



ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2015 - 5:30 p.m.
Maple Room- Leawood Community Center, City Hall

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward-Reimer (Chair), Matt Block, Steve McGurren, Amy Vlastic and Bob Wright

Board Members absent: Lorrie Hamilton, Doug Stevens

Council Liaisons: Julie Cain, Lou Rasmussen

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

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

Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the September 22, 2015 meeting minutes. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Further Discussion of Pickleball Courts

Chris reported that they continue to receive quite a bit of interest about pickleball. City Park currently has 6 tennis courts that run north and south. They have very subtle lines, lightly marked for Junior Tennis League. The cost to resurface and paint a court is around \$900. The court that is being looked at already has half a fence, and will be less likely to interfere with tennis. A group has approached us about having designated courts. They already bring their own portable nets and mark the lines to play using chalk. The difference is between building a court, which is extreme expensive, and using courts we already have. There aren't a lot of activities for seniors in the community, due to a lack of facilities.

Council Liaison Cain questioned if they will bring their own nets, and play vertically half court. One tennis court equals two pickleball courts. Could we trying 1 court at the beginning?

Steve inquired this isn't a for profit operation, but a group of citizens getting together for recreational and social purposes.

Chris replied this might be a good place to start, and check response to see if the need continues. It is something to fill the gap, and not very expensive. The more people she talks to the more open she is to the idea.

Council Liaison Cain inquired how many courts for a league. JTL uses three courts.

Chris responded it depends on the league and how many participants; they would probably need 4, which would take 2 tennis courts. The leagues may not happen right away.

Bob Wright made a motion to fund up to \$1000 to mark one tennis court for pickleball. Steve McGurren seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Council Liaison Cain asked if there is a fee for using the courts.

Chris responded no, but if one wants to reserve a court for a certain time there currently is and there will be a reservation fee. It would be a similar to shelter reservations.

Brian added that we're not providing nets.

Council Liaison Rasmussen commented wonderful suggestion Chris, this will provide basic information for ideas looking ahead to additional planning of Ironwoods Park.

Chair Ward-Reimer stated nice to provide programs for older generation. She asked if there was any more discussion.

Matt inquired about doing all 3 courts if hiring a contractor will be pursued.

Chris replied there are 6 courts. The contractor that has been used in the past is very reasonable. She wants to make sure the need continues. If it is decided later we always have another court we can convert.

Matt commented he didn't realize there were 6 courts.

Motion to spend up to \$1,000 to mark one tennis court for two pickle ball courts was approved unanimously.

B. Foundation Fundraising (Dog Park, Inclusive Playground)

Chris reported very high attendance continues at the dog park. Has anyone received their 2016 Leawood Foundation Letter? Same initiatives looking for dog park money: still need some benches and a shelter. They will continue to fund raise for those and they are really close to having a significant donor for the dog park however; it doesn't need to be used for just the dog park. It could also be for the inclusive playground. Moving forward in the process of determining what the plaque looks like for agility course and other \$1000 plus donation plaques. The structure could be stone with a bronze plaque similar to other ones throughout the parks. The bronze are more expensive at first but durable, without the need for maintenance. The ADA sidewalks have been well received. Some issues with fountain foot pedals getting jammed with mud at the dog park. Excessive water around fountains will be diverted by putting rock around structure. Adding more concrete will just extended the water problem; the rock allows the ground to absorb it. Dogs love the water fountains, and rock area.

Amy inquired what happened at the agility course; she saw the signs about the course being for dogs only.

Brian responded after installation he noticed signs of some equipment being bent. Teeter-totter looked like humans sitting on the ends. Excessive weigh on hurdle pole; his crew was able to bend back and fix.

Chris added sometimes owners walk up onto some of the pieces and coax dogs with snacks to come up. These pieces are not designed for humans. Most dogs do not weight 100 pounds or more.

Brian added all the paths that have been installed for ADA are flat for easy access. Guard rails are being fabricated and will be installed in steeper areas by shelters A & B. Additional rails will also be installed outside of the exterior pool restrooms. Completion of adjustments of concrete and regrading by soccer field #1 resulted in handrails not being needed which saved money.

Chris commented an unintended benefit from ADA sidewalks providing a great way to take a different walk around the park, something we should promote more. This has also improved the safety of having a sidewalk without being in traffic to go to different areas.

C. Financial Reports: Dog Park, Community Gardens

Dog Park

Chris reported after meeting with Council all fees were approved as recommended. One of the things that Council Liaison Rasmussen wanted us to bring to Council was maintenance cost of the dog park from the initial year of operation.

- Mowing, seeding, fertilizer, mulch, tree inspection/work, turface, dog waste bags, water bill, wood replacement, equaled \$19,876 in operational costs.
- Additional amenities: sidewalk \$9,460; concrete & labor of installation of agility course \$4,1600; water fountains inside each were donated, but \$ 3,500 one-time cost incurred for putting in lines; sod \$6,445
- Together: Additional amenities & operational cost total \$44,000.
- Going forward will have a bigger water bill, with the addition of 2 fountains in September. Now have a starting point going forward.

Brian added that the majority of the sod expense was due to putting in the sidewalk and the grass getting torn up because of equipment. He didn't want to leave it as bare ground.

Chris added operational cost is little less than 10% of construction cost, not too bad. She asked if there were any additional questions.

Community Gardens

Chris reported Council Liaison Cain had asked for the cost of the 1st year to build, install and maintain the community garden.

Brian reported \$3,812 was the cost of materials and \$4,590 was labor to install and maintain the garden. The waterline was a one-time expense.

Chris commented this will be beneficial information when it moves from this location. November 30th is the deadline to clean out plots for winter. Dustin Branick is now overseeing the garden, and will work on information to send out to participants. They will have these assigned plots till November of 2016.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer asked the number of participants.

Chris responded 24 plots being used out of 32. Information will be coming out in the next program guide, plus word of mouth from other gardeners.

Brian added Town & Country donated the compost. Mulch was used to control grass and weeds in plots that weren't rented. The approximate cost of each was \$240 using wood that was mostly already on hand. He inquired if there were any more additional questions.

Council Liaison Cain responded that this project came out of nowhere, was not budgeted, and wanted to make sure we knew the cost of putting it into operation.

II. Council Liaisons Report

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported the Council had a work session concerning 2016 fees and he asked the Council to have a discussion of recovering operational costs associated with the dog park. He suggested a couple of ways to recover: first one was a card system, another a courtesy check in regards to Leawood's pet licenses. The City Council after a thorough discussion decided to treat those expenses similar to those of Christmas lighting or July 4. This policy is for certain events or programs that do not producing revenue producing. If we want to do something different, it will need to be for 2017.

Council Liaison Cain commented that there was a great article in the newspaper with serious shout-outs for the dog park. Several emails are going around and they were glad the decision was made not to charge for park.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added the issue is resolved and staff now knows where to put that money. Some of the Council Members were unaware of such heavy usage at the dog park. It was expected, but not to the extent it is occurring. The minutes that were approved tonight shows a piece of equipment used to track attendance was a loaner. He recalled the cost for such equipment was \$2,000.

Brian replied the cost was closer to \$2,600.

Council Liaison Rasmussen recommended that records be kept of dog park utilization. He would like the staff to consider purchasing that type of counter for the future. Council members were unaware 2,500 pet licenses were sold for the year, while 19,000 were counted using the park in a month. The numbers did not match. Having these statistics is important if Council wants to look at a later date.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

Brian reported on the ADA requirement project at City Park

- Lion's concession restrooms changed the way the door opened
- Unisex bathroom will be located on south side of pool building. Updating codes apply to renovation of building. Bathrooms only have a cold water supply. Regular codes require tempered water to be between 90-120 degrees, available for hand washing. Plumbing for the structure is located between two brick walls. Can't get to pipes without removing bricks. Will find a way to work this out.

Amy questioned if a different line was ran to hot water tank, wouldn't it take 10 minutes before the water was warm enough.

Brian replied that he was looking into an under the sink instant hot water tank. Surprised that they were not that expensive; still researching the longevity.

Council Liaison Cain questioned the ability to monitor temperature.

Brian responded that the temperature could be regulated.

Brian reported:

- A hard surface was added leading to Veteran's Memorial at Tomahawk Park.
- Brian and Dustin will present an informational meeting about Emerald Ash Borer next Wednesday at 6:30. It will take place at Ironwood's Lodge. Sharing of information and small group discussion on the city's proactive treatment will take place. Model for HOA to consider in their management efforts: networking of contractor names, reduction of treatment cost, perhaps treatment they can extend to residents. Question and answer session will follow the presentation.
- Trail Projects for next year include: Construction plans to create bridge to go over low water crossing area. Leaving Tomahawk Park going towards Roe, section of trail is getting really close to the creek. There is a high chance that it will start undermining the trail. Doing trail renovations seems like good idea to move path over and the same time. It looks like a good route might be along a former sewer line where there aren't a lot of large trees. Still have larger buffer between homes and park property.

Chris commented that this is similar to trail improvements done at North Lake. It is best to move the trail when renovations are being done. Ten to twenty years from now we will not need to worry about the creek.

Council Liaison Rasmussen questioned... when the trail was put in years ago he thought there was discussion of putting it as far south as possible. It was then determined there was an engineering problem with stabilizing the cliff face.

Brian responded he is familiar with what Council Liaison Rasmussen is referring to. That area is where the gabion walls were put in and the path was replaced with concrete several years ago. This realignment is further east from there.

Chris added that the gabion walls have held up really well in that area over the years of flooding.

Brian reported continued interest from schools about safe routes and working with Sustainability & Bike committee. Participation has really gone up for National Walk and Bike to School Days. Some schools like Corinth & Mission Trail are promoting riding or walking every Wednesday and not just twice a year. Brookwood and Mission Trail parent's requested that SAB, Public Works and Council Members come and observe kids leaving school. Brookwood's concerns seemed related to how well the crossing guard is doing. They also requested target enforcement from police to improve safety. Sidewalks were also discussed, but it was concluded that the city is not really able to install them up north due to lack of space. Over 200 students walk or bike at Brookwood; 300 at Corinth and Mission Trail. Nativity and St. Michaels also have participation.

Brian added the old bridle path hasn't had horses on it for a long time and we haven't done any maintenance to it in years. Two different people have asked if that area could be cleaned up and made into a hiking or mountain bike trail.

Amy & Chair Ward-Reimer added that there aren't horses using the trail anymore.

Council Liaison Cain added her dog loves the raccoon trail at Ironwoods, not sure of the cost, but would personally like to encourage this as a project. The City does not have many paths thru the woods. They are good for kids, dogs, and people.

Brian responded he will hike the path and check it out. Maybe this is something his staff can work on this winter. There is a waterway that goes through the area and they might need to build a culvert or wooden plank bridge over the spring by Hallbrook. The bridle path is opposite of the trail from College to 119th. A pedestrian bridge is already there that can also be used. The bridle path went under bridge, through the creek and ended where townhouses are on Roe.

April added that we might get some support from the Historical Commission if approached as it was the historic "Saddle and Sirloin Trail" and it is a big part of our history. They are without a project currently and maybe this is something they could get behind.

Council Liaison Cain asked to circle back to the Emerald Ash Borer. People in this area do not understand how bad it is going to get. She sent two articles to Chris and Brian. In Northern Chicago it has wiped out their city's ash trees. Every boulevard tree in her subdivision is 30 feet tall. None of us understand the devastation that is going to occur, just a matter of time. Isn't there a grant that can be applied for planting trees?

Brian answered the grant was for planting trees for storm water improvements and it is a minimal amount.

Council Liaison Cain added that she is not saying that the city needs to pay for treatment. There are communities that the city did help pay for the first two years. Treatment is working on trees, and cities needs to get behind in warding off this disease. It is compared to an ice storm devastation of several years ago. We are spending \$5 million on curbs; trees all over this city will be an eye sore more than a curb project. That is what is coming and we need to be more proactive. She loves the fact that we are having the meeting next week.

Chris recommended it would be a good idea for Brian to share visuals with the attendees that Council Liaison Cain sent.

Brian added if you were in Chicago all of your subdivision trees would be completely wiped out in five years.

Chris commented that a problem may be people are willing to treat trees year one, they forget 2nd or 3rd year, and you can't just treat once. People move and treatment may not be known or records are not kept.

Amy added she thought some companies were tagging trees.

Brian replied that Ryan Lawn and Tree and Arbor Masters keep records of how and when they are treated.

Chris commented that you can treat it yourself and tag it. Her concern going forward is will there be people that will wait to see if it happens, and it will be too late.

Brian stated individuals can buy chemicals and treat themselves but it may not be as effective as professionally done.

Steve added he has had Ryan do treatment for \$70, and it was not that expensive. Cost is determined by size.

Amy commented larger trees are considerably more expensive; 30 foot over \$200.

Steve added he was on City's website and someone has done a lot of work providing information.

Chris commented that Brian and Dustin had done an entire plan very early on.

Amy mentioned that Ryan's Tree Service doesn't guarantee their work.

Brian mentioned several factors to consider: health of tree determines how the chemical gets translocated and correct application. Ryan has done a lot of treatments in an around Leawood.

Council Liaison Cain questioned do we contract the treatment of our trees.

Brian replied no, they have been trained to treat trees in-house with trunk injections. Assessment is made if tree is healthy enough for treatment; other trees under distress are removed and not treated.

Council Liaison Cain inquired if you can plant a tree in the same area where one was removed. How close can you plant?

Brian replied city ordinance states the need to plant in same place. Simply bore out the stump and replant. The good news is it is not a soil borne problem; you can plant tree in same place.

Amy questioned is there a need to treat tree every 2 years forever.

Brian responded yes, triage label says it is every 2 years. New research and testing is showing treatment might be able to stretch out every 3 to 4 years. One in every four Leawood street tree is an Ash. When bugs come through the first time it is a population explosion. The population declines, food is gone, along with pressure to treat as often. It will probably never end.

Kim reported:

- Soccer season ended with a rainout
- Webtrac recreation software is completely new, very user friendly system
Updating front page now. The last update was 2004.
- Adding Mobile webtrac; now can register on line
Fits the size of phone screen
Staff begins 2016 training in the next few weeks
- Challenge Course has shut down for the season
Alpine inspection completed
Staff complimented on how well they applied Total Wood Preservative.

Council Liaison Cain questioned if ropes stay up even in winter, isn't it bad.

Kim responded they are made to stay up; life is 20 years on the ropes.

Chris commented any ropes attached to a person, moving up or down or left and right is inspected frequently.

Brian added that ropes are stored in climate controlled area.

Kim commented they have a 2 year life, inspected before, and after every climb. She also reported:

- Holiday Lighting is Monday at 6 pm in the courtyard. Forecast is for decent weather. St Michaels, Leawood Elementary, and the Leawood Singers will be performing.
- December 5th at Ironwoods
 - Breakfast with Santa
 - Nature Center Open House
 - Oxford School Holiday Traditions
- Holiday Camps in December
- Two new Facebook Pages have been added:
 - Cultural Arts
 - Public Works will have snow removal information & weather preparedness
- Marketing efforts continue. 435 Magazine is very receptive; Leawood Lifestyles Calendar is difficult to get approval.

Council Liaison Rasmussen stated that Leawood Lifestyles editorial had said some kind things about the dog park.

Amy stated that Lisa Harrison is the contact. The first week of the month calendar get the 6th or 7th. Would like a month in advance

Kim replied they have great website, but can't get them to approve any posting to their calendar.

April and reported:

- Historic Commission would like everyone to honor Veterans by turning on porch light tomorrow night
- School House has two more open weekends and will be open again in March
- Programming throughout the winter will be by appointment
- "Holiday Traditions on the Prairie"- Open house at Historical Oxford School on December 5th same day as Breakfast with Santa.
- *British Invasion* had great response and ended on Sunday
- 2016 Season will have 3 Big Shows:
 - *My Fair Lady* (spring)
 - *Once upon a Mattress* (summer)
 - *Sweeney Todd* (fall)
- Calls are out for directors now and we are taking applications
- Arti Gras Juried Art Show has received first submission today. Applications from artists are due are due December 11.

- Chamber of Commerce luncheon was today and she passed out preliminary calendar; dates not set in stone but a sneak peek. Three Dog Bakery responded to request for partnership.

April passed out the pamphlet on the Cultural Arts & Recreation Calendar 2016.

Steve thanked April for doing brochure.

Chris added she noticed people really seemed interested, and looking at calendar.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer & Steve asked if calendar could be emailed to them.

Council Liaisons Cain inquired if the board was aware of art work on cover of brochure was made from a recycled bridge from somewhere on the east coast.

B. 2015 Boards & Commissioners Banquet

Chris reported that 7 are going to Boards & Commissioners Banquet on Friday, November 20th.

- The Mayor asked her to represent Leawood at the Mayoral Summit on After School Alliance preliminary planning meeting. The mayoral summit focuses on after school programs involving cities across the state of Kansas and Missouri. This program includes any non-school time. Its goal is to create better learning opportunities. Missouri has a quarter of a million kids going home alone, and Kansas has 95,000. She is looking forward to serving on that committee.
- Getting ready to put out next program guide and is considering adding a director's column. She has never done this before but she feels it is important to bring awareness of all the improvements that the city has made such as the ADA, trail repairs and things coming up such as the inclusive playground or other information that residents need to know.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date- Tuesday, December 8

IV. Misc.

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Matt Block seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department