



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – May 12, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Board Members absent: Amy Vlasic and Bob Wright.

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

Staff members present: Brian Anderson, Chris Claxton, and April Bishop

Karen Ward Reimer (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Lorrie made a motion to approve the April 14, 2015 meeting minutes. Doug Stevens seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Park Master Plan Project Update

Chris reported that some items on the timeline originally pushed back had been moved up on the schedule. Items that were moved to 2017 or 2018 may be addressed in 2016.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that when he visited the creek bank site at City Park 6 to 8 weeks ago, he felt that the cause of the erosion was due to the run off from I-435. He would like to have KDOT and perhaps KCP&L work with Leawood to find a solution. He would like to have Joe Johnson look at this as well.

Brian said that Joe has looked at the history of the erosion on the AIMS maps. Flood water is unable to exit and a fix to this site would affect the bank further downstream. Rock and riprap would stabilize the bank or even a berm would redirect the possible run off from the highway.

Councilmember Rasmussen said that for an estimated budget of \$400,000 you could build a high wall in the creek, but the estimate might be high or other options may be better.

David H said that KDOT may responsible for storm water pollution caused by the run off and the EPA would be concerned if that is the case.

Councilmember Rasmussen stated that projects started in 2016 could take longer than projected extending into the following years.

Chris reported that the Councils' June budget meeting will resolve some of our questions about the timeline for projects.

B. Dog Park Use

Brian passed around a handout for Committee members to review.

Brian reported that the results of a study done from Saturday October 18th to Thursday April 30th produced these results: on average 739 enter the park daily; 22,500 people visit

monthly on average; Saturdays are the busiest use day of the week, with a total traffic number of 144,145 human visitors.

Lorrie questioned the need for a dog wash station due to mud in the park.

Chris said that it would be difficult to run an additional waterline to that end of the park. Until we examine the water fountain water pressure in a summer use situation we wouldn't know if there was enough pressure to make that an option. With the pool and the high use of restrooms and water fountains in the park we will better understand if there is enough pressure to make the water fountain run well.

Some dogs have been cleaning off by swimming in the creek. We don't want to encourage the dogs to get in the creek off-leash as that area is outside of the off-leash enclosure.

When asked about re-growing grass Brian stated that added that fall is the time to address sod or seed options.

David H suggested artificial turf in high traffic areas.

Councilmember Rasmussen questioned if artificial turf was urine permeable and stated that we didn't want to create an unpleasant environment.

Councilmember Cain suggested that a concrete area might be a viable option.

C. Foundation Kick off for Inclusive Playground Fundraising

Chris reported that invitations to the event on June 10th at AMC have gone out. Please let her know if you plan to attend. The event ticket is \$100 per person and includes a reception with beverages and heavy hors devours. The Foundation hopes to hold an annual fundraising event for the playground.

Chris would like to have a joint presentation or webinar for both the Foundation members and the Park Board to better inform the groups about planning the playground. She passed around presentation folders from the presenter at a recent workshop she attended that focused on this and the 7 principals of play. The presentation would include information on use of the playground, how to create a plan to meet the needs of our users and how much it will cost to create a fund raising goal.

There are currently no inclusive playgrounds in Johnson County and Chris feels that it would become a destination play area.

D. Twitter Report (Continued from April 14 meeting)

Kim provided a memo (attached) regarding the need for Twitter in addition to the Facebook and a review of the use of Facebook.

Social media continues to expand to various platforms. Twitter for some people is preferred to Facebook. Instagram and other new solutions have entered the ever-evolving technology market.

Council Liaison Rasmussen stated that we have experienced several months of Facebook use as a first step measured approach to social media as a way to announce events or

weather related changes to programing and we should be able to move forward without fear of disaster or adverse comments.

Kim had stated that the platforms are linked so one posting can upload to various platforms without taking additional staff time.

Chris stated that she will need to discuss this with Scott Lambers to see how he wants to address it.

David H moved that the committee recommend to the Governing Body consideration of Twitter, and other social media platforms, to augment Facebook for timely notifications of activities and events within the Parks & Recreation Department. The motion was seconded by Dave C. and was approved unanimously.

II. Council Liaisons Report

Councilmember Rasmussen reported on the Work Session of May 4th regarding the future plans for the 97th & Lee property. Discussion included the following in the order of timeline:

1. A pilot program of the Community Garden will begin on this site. The location will be temporary. If the pilot is successful they will likely move to Ironwoods Park. Users will get a raised bed frame, water, and wood chip pathways between beds. City Park staff will be responsible for creating these items. The Gardens will be ready for fall plantings. The City will provide the cost and labor for the items mentioned.

Brian mentioned that he will need to move the waterline about 10 feet for easier use.

Chris asked that Parks track all hours and expenses for the project.

Julie asked that they monitor the cost of water as well.

Users will provide soil and plantings. Cost to each user will be \$25 for residents and \$40 for non-residents.

Chair Ward-Reimer stated that Prairie Village has several community garden locations including the Village Presbyterian Church, which uses the food for their "Food Pantry". She said that we could gather useful information from them. They have had more success with gardens that the users can walk to and constant turnover in gardens where users had to drive to reach them.

2. Park area will be developed on the north ½ of the property around the old fire station site.
3. Cell Tower will need to be removed or replaced.
4. The Fire Station #1 will move to the south 1/3 of the property in order to remain active during the construction of the new station.
5. Old City Hall will be stabilized or moved slightly within the middle ½ of the property and be refurbished to use as a museum.

Councilmember Rasmussen also reported on the wastewater committee's interaction to improve the water treatment plant near City Park. Impact concerns include:

- Air Quality – which should be improved by changes
- Water Quality - which should be improved by changes
- Park Changes – limited impact

They may need to place underground storage tanks under sports fields along Lee Blvd. They would cover the cost of damage to the fields but it could impact use for a year or two.

Cost of the project will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. But the changes should have no adverse effect to the volume of water that Leawood uses.

iii. **New Business**

A. Staff Reports

Brian reported:

- Crews are mowing and mowing trying to keep up.
- The pool is full and staff has been working to get it ready to open for the season.
- A post was broken on the trail at City Park (east end) this weekend; maybe by a vehicle
- May 11-15 is Bike to Work Week. Breakfast stops have not gotten much use but a news reporter was there to report. There will be a ride to work for City employees on Friday.

Brian passed out new Johnson County Trail Guides.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked about State tax money going to trail connections. The taxes go for Land and Water projects but not streets and infrastructure.

Chris reported for Kim the following:

- Soccer season has just ended except for a tournament that will take place this weekend.
- Tee Ball/Coach Pitch begins on June 2 and registrations numbers are up significantly.
- Shelters and the Lodge bookings are very busy
- The Pool opens May 23rd. Some feature pumps at the pool need repairs.
- The Nature Center has new programs that they are doing both in-house and in schools.
- Every Door Direct postcards have gone out about camps and programs. The cards are a cost effective way to replace an issue of the Program Guide. They save money and get good response from the public.

Councilmember Rasmussen asked about a date for Barks in the Park.

Chris said she will follow-up with Animal Control

April passed out a summer program schedule for the Cultural events scheduled at Ironwoods Park. The list includes the following:

- Grinnin' & Groovin' events for kids, Tuesday mornings in June
- Old Time Fun Series at the Oxford Schoolhouse Wednesday mornings in June and July

- “Oliver” July 16 -25
- Sundays in the Park Concert Series in August
- Back to School event

April stated that all events and programs at Ironwoods Park, as well as Ironhorse, will be impacted by the traffic detour, which will close Mission Road all summer due to the reconstruction of the intersection at 143rd & Mission.

Two events not listed include:

- The dedication of “Variance” with artist Albert Paley in attendance on June 12th.
- An Art Show and Reception held at Leawood Fine Arts Gallery in a new location within Camelot Court, Friday June 26th

B. Call for Miscellaneous Items

Dave C. reported that his homeowners Association marked all of their ash trees for the Woodlands’ homeowners to treat.

Brain advised that now through June is a good time to inject ash trees as the Parks crew is currently doing.

Karen advised that both Dave and David would be leaving the Park Board for other assignments.

David H reported that he wanted a less demanding position from a time commitment standpoint and has joined the Leawood Bike Committee. He also will be sitting on Kevin Yoder’s State Transportation Committee.

Dave C reported that he has accepted an appointment to the Leawood Planning Commission.

The committee thanked both Dave and David for their service to the Park Board and wished them well in their new positions.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – June 9, 2015

Karen suggested that we hold the meeting in a Park location. The Nature Center was suggested so that we can see all the changes there and to drop by the Lodge to see “Oliver” rehearsals.

New members, Steve McGurran and Matt Block will be alerted and should attend the meeting

Dave C made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David H seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department