



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.
Ironwoods Park – Prairie Oak Nature Center

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair), Matt Block, Steve McGurren, Lorrie Hamilton, Doug Stevens and Bob Wright.

Board Members absent: Amy Vlastic

Council Liaisons present: Lou Rasmussen, Julie Cain

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

Karen Ward Reimer (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Lorrie made a motion to approve the June 9, 2015 meeting minutes. Bob seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Special Business

A. Request to Move Bicycle Friendly Committee from Park Board to Sustainability Advisory Board [Council Member Debra Filla]

Chris reported that Debra Filla is requesting that the Bicycle Friendly Committee be moved from the Park Board to the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Councilwoman Cain stated that it is a good fit because the Sustainability Advisory Board works with the Bicycle Friendly Committee on the Bike to School Days as well as grant opportunities.

Councilman Rasmussen asked if the Police were involved in the Bicycle Friendly programs.

Brian reported that the Bike Officers attend the Bicycle Friendly Committee meetings.

Chris reported that any type of capital projects proposed by the Bicycle Friendly Committee such as trails will still go through the Park Board. She also stated there would not be any negative repercussions by moving the Bicycle Friendly Committee to the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Councilwoman Cain stated that the Bicycle Friendly Committee is the brainchild of the Sustainability Advisory board and has always been a part of it.

Brian reported that the Sustainability Advisory Board has a special interest in the Bicycle Friendly Committee and Alicia Jennings who is an SAB member originally proposed the idea of becoming a Bicycle Friendly City to the Park Board.

Lorrie Hamilton stated that the Bicycle Friendly Committee sounds like it would be a good fit under the Sustainability Advisory Board.

There was consensus among the committee to accept the move of the BFC from Park Board to SAB.

II. Old Business

A. Report on Leawood “Recreational” Participants – Soccer League Affiliation

Kim reported that she and Dan Mahanke had a conference call with Paul Lawrence of Challenger Soccer to follow up on the Park Board’s request on how to help facilitate assistance to fragmented teams into new groups. After speaking with Dan and Paul, the following was proposed:

- No “tryouts” will be held for potential participants on the premier teams. Instead a “Jamboree” will be held in early June for all participants who are interested in playing on the Leawood Premier Team. Players will be evaluated for placement onto teams.
- During the Jamboree, parents will be given information on the premier team such as schedule, fees, coaches, etc.
- Premier players will register through Leawood but will pay all additional costs (coaching fees, tournament fees, uniform costs, etc. to Paul Lawrence/Challenger Soccer).
- By setting a deadline of late June for premier players to register, the Parks & Recreation Department will have an idea of the players within the league who are playing premier and those that want to continue playing at the recreational level. This will give the department a better opportunity to combine recreation teams and keep the recreational league active in the older grades.

Bob Wright stated that it is easy for teams to stay together in the recreational league through 3rd grade. Once the players are in 4th grade, they start going to premier.

Doug Stevens asked who will be hosting the Jamboree

Kim replied that Paul Lawrence with Challenger Soccer will be hosting the event.

Bob Wright asked if the agreement will be exclusive.

Kim replied that it will be for now to see how successful the partnership is.

Bob Wright stated that this is a good start. Kids that are left behind when their teammates go to premier leagues will have better opportunities.

Chris stated it would be a good idea to put out some information prior to the Jamboree to give answers to some questions that parents will likely have.

Karen Ward Reimer asked what the fees would be.

Kim replied that they are estimated to be around \$861.00. This will include registration, coaching fees, uniforms, tournament fees, etc. She noted that this is still quite a bit less than most premier organizations who charge upwards of \$1200.

Bob Wright made a motion that we advance discussion to support the Challenger Soccer Initiative for fall 2016.

Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Further Discussion of Trail Connections by Developers – Ironwoods Park

(Continued from June 9, 2015 meeting)

Chris reported that she met with Public Works and Planning to discuss issues related to the development of The Glyn of Leawood and the Villas of Iron Woods and the developers interest in constructing a trail to connect to the existing trail in Ironwoods Park.

- The Villas of Iron Woods trail connection would enter near the cabins
- The Glyn of Leawood would connect to the trail just south of the Nature Center

Chris stated the developer of the Villas of Iron Woods (Mark Simpson) has requested that the city pay for the trail from the subdivision connecting to the park. Initially he offered to pay for the trail and subsequently suggested the cost be split. The estimate was upwards of \$60,000. She also stated the development is in Overland Park and that the City is not interested in bearing the cost for the connection.

Doug Stevens asked if there were issues with storm water.

Brian responded that the hillside already has drainage issues and the earthwork would enhance the existing drainage problems.

Chris stated that according to David Ley, the storm retention ponds are likely to overflow and may not be able to handle an excess of water in a year such as this. Two ponds may be necessary.

Chris stated that in the discussion during the June Park Board meeting, the consensus was that one entrance to the park was preferred over two and that they did not want additional storm water to run into the park.

Steve McGurren asked if the option of one connection was presented to the developers.

Chris replied that it had not been presented because public works and planning are working on other issues, such as storm water, etc.

Councilwoman Cain asked why wouldn't we allow subdivisions access. We already have one at Steeplechase and Leabrook.

Chris replied that staff isn't opposed to the connection but it should be thought out as to where and cost should also be considered. Currently, we are waiting to see if the developers are going to put up a fence between the park and the subdivision, what they intend to do to eliminate any additional run-off in the park and the extent of the clear-cutting due to the placement of the sanitary sewer.

Councilwoman Cain stated that Mark Simpson has been a good ally to the city and we should not say no to his request to connect to the trail just because the development is in Overland Park. She also stated that she does not think the city should pay for the connection and she would prefer that the trail connection is not by the cabins. She also inquired about moving the trail access to the east.

Brian stated that if it is further east, a bridge will be required to cross the creek and enter the park.

Chris stated that the Glyns were not opposed to the trail width or the cost.

Brian stated that where the Villas of Iron Woods wishes to connect to the park is where the best stand of timber in the park is located.

Chris asked if the general consensus of the group was if they are not opposed to the Glyns trail connection but want to make sure that the stormwater and clear-cutting, with possible revegetation, get addressed.

Councilman Rasmussen asked what the input of the Police Department has been.

Chris stated that they have not been contacted regarding the trail connections.

Matt Block inquired as to why the board should approve the Glyns connection if we want the developers to cooperate to only have one trail connection. He also inquired if the developers will be responsible for putting up a fence.

Chris replied that if they do, it needs to meet our standards, which has typically been wrought iron. However, note that we elected to erect a split rail fence on the north side of the park to establish property lines between the park and Steeplechase. She stated that she has some concerns about how close both developments are to the Nature Center, Cabins and Lodge in regards to future complaints about activities.

Brian stated that he would prefer that the trail meet our specifications. Right now, Mark Simpson (Villas of Iron Woods) is proposing a 5 foot wide sidewalk.

Matt Block inquired if the trail needs to meet ADA Standards.

Brian replied that if it is a trail, it does not. If it is going to a facility, such as the dog park then it does need to meet ADA Standards.

Councilwoman Cain inquired if the city paid for the connection from Steeplechase to Ironwoods Park.

Chris replied she does not remember if the city paid for it or not, she would need to refer to the records.

Chris stated she would report back to the Park Board regarding the trail standards and the location of the connection.

Councilwoman Cain asked if there was a price point for the trail connection.

Chris said she was not sure of the price point but Mark Simpson was quoting \$50,000 to \$75,000 for the trail from his Villas.

III. Council Liaisons Report

Councilman Rasmussen reported:

- He was not successful in getting the use of all social media platforms approved by the Governing Body but was able to get the use of Twitter approved for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- During the budget meeting and discussion of the fee structure, he was made aware of the credit card processing costs. He would like to be sure the staff keeps those costs in consideration when setting fees.

Councilwoman Cain reported:

- There is a trail connection from Overland Park to the trail in Leawood from the Hawthorne Place villas as well.

IV. New Business

A. Staff Reports

April reported:

- “Oliver starts on Thursday and if any of the Board members would like reserved seats for any night, they need to email her.
- The Sundays in the Park Concert Series starts in August at Ironwoods Park

Brian reported:

- His staff is trying a new chemical to control Algae in the pond at Gezer Park. He stated that it is safe and it has a tint to keep the water a little darker.

Councilwoman Cain asked if the chemical could be used in the pond at Ironwoods Park.

Brian responded that the pond at Ironwoods is not a closed system like the pond at Gezer and he does not want to dump chemicals into the stream.

Brian also mentioned that Blue Valley Labs treats the pond at Ironwoods monthly for algae.

- The ponds along Tomahawk Creek Parkway are full and the rain is helping maintain the levels.
- His staff has been helping with events such as the July 4 Celebration and the set-up for “Oliver”.
- His staff has put out solar lights near the restroom at the amphitheater
- Community Gardens update:
 - All 16 original plots are reserved
 - The final 16 beds have been completed
 - The gardens are well maintained by the renters
- A Project Meeting was held recently to schedule major projects along with routine tasks for 2016 & 2017.
- He is working with Johnson County on a Bike Map App for smart phones.
 - It will go to the City website and will be interactive
 - It will look similar to Google Maps
 - It will have an emergency button that will give the user their location and the option to call “911”.
 - It will have the Leawood Bike Route system along with recommended rides.

Councilwoman Cain inquired about the cost to the city

Brian responded that there will not be a cost.

Councilwoman Cain inquired about the \$40,000 in the budget for the trails.

Brian responded that it was for wayfinding signage, “Share the Road” signage along with sharros to be put on the roads.

Councilwoman Cain inquired if the signage will help pedestrians or only cyclists?

Brian replied that the signage will help both cyclists and pedestrians but it is tough to implement in some areas due to some streets not having sidewalks.

Councilman Rasmussen mentioned the Pedestrian Plan in the 2015 Goals & Objectives. He requested a copy of the plan and asked if the route from Tomahawk Creek to Nall along 117th & 119th is being addressed.

Kim reported:

- The Duck Derby was held on Saturday, June 20. 188 Ducks were sold for the event, which is lower than previous years. Bank of Blue Valley sponsored the event by donating money for prizes, Corner Bakery Cafe provided refreshments and the Leawood Arts Council provided entertainment by Rockin' Rob. The Parks & Recreation Department was able to donate \$500 to the Leawood Foundation.
- The July 4th Celebration was well attended again this year.
- The registration deadline for the Fall Soccer League is July 22. This is the first year the online registration will be offered as an option to participants.
- Swim Championships are today and Thursday
- Staff is working on the Food Truck Festival scheduled for August 29, 5:00-9:00pm. Bands performing will be Elisha Israel & AZ-ONE and HotHouse.

B. Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11 at 5:30pm in the Maple Room of the Community Center.

V. Misc.

Councilman Rasmussen inquired if all planned trails have been completed. He mentioned that the Johnson County Commissioners are raising taxes to complete trails. He also inquired about the trail from Tomahawk Creek to the JCC and to the west.

Brian stated he is meeting with the Johnson County Park Planner next week.

Karen Ward Reimer inquired about the possibility of pickle ball courts at Leawood City Park. She has had four people contact her about it.

Chris stated the pickle ball courts are not in the Master Plan and the department does not anticipate installing them in the near future.

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doug seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department