



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Board Members absent: Bob Wright and David Harwood.

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, 2014 meeting minutes. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Dog Park - Update

Chris reported the opening date had been slated for July 1, depending on the weather. That may get pushed back again for the same reason. Progress has been ongoing but it will be hard to make that date now as the rains have come at times scheduled for installation of waterline and

Chris added that the new date is now closer to early to mid-August, weather, amenities, and trail improvements to the west (ADA) pending. This information will be placed on the website.

B. Dog Park Name – Recommendations for Consideration by Governing Body

Chris passed around the list of proposed names also stating that if anyone else had any others to be considered, please speak up.. Committee members reviewed the list for consideration and voted. The top two votes are Canine Creek and Leawoof. They will be presented to Council for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen refrained from voting. It isn't fair to vote tonight and with the Council.

Council Liaison Cain added that she should also refrain from voting as suggested by Lou.

C. 123rd and Mission Trail Update

Brian reported that the walls are in, concrete work is finished, and landscape plants have been planted. The items remaining are hydro seeding, installing split rail fence and guard rails, and staining the walls. The two homeowners impacted most were invited to provide input regarding stain color.

Amy asked if an entrance sign will be installed.

Brian added that the entrance sign will be refurbished and replaced once the project is complete.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it looks really nice. The grove with chokeberry is very pretty. The Justice Center also looks beautiful.

Brian added that overall the Justice Center looks nice but there are a few areas that need adjusting. He recently completed a punch list of items that need to be addressed. Thirty-six (36) trees need to be replaced due to the way they were planted. A lot of shrubs also didn't survive, as well as a significant portion of the roses. The hostas and a ground cover also needs replanting. The cold spell could have attributed to this. The junipers on the south end of the parking area are also showing signs of winter desiccation. They will watch them to see how they develop. There is an area in the parking lot where water rushes, builds and seeps through. This has been a problem from the beginning. It needs to be re-graded; fescue sod will be added to establish the area correctly.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the City will incur additional cost because of this. Is it insured.

Brian added that the landscaper is responsible for replacement and will provide us a one year warranty.

Amy asked if he notices people using the trail a lot although it's blocked off. Her friend's yard backs to the trail and she notices people on it all the time.

Brian reported that it is hard to keep people out. They see the signs and enter anyway.

D. Review Master Plan Project List

Chris passed around an updated Master Plan project list for committee review and discussed the changes from the previous document presented at the May meeting.

Chris reported that \$75,000 was added for soccer field access. The pool building exterior restroom accessibility was raised to \$60,000 to account for replacement of the doors/ frames, and a ramp up to each.. \$7,200 was removed regarding a plan already established to replace regular tables including ADA tables. The baseball field dugout seating was changed to zero (0) due to the fact that they are used as practice fields with no plans of adding a bleacher or dugout area in the future. The total is \$166,800; \$200,000 (budgeted in 2015 for improvements) was removed to alleviate confusion with the last document. The excess for ADA could be used as contingency for the soccer field access and pool restroom projects. The ADA issues are covered within the \$200,000 budgeted for next year.

Committee members reviewed the entire document and discussed connectability of the concrete path on the North side of the Lions fountain to the southern edge of all fields for access to five and seven.

Lorrie asked if this is the minimalist required pathway.

Chris added that this is correct. The biggest issue will be to manage the proximity of that path to the fields minimizing interference to the open space. The area will be staked to see what might work best.

Chris added that a restroom near the east end of the park has been on the unfunded list since 2001. The spaces are connected (shelter A & B) and isn't functional. A restroom will be added to a new larger shelter when built, but it won't be as large as the Lion's shelter.

Chris reported that staff will develop a trail maintenance master plan due to reoccurring issues with the trails. This will be proactive and important moving forward.

Chris passed around a handout with examples of waterless restroom options for consideration in some of the flooding areas along the trail. This would be ideal for Tomahawk Park; it is heavily used. She would appreciate this option instead of a portable restroom if she were a mother with a small child. Most cost nearly \$200,000 plus.

Brian added that this would be an upgrade to the portable restrooms currently used. The yearly cost to maintain them is nearly \$15,000 (all locations), which includes cleaning and rental fees. The waterless restrooms would require staff cleaning instead of a rental company.

Chris added that a decision packet will be presented to Mr. Lambers when timing is right, outlining the operational impact, which is taken into consideration when completing a decision package.

Council Liaison Cain reported that a house can be purchased for this price. They are expensive.

Chris agrees they are expensive but they may be the best solution for our needs.

Chris reported that the rocks along the Gezer pond are an issue. Kids are constantly throwing them into the water; even the large ones in. This is dangerous. Staff is tired of picking them out of the water and it is hard to put them back in their places..

Amy added that she visits the park a lot and has never been there when kids aren't throwing them.

Chris reported that the playground surface replacement (at City Park) is in the 2015 budget and connected to the Leawood Foundation initiative. She advised the Foundation to consider this in 2016 due to the time needed to raise the money. This will also give us a chance to incorporate the money into the 2016 budget, which was the procedure used for the Gezer playground.

Chris added that the Indian Creek bank stabilization (also at City Park) has been pushed back several times due to higher priority projects. It isn't critical but we don't like to lose park land so we will keep a close eye on the area.

Chris added that several items listed on the Master Plan can/will be done in house. This will help a lot with keeping costs down.

Kim reported that a sump pump failed this morning at the Aquatic Center, resulting in five feet of water in the basement with the main pumps. There was also a snake in the pool yesterday.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if the failure is covered by insurance.

Kim added that a chlorine pump (minimal cost) may have been lost but the water was pumped out. All is fine now.

Chris reported that it was suggested that restrooms should be added near the kindergarten fields at the west end of the park entrance. At one point, it was thought that we had a ninety-nine (99) year lease but after further research it was determined that it is owned by Johnson County Wastewater and they may be expanding the plant in the area for which they are considering using this space. The documents were given to the City Attorney and City Administrator for further review.

Council Liaison Cain suggested Chris and staff revise the revised master plan document listing all the same number categories together so it's easier to read.

Dave agreed. He suggested listing the ADA issues and the other projects, or wish list, separately. The completed items should be removed from the document. There are too many in the (5) category and not enough of the other numbers. Prioritizing the (5) category would be helpful. It would also be helpful if Chris can provide committee members with an excel file to review instead of hard copy once complete. Committee members should be able to rank the list evenly.

Chris agreed that Dave made a good point. The list will be redone prior to the next meeting. She advised Committee members to take the report received tonight home for review and e-mail her additions or adjustments. The final list will be discussed at the next meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that Council members should talk to their people and allow them to vote on areas of concern in terms of prioritization. Feedback from citizens is crucial regarding how the listed items will be paid for. This was done when Tomahawk Creek Park and

City Park were established. Looking at the numbers (dollar amounts) listed there is no way on an annual basis that this can be done.

Council Liaison Cain agreed. This is important, especially the golf course expansion alone at potentially \$2,000,000.00.

Chris added that 50% of the list is above \$100,000, the threshold to be considered a capital project, and some are closer to \$200,000. She agrees that the suggestions of the Council Liaisons should be considered.

Council Liaison Cain added that for example she isn't in favor of spending money on an activity center when money was recently spent on the Justice Center and a new Fire Station is coming.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he agrees. He is doubtful an activity center will ever pass. It isn't feasible to expect to get this list financed on an annual basis. It is nearly impossible to move forward from an operating budget point of view.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is important to discuss this before moving forward with different phases of the Master Plan.

Chris reported that she doesn't see the need to pay for other phases. They were to help us facilitate what we are already doing. It is ok to not spend the money if it is unnecessary .

II. New Business

A. Referral by Governing Body: Discuss Advertisement at/near Dog Park

Chris reported that Council Liaison Osman brought this up during the last council meeting, suggesting the possibility of pet friendly places in Leawood who may have an interest in advertising.

Council Liaison Rasmussen gave an overview of pictures taken from various dog parks he's visited in many states. He and Council Liaison Osman would like the committee to consider it and decide the caveats associated with it. He isn't supporting commercial advertising in our City parks. He is supporting the discussion for feedback at the Dog Park area only. Some signs he saw were stand-alone advertising posts but many styles varied. Some advertised local stores that weren't dog related. If decided to allow advertising it should be done so with a price and timeframe even if we allow memorializing a pet. Advertising shouldn't be allowed in perpetuity and should be dog related. We shouldn't allow dog training or dog walking businesses that bring large amounts of dogs to support their business. There is room to gain serious money for amenities that we could not justify from the point of view of a tax payer supported institution. This is a serious decision that will require staff monitoring.

Dave added that he is in favor of the idea; naming rights to the park should be sold. For example, Petco Field. This has been done at other parks. People give incredible amounts of money for pets. They should be allowed to donate money for benches, trees, etc. This could also be an opportunity to recoup expenses as well as purchase additional items.

Chris added that the Foundation has been successful raising money for amenities, which is ongoing. There are two areas of this issue: the advertising/sponsorship side and the memorium side. People love to remember a dog that passed away. This option may be easier to monitor rather than sponsors advertising their business. It will be helpful and easier to manage if advertising is limited to dog related items only.

Amy added that her family purchased a bench at Deanna Rose when her father passed away and they received a contract outlining the timeframe of the agreement as well as a catalog with available options. We need something similar to monitor what is being placed in the dog park. It

would also be nice to have a message board advertising dog related events such as Barks in the Park or the Royals event Bring Your Dog To the K.

April asked if there is a guaranteed time limit for the City Hall bricks in the courtyard. The dog park could follow a similar timeframe.

Chris added that she is uncertain the specifics pertaining to the bricks in the courtyard.

Lorrie reported that the cost should be outlined with an allotted timeframe. The cost should increase if more time is needed. A covered, two-sided board would be nice. One side for advertising and the other for community advertisements.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he agrees. There should be a limit to the length of each advertisement. We need a policy similar to the golf course.

Chris reported that benches shouldn't have a time limit. If someone pays for a bench, they should "own" it until it has to be replaced

Council Liaison Cain reported that she isn't crazy about the idea. It would be hard to manage. She is in favor of a bench but doesn't want a lot of dogs memorialized in our dog park. This is creepy and isn't necessary, and it would be hard to monitor. She understands needing the money but how do we cut it off. It needs to be restricted.

Dave agreed. Where do we draw the line. The dog park is a new piece of property and a new endeavor. We are not rushed to make an immediate decision. We can determine usage and decide if we want to pursue this moving forward if money is needed.

Chris agreed. We should get the park open and see how it goes for a few months. We don't have to do anything right now. She is certain people will contact us wanting to do something whether memorial or advertising. This is a given. This is good to keep in the back of our minds and be proactive rather than reactive in terms of how it will be handled.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the staff should determine the criteria.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she would like to know what other local parks are doing.

April added that there are other ways to raise funds rather than adding signs in the park. There is a huge opportunity with dog lovers. The money can be raised in a variety of ways.

Lorrie reported that people may give money out of the kindness of their heart.

Chris reported that certificates should be given to those who donate.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that the consensus from the Committee is to keep it on the radar and revisit the topic if the need becomes necessary.

Chris reported that the potential opening date is in August. She recommends revisiting this topic in November, after the area is open for a several months, to determine if it should be considered at that time.

Staff Reports

Brian reported that staff has been busy with the following:

- Large Item Recirculation Day for the North portion of Leawood was held Saturday. Only two calls were received regarding items being missed. This was good compared to the number of past events. Town & Country Disposal is getting better not missing items.
- A progress meeting was held today regarding the restroom. April reported her scheduling needs for the stage access. The contractor will accommodate her schedule. The potential

completion date is still July 1. The biggest inconvenience will be getting the first season of landscaping done. .

Council Liaison Cain reported that it looks great. It is barely noticeable from the upper trail. It is hard to believe that so many complained.

- The consultants for the Bike/Ped Master Plan are reemphasizing chapters and changing order based on committee recommendation received at the most recent Bike Pedestrian Plan Steering Meeting. They will also recommend ways to improve education efforts and encouragement efforts (from the 5 “E’s”). A Bike Committee meeting will be held tomorrow night. The chair suggested assigning committee members to ride the areas discussed and provide feedback.

April reported the following:

- Today was the second event of the Grinnin and Groovin series. Only 250 people attended this week due to the weather this week, while 589 attended the event last week. Next week is Rockin Rob; he has a large following. Dino O’Dell will play at the upcoming Duck Derby event. He is also very popular.
- The Book Club meets every Wednesday morning at the Schoolhouse.
- Photo Restoration for adults will be held June 22, 2:00 p.m. Jim Mathis will discuss restoration and how to take care of old family photos. This should be an interesting event.
- The American Girl Doll events will be held monthly during the summer.
- “Hello Dolly” rehearsals have begun. The orchestra has referred to the production as *Dollywood*. She encouraged Committee members to attend a performance. Cast is also looking forward to the opening of the restrooms. .
- The cast member family picnic was held this past Sunday. It was a nice event.
- She has been working on a great concert series line-up. More information is coming soon.

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

- Camps and swim lessons began last week. We are hosting a swim meet tonight despite the cool temperature and a little rain. The first Dive Meet will be held tomorrow. The adult water aerobics will begin soon. The evening class has enough participants to go. We hope to build momentum moving forward.
- The Duck Derby will be held June 21 at Gezer Park. The Corner Bakery will sponsor the refreshments. Bank of Blue Valley will attend and is sponsoring the prizes. A lot of ducks have been sold. Her goal is 450.
- The 4th of July event is fast approaching. Parking passes will be sent soon. The band *Flashback* will return this year. They were fantastic last year.
- The likes on Facebook are growing. The current number is 273.

Chris reported the following:

- She and Kim have been looking into a food truck festival. It isn’t being done around here by anyone else. A band will perform as well. .

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he likes the idea. Santa Monica, CA. has food trucks tied in with their park area.

Council Liaison Cain reported that it should be held in conjunction with the opening for the dog park, all monies raised will go towards purchasing agility equipment.

Amy reported that a dog treat vendor could also participate.

B. Call for Miscellaneous Items

Lorrie asked the status of the property swap at Brooke Beatty Park. Why are the stakes there. Have we received complaints regarding people crossing the homeowner’s property. The park looks nice.

Council Liaison Cain and Amy agreed.

Chris replied that an agreement hasn't been established. The current stakes were part of the survey work.

Brian added that the stakes reference where the land swap would be. To his knowledge we haven't received any complaints.

Dave reported that at a previous meeting he mentioned his friend who resides in Sandy Springs, Georgia. As part of the Sandy Springs Conservancy they did a playable art park. (*He ran copies for everyone to see information as well as pictures of the playable art*). They requested submissions in 2011 in conjunction with an RFP regarding interactive works of art that would inspire active play. There were 125 submissions received from across the country; six winners were selected. Beth Nyback is an artist from Kansas City. This might be a good idea for the re-developed City Hall property or a greenway system as opposed to having the land open/empty.

Council Liaison Cain reported that this is an awesome idea.

Chris added that it would be a unique change to the art pieces. She really likes the idea as well.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – July 8, 2014

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

Amy Vlastic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug Stevens seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department