



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – August 12, 2014 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair), Dave Coleman, Lorrie Hamilton, Bob Wright and Amy Vlasic

Board Members absent: David Harwood, Doug Stevens.

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

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

Chair Karen Ward Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:44 p.m.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to approve the July 8, 2014 meeting minutes. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Dog Park - Update

Brian reported that the dog park is coming along great. Everything has been finalized and approved. The customized dog rules sign has been ordered and should arrive soon. The fence installation is also coming along and has been installed around the bullpen area. A greater portion of concrete was poured than originally planned to accommodate wheelchair access. His staff will install the gates they built tomorrow to test them to make sure they work properly and are at the proper level to prevent a dog from crawling through. All debris has been removed. The water line will be tapped and the drinking fountain will be added soon. The benches, pet waste cans and trash cans have been assembled. The pad for the shade cover for the benches will be poured soon.

Amy asked if complaints have been received regarding why a concrete walk area isn't around the perimeter of the dog park.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he also received a complaint but advised them to contact the Mayor.

Chris reported that one Facebook post referenced this but she hasn't received a formal complaint.

Chris added that a soft opening will be scheduled in the near future once the amenities are in place.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked who selected the dog photo on the cover of the program guide.

Chris reported that Marica chose the picture for the cover of the guide.

Chris added that she received a call from a dog owner upset that dogs with pinch collars aren't allowed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that he doesn't think the City should tell people what kind of collar their dogs should have but he understands why the decision was made.

Chris reported that she offered to meet the resident at the dog park before it opens and also explained why pinch collars aren't allowed. The dog owner was appreciative of the explanation.

B. Dog Park Name – Update

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the minutes should reflect, and credit should be given to April Bishop, for the naming the dog park.

Council Liaison Cain agrees. She loves the name and gave credit to April at a recent Council meeting.

C. Ironwoods Restroom Update

Brian reported that the restrooms are nice and were used during “*Holly Dolly*” although a few details need to be finalized. The floor will be re-stained soon due to the dissatisfaction with the original stain job.

April reported that everyone in attendance was very excited to finally have functioning restrooms.

Council Liaison Cain agreed. They are very nice and were heavily used but lighting is definitely needed for night events as you approach the path to the restrooms. She suggests adding solar lights similar to what exists on the other side that leads to the bridge; even if temporary for each show. Lighting is also needed in the area behind the east side of the stage where people walk over the hill to the trail to access the bridge. It is also extremely dark and was no visibility in that area.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked if there were lines waiting to use the restrooms.

Council Liaison Cain reported that there were lines but there always are at intermission. The restrooms are beautiful and fancier than she anticipated. The only negative feedback is the towel dispensing station is located on the opposite side of the wash station. Everyone had to cross over the line to get a towel. This was awkward and doesn’t make sense.

Chris reported that at least one should be moved.

Brian reported that he appreciates the feedback. He will look into this.

Chair Liaison Cain reported that Deb Filla heard there were a few complaints from homeowners regarding the lights.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that the show was charming and the crowds were huge.

April reported that they had phenomenal crowds most nights due to the cooler weather.

D. Final Review – Master Plan Project List and Next Steps

Chris passed around the updated version of the Master Plan that was mailed out last week to the board for review and gave an overview of the project list.

Committee members had a brief discussion of items on the list.

Chris reported that the ADA items weren’t ranked because all of them will be completed.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the trails are really rough past the bridge out of Tomahawk Creek Park. It isn’t a far ride but she suggests making the lift softer.

Brian reported that there is also an area headed west out of Tomahawk Park that is in pretty bad shape. He received an estimate to fix this area all the way to just east of the Roe bridge. The estimate from Mega is nearly \$100,000.

Chris reported that there will always be deteriorating trail areas. \$50,000 is set aside annually in the parks maintenance operating budget for trail maintenance. There may be a way to increase this after we complete a trail replacement plan.

Brian reported it will be better to phase it until funding is received to complete a larger portion at one time. If so, the money could be staggered according to the year the work needs to be done. It wouldn't need to be done every year because eventually we'd get caught up. It is difficult to find someone to do the work when the project amount is minimal.

Chair Ward Reimer asked about the vestibule area at the Lodge. What exactly is this project in reference to.

Chris reported that the door area would be sectioned off create a foyer, so as not to open directly into the space. It is difficult on cold days and days when the wind is blowing. People have a hard time sitting near the entrance and table décor gets blown every time the door opens.

Dave asked the specific plans for the improvements to Ironwoods referenced in the Master Plan.

Chris added this is on hold until completion of the Master Plan. The City Administrator allocated funds and public meetings were held to get a list of all the possible options prior to both David's joining the Committee. She has the list established at that meeting and will e-mail a copy soon.

Chris reported that it is important for the Committee to finalize the review and make a recommendation to Council at an upcoming work session.

Lorrie reported that the list is composed of many items we don't have money for.

Dave agreed. It is a good list with a good starting point for a Work Session to start dialogue with the Council and prioritize projects as funds are available.

Chris agrees. The biggest conversation will likely come with the list of new items. She is uncertain of the Council's priorities.

Chris added that all of the different projects relating to way finding signage were combined into one line in the "new" category. As Council Liaison Rasmussen pointed out during the first review, some projects may need to be phased, based on the dollar amount.

Bob asked if there is a place holder for the future park where the old police station is.

Chris reported that it was ranked 4.3 under new however; there has been money set aside in the 2015 budget for a park in that location.

Chris reported that Brook Beatty flooded on the south end last Wednesday, washing away the majority of the mulch, uprooting two trees and damaging a small portion of the landscaped area. Fortunately, the park crew was able to use equipment to suck the material back up and redeposit it. It must have been an isolated flood. None of the usual suspects/locations flooded. She and Brian visited Grandview Park recently and looked at a new type of turf with pad surface. It is new to the market and needs to be tested for a few years before we jump into considering it as an option.

Chris asked if all Committee members are comfortable with the new/updated list.

Lorrie added that she is but doesn't agree with the importance for the restrooms at Tomahawk Park.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that money shouldn't be spent on the existing City Park playground, before the other one at 96th and Lee is installed. This priority should be reversed.

Chris reported that it is listed in that order because it is a replacement and it is imperative to do something soon with the surface. She is uncertain what is going on with the Foundation at this time

in regards to moving forward with this project or considering a similar one at 96th & Lee. There is still a question about when the new fire station will be built and the current one taken down; and when and where the park would be built. She suggested Councilmembers Cain or Rasmussen might inquire about the order of actions that will take place. She will ask Scott Lambers when it is planned to take down the old police station. It is hard to know how to move forward until these things can be determined. She believes the consensus is the old city hall will remain.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this is a good point. This needs to be determined.

Amy reported that we need to remain focused on taking care of existing items before moving on to new items.

Council Liaison Rasmussen agreed.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she also agrees but the Ironhorse Clubhouse expansion isn't falling in that category and it is a \$1.9 million renovation.

Chris reported that the last cost estimate received was \$1.7 plus contingency, which would correctly put the project at \$1.9 million as Councilmember Cain mentioned. She is hopeful it will come in lower if rebid.

Amy asked if this is more of a renovation than a new project.

Council Liaison Cain reported that the cost is still close to \$2 million whether new or a renovation.

Council Liaison Cain reported that staff prioritized the list; the Committee reviewed it and has done all they can do. What else is needed before presenting it to Council.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that a recommendation is needed to move forward.

Lorrie moved that the Committee recommend the Master Plan Project List be presented to the City Council for review and discussion at a future Work Session. Dave Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that it has been moved and seconded. She thanked staff for their energy and effort.

Chris thanked the Committee members for their attention and input to the review.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

Brian reported that the staff has been busy with the following.

- The irrigation at the Justice Center is near completion. Most of the dead plants have been removed by the contractor and will be replaced soon. He hopes it is complete before the Police Department Open House event September 10.
- He completed the final draft of the Bike/Pedestrian plan to hopefully get on the first available Planning Commission meeting to move forward with the project.

Kim reported the following:

- The pool will begin half-day hours (opening at 4:00) this week due to school being back in session.
- The Doggie Dunk is scheduled for Tuesday, September 2; the cost is \$3.00 for residents, \$5 for non-residents per dog.
- The last session of The First Tee begins Monday.

- The Swim & Dive Team ended the season with the dive team earning first place and the swim team taking third in the MoKan League.
- Jeff Peterson recently retired as the Outdoor Education Supervisor to work a twenty hour a week position. He will be missed. Interviews will begin soon for this position and the Program Facility position to hopefully fill both and be at full staff again soon. Both positions will close August 15.
- Brock will no longer be in charge of Labor Day Run after this year's event but will take over the tennis program again. The new hire will be responsible for the Labor Day Run, the Community Center and the Lodge.
- Bank of Blue Valley offered to sponsor the Duck Derby again in 2015. They enjoy the event and it is a nice partnership.

April reported the following:

- "Hello Dolly" was great. Rehearsals begin soon for the next theatre production, "A Little Night Music" in October.
- The Schoolhouse has been busy with weekly visitors.
- She is gearing up for a Back to School Celebration coming soon.
- A local photographer who has traveled to forty-one states and photographed one room schoolhouses all over the Country will host an event at the schoolhouse. Photos will be on site to view.
- The concert series will begin Sunday. It is a free event with a great line-up.

Lou asked for an update regarding the art for the outside of the Justice Center.

April replied that to her knowledge, this has been put on hold and Council will start over.

Chris added that this is correct. Council agreed that the process will start over soon.

Lorrie asked for an update regarding the "Variance" art piece.

Chris replied that they are collecting documents in preparation for the August 26, Planning Commission meeting.

April reported that a portion of the problem is that it will need to be stored at Public Works if shipped early. They are waiting for Belger to pick it up and move it to the site but they are hesitant to offer an exact shipping price without specific information. This has been very difficult.

Chris reported that another concern from Belger is how the art piece being moved to the interior of the Justice Center will get into the building. The thought was to access entrance through the front door near court but they've experienced trouble with the doors since the building opened, so removing the doors causes concern because it may jeopardize the warranty. This is in limbo but many options have been discussed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen suggested selling the piece if it's going to be this difficult. In regards to the Justice Center exterior piece of art- the architecture of the building is nice but is it a problem to block the lower level windows with a water feature or sculpture. What are the windows for.

Chris added that the windows are in the police work out facility. It wouldn't cause a problem to block them. Debra Fila recently brought up a good point that we may need to research a piece that doesn't go up so high; one that is horizontal instead of vertical. She agrees. It will be difficult to move forward with another RFP unless changed drastically.

April agreed. This would be difficult unless the space is redefined. It is better to revisit the original submittals. If an RFP for the same space is put out people may think it's a joke and not respond. We lost a lot of integrity doing what we've done up to this point.

Chris reported that even though the artists who responded had the schematic of the building they now will have the benefit of the building with the landscaping actually being in. This is good. She will ask Scott for specific direction.

Council Liaison Rasmussen thanked April for the explanation.

B. Call for Miscellaneous Items

Lorrie reported that David asked at previous meetings about the abandoned ball field properties on the east side of Kenneth Road regarding the possibility of Leawood taking ownership of it for additional park land. She discussed this with her husband who has the same AIMS access as Chris and was able to find out that the property is in Overland Park. Unfortunately there are different segments with two additional property owners in addition to Overland Park for a total of three. Permission would be needed by all if Leawood would like to pursue this. It is more complicated than initially thought. It is all in the flood plain. She has contact information if needed.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that she would like the next Park Board meeting to be held at one of the parks. It was agreed that the September meeting will be held at Shelter A, 5:30 p.m. The board can then view the dog park following the meeting, if time allows.

Chris reported that looking ahead, she and Kim will be out of town at the National Conference during the originally scheduled October meeting and would like to meet October 7 instead. This would actually help with getting the fees approved that are due prior to the November 3 Work Session.

Dave asked Chris if she and Brian were able to visit the Grandview Park he suggested.

Chris said that she and Brian visited the park via invitation from the Director. It is nice with a 100 ft. zip line. Kudo's to Grandview; they've renovated four parks in the past six months. They also have a dog park with a swipe card system to verify that dogs that enter are properly vaccinated. The cost is \$25 resident/\$35 non-resident for a yearly pass.

Brian added that their dog park had three sections, a small, a large and a rested area. A walking trail is located on the outside for owners to walk around the exterior. There is no shade in the park at all.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that this is what he wanted for our dog park. He spoke with the Mayor regarding this.

Bob reported that this would be difficult to incorporate because one of our rules is owners must stay with their dog and not leave them unattended.

Chris reported that she and Brian also stopped at Meadowmere Park close by. It has an awesome shelter with new cool hillside slide. The shelter would look really nice at Ironwoods on the hill. She and Brian agreed that they need to get out more to see what other parks have to offer.

Bob reported that he would like to request an agenda item for the next meeting to discuss the length of the meetings. He is the Treasurer of his children's booster club and recently someone suggested limiting meetings to an hour and a half to be respectful of Committee members' time and other obligations they may have. Do the City and other Public venues have a declared end time. Is it possible to get everything accomplished in the compressed time period if we have a deadline. He understands if someone has to leave early, they can notify the Chair or Chris. It would be nice to have a designated end time.

Chris reported that Council and the Planning Commission adhere to a designated timeframe and extend the meeting by motion if needed.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported that the Chairperson makes this decision.

Chair Ward Reimer reported that this may be difficult at times depending on the length of the agenda. And other times, an hour and a half may not be needed if the agenda isn't long.

Bob replied that he agrees but just brought it up to see if this could be established.

Chris asked if it would be beneficial for her to look at what's on the agenda and if it's not pressing to push it to the next month. Committee members can always look at the agenda and provide feedback as well and determine if the topic can wait to a future meeting.

Council Liaison Cain reported that she serves on a lot of Committees and Park Board runs longer than any other meeting she attends. This is always a very long meeting. She is certain it makes for a very long day for staff members who've been here all day.

Chris reported that it is up to the Committee and she will add it to the agenda for discussion at the September meeting.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – August 12, 2014

The next meeting is September 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Leawood City Park, Shelter A.

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy Vlasic seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department