



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Council Liaisons 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 5:46 p.m.

Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the April 8, meeting minutes. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Dog Park - Update

Chris reported the dog park passed Planning Commission. A citizen who runs hunting dogs in the area expressed concern regarding fencing via a letter and another spoke at the meeting with the same concern. Chris met with the latter after the meeting and explained that confining the space will define the area in regards to dog waste, trail use conflicts, maintenance, etc. The citizen was very nice and understood but wanted to express her concern. .. This is on the agenda for Council review and approval on Monday. Additional work will begin after approval

Council Liaison Cain asked if the area will be separated according to large and small dogs.

Chris replied that this is in the plan upon completion of the perimeter fence.

Dave Coleman asked if Council approved the split between the large and small dogs.

Council Liaison Cain reported that a Work Session was held based on a previous Park Board conversation regarding this and other issues. Council disagreed with extending the trail around the entire area but is in favor of the separation due to being well under the allotted budgeted amount, which will allow for the change to the original plan and allow small dog owners to have their own space.

Amy reported that doing so may make Leawood a destination park for small dogs. It will be a nice addition that some other dog parks don't have.

Council Liaison Cain asked who determines the name of the dog park area. She is in favor of *LeaWoof*, which was suggested by April at the April meeting.

Lorrie reported that it was the paper that the Mayor disapproved of the name and that it was not supported at the work session.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this isn't true. The Mayor didn't state this at the meeting. The reporter also gave Julie credit for the awesome name *LeaWoof*, and she didn't suggest the name. The reporter was incorrect.

Chris added that this is true. The Mayor stated at the meeting that the name wouldn't be determined at the meeting.

Chris reported that when Ironwoods Park was named the Park Board made the decision and the park mascot name (Leawoody) was determined with a contest. Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested a contest with naming the dog park to allow kids to decide the name. This should be decided by the next meeting to adhere to the production schedule and ordering the entrance sign. The decision to open it up as a contest or allow Park Board to name it should be determined by the Committee members.

Dave suggested obtaining a sponsor such as Petco or reach out via a mailer for other involvement.

Chris reported that it has not been the consensus of the City to sell naming rights, but this could change is the sitting Governing Body so decides.

David suggested drawing people in utilizing the comment section on Facebook. We should enhance our online presence and allow them to discuss the dog park name.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the sculpture "Run Red Run" was also chosen by children via a contest.

April reported that the artist suggested several names of which the children could vote for.

Chris reported that this could be a good way to handle it. We could propose some names to choose from.

Committee members liked this idea. They suggested several different names.

Bob suggested *Leawood City Bark* instead of Leawood City Park. He stated it would be a shame not to name a bench or something after Dick Fuller who has taken his dogs to that area for nearly thirty years.

Chair Ward Reimer agreed. She has tried unsuccessfully for years. She suggested naming a cabin or something after him before.

Kim added that he often works events at the Lodge. It would have been nice publicity to have a street named after him in that area.

Dave suggested "Who Let the Dogs Out".

Amy reported that this probably has naming rights issues that will prevent this from happening.

Chris asked all committee members to send suggestions prior to the next meeting and consideration can be made on how to proceed from there..

Bob asked the new projected opening date.

Chris added that the new date is July 1, weather, amenities, and trail improvements to the west (ADA) pending. This information has been updated on the website.

B. Discuss Foundation Initiative – Inclusive Playground (City Park)

Chris reported that Alice Hawk, Leawood Foundation chair, has been discussing with the entire board about a partnership for a new "inclusive" playground at City Park. So far, The Foundation

has received great feedback from potential donors.. It may not be needed depending on the donors received.

Chris reported that Kim has done research with her contacts in hopes to get everything regarding certain play characteristics , before moving forward. The shelter is in a great location if being used by a group but it isn't ideal for the group who isn't using the equipment and children are running through the event. . It was discussed to potentially move the equipment.

One particular issue being addressed is the needs of autistic children who may have difficulties with sound etc.

Chris advised the Mayor that it may be best to address this in 2016 due to lack current funding.

Chris opened the floor for discussion.

Lorrie asked if the existing playground equipment will be replaced.

Chris replied that it will be replaced and the new structure will provide more elements.

Bob asked the difference between inclusive and ADA compliant.

Kim reported that ADA compliant playgrounds have transfer stations for kids to access some elements but they can't always completely interact. Inclusive playgrounds have ramps where any child, regardless of ability, can reach all elements on the playground.

Lorrie asked if we've received complains that our playgrounds aren't accessible. Do we have an adequate playground for everyone.

Chris reported that the playground surface needs to be redone. Monies have been set aside yearly, for two previous years, to take care of this. Some of the equipment is old and some new. New equipment was added to the older equipment when the park was renovated in 200.. It makes sense not to spend \$50,000 on the surface (which is primarily cosmetic at this time) if the structure and surface will be replaced in the next year or two. There are very few inclusive playgrounds in the area.

Bob added that he supports the Foundation and their efforts to pay the difference to convert it to an inclusive playground. The structure is used a lot with nearly 1,000 to 1500 children over the course of a typical soccer Saturday. The surface is worn and dated. He endorses a bigger better inclusive structure..

Chris reported that the Park Board is supportive of the replacement recognizing it would enhance the play structure to make it more useable.

David asked if it can be a phased playground if the city is willing to commit a certain amount and the Foundation raise money for a larger plan; but if this doesn't come to fruition we would have some scope of an inclusive playground and additional phases can be added on as monies are raised.

Chris added that she is uncertain of the details of perspective donors. We will have a great idea by the time the 2016 budget is determined. She will ask the Foundation to provide a quarterly report on the fundraising efforts. The City would be asked to put aside a certain amount of money in the 2016 budget, with the Foundation working to meet or exceed the costs. This was what was done with the playground at Gezer Park.

Bob made a motion that the Committee endorse the goal of having an inclusive playground and work with the Foundation to achieve the goal within a reasonable timeframe.

Chris reported that she will add this into a 2016 decision package for City Administrator Scott Lamber's consideration before it comes before the Park Board again. .

Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

C. Review Project List (Continued from the April 8 meeting)

Chris passed around an updated project list for Committee review. The numbers didn't change from the original document mailed to the Committee. The document is merely in a different format.

Chris reported that staff researched the top priority of ADA issues determining what needs to be done and what can be done in house. The biggest items are the bathroom remodels and the truncated domes in the parking lots and crosswalks. We are close being able to fund most of the items with the \$200,000 that Mr. Lambers put into the budget.

Dave asked if any items addressed by Lose & Associates are mandatory from a legal standpoint or the direction of the City Administrator.

Chris replied that the access route, bleacher issues, truncated domes, counter heights at the pool are priority. It is a lot of money but none are significant expenses with the exception of extension of the trail along the soccer fields for access the fields by the volleyball courts.

Brian contacted the City of Lenexa to inquire how ADA is handled in their City. He found that they post signage regarding ADA accessibility. He discussed this with Chris and she will discuss this with the City Attorney to get a legal opinion. Lenexa probably uses it as a way to measure how viable the need is.

Chris reported that we've received complaints regarding access to the t-ball fields and this project was completed in house by the maintenance staff.

Lorrie reported that most of the access routes suggested in the report will destroy the look. She agrees with addressing the needs but it should be done only if absolutely necessary to meet ADA requirements.

Chris added that if we decide to post signage, the question is how we post it, where do we post it to avoid the issue of too much signage in the parks.

Chris reported that the next step is to prioritize the ADA concerns.

Dave reported that our legal team should assist with prioritizing the ADA compliance issues. Someone can easily file a complaint if we decide not to address certain concerns. We need legal direction before recommending anything. This is public record once discussed at the Committee meetings.

David reported that the City Park access route improvements are the biggest concern. The remainder of the list is nominal in the overall scope.

Kim reported that staff receives requests on this topic. A team manager for one of the soccer teams is in a wheelchair and can't access the soccer field. She will also manage a tee-ball team this summer.

Bob asked if it will be cheaper to purchase an outdoor wheelchair (larger wheels made for turf) that can be used by anyone.

Chris reported that this could be an option but needs to be further researched. It may be best to have two of them. A staff member also suggested allowing a field supervisor to transport them in a gator. This is a concern due to not knowing their limitations.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the Committee needs to determine if all are in favor of getting ADA compliance behind us.

Bob added that \$200,000 is budgeted; the question is the additional \$60,000. The more ADA we can do, the less risk we take.

Chris reported that we've identified the issues and we are fine as long as we have a plan. There aren't any huge items on the current list. People will be glad to know that our parks are accessible .

Council Liaison Cain asked if we are required to meet ADA at 100% at each shelter.

Chris reported that a certain amount of handicap accessible tables will be ordered when new tables are replaced at the shelters.

Chris reported that she will receive more opinion from the City Attorney and research ADA guidelines soon. Staff will prioritize the list prior to the next meeting. She will bring information from the City Attorney to the next meeting also.

Committee members and staff discussed items as Chris provided a brief review.

Chris reported that she met with staff regarding the tennis courts, the northeast corner of City Park where the creek bank is eroding, and other priorities. She included the value of items that need to be addressed. A safety barrier between the tee-ball parking lot will be addressed soon. They've received concerns from patrons about this as a safety issue.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that what was a priority years ago may not be a current priority.

Chris reported that Mr. Lambers directed her to include everything in the list and determine priority. He also directed to include adding the expansion of the golf course clubhouse.

Council Liaison Cain asked all Committee members to provide input of what they deem important.

Dave reported that it is best for staff to prioritize the list as they are more aware of what is most important; especially if items are often pushed back due to lack of funding.

Chris reported that the list is a good start.

David reported that there are normal operating expenditures, which are those projects under \$5,000 or \$10,000. This is about the Capital intensive projects of \$20,000 or more or the multi-year funding projects, which may be in excess of \$250,000. If a lot of the smaller projects are removed the list will become minimal.

Chris reported that the C.I.P. threshold is \$100,000 or more. Most everything else goes in the operating budget and within that budget is an expendable equipment line item.

Chris reported that we've been fortunate to save money on trail maintenance by moving trails but we need a bigger plan regarding the many miles we have. It can be spread out regarding what is in our operating budget over the next two to three years.

Council Liaison Cain reported that prioritizing the entire list at once is difficult. We need to determine the list on a smaller scale.

Chris asked Committee members to prioritize the list via 1's, 2's, or 3's.

Lorrie feels strongly that the restrooms and water fountains along the trail are a waste of money and will be a huge maintenance issue. Are there many complaints that there aren't real restrooms on the trail.

Chris reported that the only complaints received are regarding Tomahawk Park and for that location, there are many requests and complaints.

Dave asked staff to prioritize the list; they are the experts who visit the areas on a consistent basis.

David reported that we have to maintain what we own before researching anything new.

Bob suggested everyone take the list home and rank it 1-5 prior to the next meeting. The City can combine the rankings for a composite score.

Chris replied that this is a good idea; each person should rank the list with five being the highest.

April reported that all have to be careful reading the list to determine rankings that require a higher priority.

Doug reported that it may be difficult to rank the list without knowing the story behind each of them.

Council Liaison Cain agrees. Staff knows best and should prioritize the list first.

Lorrie reported that Committee members can prioritize the list without staff. Even though Committee members may not use certain areas they can go there to verify the condition.

Dave reported that he agrees with Julie; staff opinion should come first. They are the experts, he is not. He is not going through every item on the list.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that staff will prioritize the list and bring the information to the next meeting for further discussion. Everyone should be prepared to discuss this.

David asked Chris to remove items above \$4,000 from the list for simplification.

Chris reported that the items should not be removed as they will have to be placed into some budget, which has not taken place.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

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

- Eggstravaganza was held April 13. She thanked Lorrie for all of her help getting things set up. Karen came by as well.
- Pool passes went on sell May 1. We are currently \$200 over 2013 sells.
- Lifeguard training begins Saturday. The pool opens next Saturday.
- Summer activities begin June 2.
- T-ball/Coach pitch practice begins Monday. There are currently 475 players registered consisting of 35 teams.
- Online enrollment is busy. Currently 60 percent of participants register online.
- Duck sales began soon. They are up from last year for the same time period.
- Weekend and evening pool pass sales began recently. Summer is here.

April reported the following:

- The Historic Commission dedicated to plaques at 86th and Belinder for Grey Eyes Crossing.
- The schoolhouse is busy with field trips. Summer staff will begin at the end of the month. The school will be open daily, with the exception of Mondays, throughout the summer.
- The Kids concert series begin soon. The Wings of Love bird show will also return.
- Stage Company starts rehearsal for *Hello Dolly* June 1.
- Public Art for the Paley piece location and the Justice Center are currently on hold.

Brian reported that his staff has been busy with the following:

- 123rd Trail is close to completion. Concrete path has been poured. Landscaping begins soon. The trees need to be planted soon. The wall will be stained next week. All of the challenges are in the past. The project remained in line with the original design.
- Steering Committee for the Bike/Ped plan met today.
- The Bike Committee also reviewed a draft of the bike and pedestrian master plan. Great feedback was received regarding focusing on pedestrian elements. Comments from today will be taken to work on the draft moving further.
- He met with the Planning Commission prior to this meeting and presented an updated plan regarding cycling and pedestrian routes and their connectivity to make a coherent system. The Planning Commission provided very positive responses.
- His mowing contractor requested a raise recently. This is currently out for bid. All mowing is being done in house as a result of being blindsided by this at the last minute. They are doing their best to stay on top of it all.
- Chris added that in fairness to Brian's crew, they haven't been successful getting seasonal staff. The staff he had found recently got full-time jobs and left at a busy time of the season.
- Brian reported that they don't have any trouble finding college students to work but they can only work two months each year and the long term seasonals work ten months out of the year but it is hard to find them. Once a good, long-term seasonal is hired, they move on shortly after. He currently has one position filled of seven needed. It is tough to maintain the growing grass and trees.

Dave suggested hiring three full-time workers with benefits.

Bob agreed. Three full-time employees are better than seven seasonals if positions are hard to fill.

Brian added that they've proposed having permanent part time employees with 32 hours weekly.

B. Approve Recommendation of Bill Day to Bicycle Committee.

Chris reported that Bill is an avid cyclist. He is very interested in connectivity and trail use. He contacted the Mayor regarding joining the Committee.

David made a motion to approve the recommendation of Bill Day to the Bicycle Committee. Amy seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.

C. Approve Recommendation of Pete Stover to Bicycle Committee.

Brian reported that Pete was an original Committee member who resigned due to job relocation. He is an avid cyclist and uses his bicycle daily for his mode of transportation. He was an excellent attendee and is excited to get back on the Committee.

David made a motion to approve the recommendation of Pete Stover to the Bicycle Committee. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

D. Call for Miscellaneous Items

David reported that the area on the east side of Kenneth Road that was used as baseball fields. It has been demoed and benches have been removed. This is an opportunity for a solid piece of ground for an additional dog park or other amenities at the south end of the city. The City should research the possibility of acquiring this soon.

E. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – July 8, 2014

The next meeting is July 8, 5:30 p.m. in the Maple Room.

Dave Coleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob Wright seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department