. He doesn't anticipate this being a problem. It is just a time issue.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the completion date is scheduled for July as originally planned.

Brian replied that according to the contractor the work will be complete in July.

**B. Dog Park Update**

Brian reported that the snow slowed progress, nothing more has been done in the area as a result. They were happy to complete most of the clearing before the snow came. Presenting everything to the Planning Commission for approval is the next step.

Chris reported that she, Joe Johnson, (Public Works Director), Brian, and the engineer will meet Tuesday to determine if the numbers are accurate and if we have enough pressure to push water to the dog park interior.

**C. Update on Paley Art Location**

April reported that it was discussed at the Work Session on March 3 that it would be very expensive to install the piece at its original location. The median location (30 feet north) was suggested along with other possible locations including the site where the temporary piece is located and the two Justice Center sites. The Work Session ended without resolve and discussion was continued to May 19. Potential sites will be photo-shopped to the six sites for review at that time.

Amy asked if the Justice Center is a good spot.

Chris reported she is uncertain. April is working with the artist to determine if he is willing to store the piece until a location is determined or are we required to take delivery now. It is extremely

heavy and will be delivered in two sections, It will require a crane each time it is moved. Each move cost \$2700.00.

Chair Ward Reimer asked Chris to clarify the procedure because she was under the impression that Park Board recommends where art should be located. How did it get to the point the Board isn't involved in this process.

Chris replied that Park Board input is requested when an art piece is located on park land. The original site was part of the greenway and that is why it was reviewed by the board prior to going to the Planning Commission.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the installation cost.

Chris reported that the fill is driving the cost. It could cost an estimated \$72,000-\$80,000 of which about \$16,000-\$20,000 is the fill and top soil.

David suggested a hollow core foundation element on a post, which would allow the piece to "float" when the water comes up.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that doing so would triple the installation cost.

April reported that the installation would have been like what was proposed earlier for "Splash", costing nearly \$500K.

David reported that the K.U. engineering team could build a floating lightweight concrete pedestal. or the CAPS program of high school students could design something.

Chris reported that this is why the idea of installation in the lakes was abandoned. She appreciates David's idea but a location needs to be determined soon.

Amy reported that it may be a good project for a Boy Scouts troop to install it.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris to clarify the six locations requested by City Council.

Chris clarified that the Justice Center (2), Temporary Art Site (*next to Edgewood/City Hall*), Front of City Hall ("*Introspection*"), Original Site (#10), and the median site are the suggested six locations.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Staff Reports**

Brian reported that his staff has been busy working on the following projects:

- Cutting back roses; cleaning shrub beds, and cutting grasses at many locations.
- Painting structures and restrooms at I-Lan Park.
- Poured concrete pads for three replacement water fountains with bottle filler/dog bowl.
- Repaired a concrete area on the Lodge sidewalk that needed to be redone.

Brian added that a bicycle repair stand that holds a bike allowing users to air tires, tighten loose components, etc. was donated and will be placed near the trail at City Park.

Brian gave an emerald ash bore update at a pre-meeting open table session at the HOA event held on February 27. Topics important to those attending were open for discussion. This was a heavily attended session. He and Dustin are interested in hosting a public information meeting in the spring for further discussion of the EAB with HOA's.

Brian reported that he has been invited by the Kansas Forest Service to discuss Leawood's emerald ash bore plan at a Tree City U.S.A. Recognition Day event. There are nearly 115 cities in Kansas affiliated with Tree City U.S.A.

Council Liaison Cain thanked all who assisted with the SAB HOA event for a job well done. The parks department played a big part as well as Cultural Arts. Great feedback was received. It was the largest attended HOA event.

Kim reported that her staff has been busy with the following:

- Spring Break Camp starts next week with good enrollment thus far.
- Soccer begins next weekend. There are 1605 children registered consisting of 131 teams. An additional field will be created in City Park to accommodate the increase of younger teams.
- The Spring Trail Clean Up will be held March 30 at Tomahawk Park.
- Eggstravaganza is April 13 at City Park
- She has been busy updating the website with spring and summer programs.
- Swim and Dive registration for non-residents who have never been on the team before is tomorrow.
- The cabins open the first weekend in April.
- Staff is working on the 2015 budget due the beginning of next month.
- Information was submitted to KC Star Camp Guide as well as Macaroni Kid, a site geared towards Overland Park and Johnson County. Staff is working on free or economical advertising opportunities since flyers are no longer allowed in schools.

Dave Coleman asked if staff considered advertising in the KC Parent magazine.

Kim replied that they are extremely expensive; it would cost nearly, \$4,000 which would consume our entire advertising budget. They also advertise in the metro and we prefer to stay within our own area. She will research advertising cost in the future.

April reported the following projects:

- The School house will be open Saturday and Sunday through the end of May. They will be open the same hours as the Nature Center afterwards.
- She and Jeff will participate in the Passport to Adventure program again this year, participants complete answers to receive stamps to place in a book. It is turned in once completed at the end of October.
- She thanked everyone for participating in Arti Gras; it was a lot of fun with great attendance with nearly 700 people attending over the three days: 55 adults and 42 children participated.
- The Stage Company cast "Hello, Dolly". Rehearsals begin the first of June.
- "Tea with Shakespeare" is nearly full. It will be held the end of April. Contact her if you are interested in attending.
- *Watch on the Rhine* is in rehearsal. This is a moving, dramatic play regarding an Anti-Nazi who brings his family to America in 1940. History lectures will be held in coordination the week of the show.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the City would be interested in accepting donated items. His neighbor's father passed away and was quite an avid hunter with an enormous amount of stuffed fish and animals.

April suggested that he contact Jeff at the Nature Center.

Chris reported that if he has an extensive amount there are also other opportunities close by such as Ernie Miller Nature Center, and Lawrence's Nature Center.

**B. Misc.**

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked Chris to explain the outcome regarding the resident who contacted him inquiring why there isn't a baby changing station at City Park.

Chris replied that a resident contacted Lou upset because a changing station is not provided in the Loins shelter restroom. She contacted her and explained that installation of a changing station depends on the size and layout of the building. The shelter was there before the restroom was retrofitted. The design and space does not allow one at this site. Accommodations would be unsuccessful due to the space and would block the stalls and sink. There are also ADA guidelines. She explained to the resident that the newer parks such as Gezer and Ironwoods have them. Adding one may require rebuilding, removing the existing restroom or remodeling it but will be taken into consideration if an opportunity arises. The new restroom being constructed in Ironwoods will have a changing table in the men's and women's restroom. The resident appreciated the explanation and was fine with the answer received.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that there are changing tables at the pool.

Chris said that she also told the resident this. Although it doesn't help this time of year but there are changing tables available in the summer months, yes.

David asked if a changing table could be added to the outside of the restroom.

Chris replied that there would be concerns over cleanliness and vandalism. She sent a poll out to other area directors about this issue. Our restrooms have time locks on them and the concern would be vandalism or children standing on them.

April reported that they get hot, if on the outside, we run the risk of injury.

Dave reported that he has a friend who works for the Sandy Springs Conservatory in Atlanta and they had an artist open call for art/playgrounds that doubled as art. There were pieces that doubled as swings and jungle gym equipment. Is this a trend staff has noticed when attending the National Parks and Recreation Conference. This is really cool to kill two birds with one stone; art that encourages kids to play on it. He will forward the information to Chris

April reported that the art museum in Omaha has a children's art area that allows children to climb and play on it. All the benches are artwork throughout the museum.

Chris reported that this is included as an option in the APPI guidelines in regards to what will be considered as "public art" but we've never received anything like this in a response. It would be nice to receive something other form of art other than a sculpture.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that it would be nice to determine what should be discussed prior to the April meeting that is solely set aside to focus on discussion of the Master Plan.

We need to think about potential land since we are landlocked in the north part of Leawood; a home on the corner of 95<sup>th</sup> and Manor recently burned and the lot is for sale. With rezoning, it could be a potential pocket park. The concern is it is on a busy street and may not be a good idea; but when these types of things arise we should consider them due to the lack of land in Leawood.

Dave reported that the City needs to take advantage of any opportunity to grab open space when available. He brought this up last year.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she discussed this at the goal session. This was a great recommendation. We need to continue to bring these ideas up moving forward.

### C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – April 8, 2014

The next meeting is April 8, 5:30 p.m. in the Maple Room. Chris gave an overview of the file she sent to Committee members to review prior to the meeting but some were unable to open it.

Chris reported that the file contained the internal road map, which was a staff initiative, January 2006 Council Work Session minutes, PowerPoint presentation presented at the November 2013 meeting, the minutes of the January 21 Council Work Session, as well as the appendix to the Master Plan which is a report that shows areas of deficiencies. We need to make sure that when we meet in April that she presents Committee members with what they want to talk and any reference materials the Committee needs. She also referenced a list of everyone's ideas regarding Ironwoods, which someone referenced at the last meeting regarding the need to want to finish what was never completed in the park. She needs to know if all should be discussed together or if the Committee would rather discuss each park separately. It is important to have set discussion topics prior to the meeting.

Chair Ward Reimer asked if the Committee is supposed to take a recommendation to Council that we recommend this plan for the Master Plan regarding the steps. There are recommendations in there that she doesn't agree with.

Chris reported that currently Phase I is all that has been completed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this is the phase he thought the Committee was going to review and make recommendations from and/or see whether or not this Committee agreed with it. The way Scott is recommending it to Council is that he is trying to come up with the money involved to accomplish the recommendations.

Chris reported that the first directive from Scott was for staff to look at the ADA issues. She, Brian and Kim met and are trying to determine if this is on new construction only to avoid making a recommendation or present findings to the Committee if they are unclear. It is important to discuss the appendix as it is sub to the information presented in the report.

Chair Ward Reimer opened the floor regarding Committee members thoughts of what will be discussed at the April meeting, adding that the Committee prioritized a list of what they thought was important for Parks to take a look at long before the Master Plan was authorized to move forward.

Bob reported that he remembers Committee members brainstorming and compiling a list three years ago so Brian would have a list of all of the projects.

Brian reported that Phase 1 of the Master Plan is an inventory of what we have and its condition; and every property the City has. One of the things recommended was to put some ADA accessible picnic tables in the shelters, which is easy to do. Another example is currently the soccer fields have bleachers but the question is if there is a requirement to have access for wheelchairs. If so, pouring a concrete pad is needed, this wouldn't work well for us because we are constantly changing the layout of the soccer fields. If ADA requirements must be met does that mean removing the bleachers all together.

Chris added that many people bring their own chairs to avoid sitting on the bleachers for hours. They are uncomfortable and hard to climb.

Bob added that the bleachers can't be brought back once they are removed. Can they be kept and not do ADA.

Doug reported that to his knowledge this can't be done.

Amy asked if we there are ADA bleachers.

Brian reported that the problem isn't the bleachers it is getting to them.

Kim reported that they would have to be put them on a concrete pad. Steve is currently looking for flat space to create an additional field and that remains the issue; laying fields out each season based on number and age groups of teams.

Doug asked if the bleachers can be eliminated altogether.

Kim replied that this could be an option.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she understands these issues need to be addressed but where do they fit into what the Committee thinks needs to be done.

Bob reported that he doesn't want any more money spent on Ironwoods Park before a park is established in north Leawood where the old Police station will eventually be demolished. He is uncertain if this is outlined in the Master Plan.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she agrees.

Chris reported that it isn't in the master plan because it doesn't exist yet. The desire to make the space a park is on the radar. She agrees that there are some projects (repairs and replacements) currently unfunded that need to be addressed prior to taking on new projects.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he doesn't remember it being that broad. The important factor is the cost to accomplish the recommendations. He agrees as a Councilman. Are we faced with ten dollars or a million dollars. One thing he will not vote for is a 12' wide trail.

Chris reported that she doesn't think this was a recommendation per se but rather perhaps what other agencies may be doing to address their particular situations. Her understanding was he said was that some have gone up to 12'.

Bob and Chair Ward Reimer reported that he read this in the report and didn't get this.

Chris added that what they read was in the PowerPoint presentation; more specific observations are in the final report.

Dave asked the Council Liaisons if the City Administrator is moving forward wanting to allocate funds on the things that were recommended.

Chris reported that this would be in Phase II.

Council Liaison Rasmussen agrees, it is a budgeting process over the next five years. As stated before, the City Administrator wants to determine the cost for this piece before going into the second phase. He asked Council Liaison Cain to express her thoughts and what she understood.

Council Liaison Cain reported that they brought the Master Plan for budgeting and Council based upon the recommendations of the department and she thought the body (Parks & Rec Committee) agreed that the Master Plan needed to be updated; \$85K was approved, along with money to update the 135<sup>th</sup> Corridor Plan, and initiating the Bicycle Pedestrian Plan. These were three major Master Plan updates this year because the Parks and Recreation Department (2 of the 3) and the Governing Body wanted it. Now we are at the point where we are saying the same thing. She was tremendously underwhelmed that we spent \$30K for the report and what came out of it and the fact that a great deal of the findings require us to spend a lot of money to implement some of their findings, but we are currently having trouble locating money to do the things we want to do in the first place. We need to be careful before we move forward with Phase II and Phase III as it looks like they will cost a lot of money. We have an idea of what we want but eventually we will be asked a very important question if we move forward. Now that the Master Plan Phase I has been received we will be expected to discuss and make recommendations and what we like and dislike. It is critically important to come to a consensus. We also have to be very careful what we do next.

Everything we do initiates a series of events. We need to focus on what we were trying to accomplish, and where are we now before pushing it any further. She would like to see the list from three years ago that was discussed earlier. There is a lot of wisdom on the list and there are new thoughts that have developed since the list was coordinated.

Dave reported that his concern is that the City Administrator will take the list and begin to prioritize it before the Parks Committee makes recommendations of what we may need to do.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is correct. The City Administrator is looking to this body and the Department to provide guidance regarding moving forward and ultimately it has to be approved by Planning and Council. We only have so much money; funds aren't available to purchase a lot in Old Leawood or to clear property etc. It would be premature to push Phase II or III and develop ideas such as those on the Ironwoods list that requested everything from trains to water parks etc., we don't have money for those things so why discuss them.

Amy reported that maybe we need to go back to what Brian stated that we need to work on repairing and/or replacing the things we have without trying to find things we don't have the money for.

Brian reported that most of the things outlined were good, maintaining our parks was one of them. One thing they highlighted was installing restrooms in Tomahawk Park. We've researched this for years on and off but did more thorough research in the last 4-5 months. It is in a flood plain and would require building a huge mound of dirt to get it out of that.

Chris added that this there isn't any way around this, this would be needed and; Johnson County Wastewater has advised staff that they would not allow any connection to sanitary sewer.

Brian confirmed that this is correct. Johnson County Wastewater will not allow hookup of a restroom in a flood plain.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that Brian is on target, this is exactly what he is referring to. We need to take the book and define what we agree with and what we do not.

Amy reported that she mentioned to the person she interviewed with during the Master Plan that a lot of people want a restroom in that park but explained to them that it's in a flood plain. She was told by her interviewer that it isn't a problem, restrooms can be built in flood plains.

Chris reported that they can, but it won't be connected to the sanitary sewer. The waste would require being hauled away.

Brian reported that restrooms made of materials durable in a flood is what you see when you visit a campground or Corps of Engineers lakes with something like a small chimney out the side of it. It is a waterless restroom with non-flushing toilets but better than a portable toilet.

Dave reported that he envisions the next meeting to operate as a goal setting for the Park Board to send to the Council to say here are the priorities of this committee informing them of our priorities if funds are available and if long range planning is done.

Chris reported that Council Liaison Rasmussen is correct that all is reviewed and not what we agree with and what we don't. She also agrees with Brian that Phase I consists of what we asked them to do, inventory and observation. This gives us a catalyst to something else whether it's going through the project list again, etc., or other things we need to consider.

Doug asked if Phase II is the research into priorities and goals. What will they do in Phase II.

Chris reported that Phase II would be talking more about those things and determining how it fits into the C.I.P.

Brian asked if they will look at things we don't have that the citizens want.

Chris reported that this is more like a survey or needs assessment it was/is not in any of the phases.

Bob asked if the Committee can receive a copy of the appendix report via e-mail.

Chris reported that she will provide a hard copy tonight. Most were unable to open the file electronically due to its size. This will provide a segway to discuss what is important and maybe it shouldn't be so overwhelming- maybe just a list of ten things or so. There are times when strategic planning is done the list gets so long it becomes unrealistic to accomplish.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she would also like to include the brainstorming list compiled three years ago.

Chris and Brian reported they remember listing projects they were working on and visioning.

Amy remembers one was to build a supply place off the Challenge Course and this was done. It also listed restrooms for the shows, productions, etc. The dog park was probably listed also.

Chris reported that as far as Ironwoods, there isn't anything on the list that hasn't been done. They will discuss these in the morning at the Superintendent meeting.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she would like to see specific information regarding exactly what was asked for in Phase I and the timing, what we will be asking for in Phase II, and the timing in Phase III. This will have everything to do with decisions moving forward and getting projects in the que. Funds are unavailable for at least a year and a half to two years. A decision of the Board may be to not spend \$50,000 on Phase II and III now and more work can be done in the park. This would be a decision of the Board and a possible recommendation. We will be all over the place if a list isn't prioritized.

Chris gave an overview of the scope as included in the RFQ:

- Phase I: Consultant will provide service to the City that achieves a comprehensive park program that includes an analysis of existing venues including parks, trails and greenways, and newly acquired park land, to determine classification and condition and other services as necessary.
- Phase II: The City will expand the scope through evaluation of the data collected in Phase I, including identification of Capital improvements desired to be made to current or newly acquired park lands.
- Phase III: The City will prioritize the list of improvements and determine a timeline for implementation as well as financing options.

Chris added neither phase reflects    ? as defined by the consultant. The Park Board could have input. There are times when it doesn't always work best financially to divide a Master Plan into phases but this was an approach that allowed more thought and planning prior to moving forward with projects. Perhaps a consultant isn't needed for Phase II or III.

Brian reported that for example in relation to Phase II an example Capital Improvements they have unfunded in the que is to resurface the tennis courts. The appendix says the tennis courts have cracks in them. It is already on the list to be done and the consultants identified it however; it remains an unfunded project. He thinks they are stating that they will work with us to do this.

Chris reported that another example for consideration might be to replace the low water crossing at 117<sup>th</sup> Street with a bridge. It floods and builds up mud everywhere when it rains and creates a lot of debris. It is labor intensive and a maintenance nightmare. Another example might be to research the switchback at Ironwoods Park that leads down to another low water crossing at the

lake. It also collects debris. The South Lake is also down due to deterioration of the pipes. The middle lake also runs super low and now that the North Lake is done, it looks bad and when the South Lake is full it will look good again but the middle lake will still look bad. Topics of discussion at the April meeting could be what she's mentioned or other items. Do we want to fix all lakes? If so this could cost a significant amount of money (\$300,000+?) .

Bob reported that he agrees with Council Liaison Cain. He too was underwhelmed when he read their findings. At the next meeting we should list ten findings in the report that are borderline observations that we need to gauge as a high, medium or low priority and estimate a cost for them, and provide feedback and where it stands relative to whatever else we want to do. This then should be compiled with a priority list and provide Phase I feedback. He felt like he was reading a community development report from six to seven years ago they just copied information.

Amy asked if yearly income and median age is important to what is being done.

Brian added that it's beneficial to a citizen with no knowledge reading a Master Plan.

Chris reported that it is reference material. There will always been canned information whether a needs assessment, Master Plan, etc.

Bob added that he doesn't fault them for including it but it wasn't worth much.

Chris reported that Brian makes a good point that they observed what we already knew in relation to the tennis courts, but we have been trying to get this from the unfunded to funded category during the budget process. The longer we wait on the maintenance, the worse the problems get and become more expensive.

Brian reported that they also made a note that there is wear on the safety surfacing on the City Park playground; we are aware of this and are in the midst of either replacing it but we are working getting a donation project to change the entire playground which delays repair. A lot of things listed are a matter of getting to it.

Amy reported that she agrees, the majority of the items listed aren't new to staff.

Chris reported that this is correct but she isn't going to take the information and put it in a report . Brian is correct that the average citizen doesn't know ninety-nine percent of what's included. It id data, and reference, and in some ways is much broader than what was done in 199. It is also what we asked them (the consultant) to do.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the Master Plan was designed for the general public, it wasn't done for them.

Chris reported that this is correct. Although it isn't done for them it will ultimately benefit the citizens and they will see it and perhaps ask more questions and wonder what is being considered.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she honestly thought once complete the Master Plan would tell us information we didn't already know and it didn't tell us anything new. We were aware of all of the information they included in the report.

Amy reported that this is her point exactly; Bob and Council Liaison Cain all agreed.

Chris asked what would that be and how would that get put together without the assistance of a consultant. They gathered information from multiple sources and visited all the parks and greenway over a period of time.

Brian added that he would like it to be a document that works with all outlining where we are now and where we want to be five years from now.

Bob reported that he agrees; this will be incumbent upon the Committee at the next meeting to determine guidelines and provide the desire, and Phase II can be an analysis of where it fits in with national trends.

Chris reported that at some point the additional acreage at Ironwoods will require a revised Master Plan specifically for that park. If and when Council decides they want to move forward with development they will make decisions, some of which may be based on the recommendation of the park board. What we received was a broad scope of everything we have at this time, but eventually you can get into smaller master plans relevant to specific projects or parks.

Brian reported that he will compile a list of what they are doing and what the City has planned already, what is a huge deal and what isn't. This will be shared with the Committee for feedback.

Doug reported that this is a great idea.

Chris reported that she agrees with Brian, a lot of things he mentioned could come out of the operating budget that we've planned for. This is different than some big projects that require going to the C.I.P. , where the minimum requirement is \$100,000.00

Council Liaison Cain reported that it is also important to discuss the opinion of the finding so far and discuss moving on to Phase II and to make sure that what we think Phase II is what they will be doing. If it isn't what is wanted this should be expressed to avoid being underwhelmed next time. What is the timing, what will be the outcome, and in reality what does it mean and if we want it. Council looks for the opinion of committees and it has to be expressed. It carries over to what is done at Council. It is taken seriously.

Chris reported that she makes a good point; the scope can be amended if this is the desire and the Council agrees.

Council Liaison Cain asked if we've committed to the consultant group used moving forward.

Chris reported that we don't have a commitment with them. We only agreed to Phase I at this time. The Bike/Ped Master Plan consultants are coming June 2 to present their findings at a work session. This will be a good opportunity to hear what they are saying and to understand how it connects to our goals regarding connectivity and mobility moving forward.

Once the discussion occurs and a consensus is determined at the April meeting, numbers can be put together before moving forward on Phase II. This is the situation for the next cycle of the C.I.P. in 2019.

Council Liaison Cain agrees. It is important to look ahead and there should be a balance. As long as we are getting what we expect and what we want it is fine but is a different discussion if not.

Doug Stevens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Coleman seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department