



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Maple Room – Leawood City Hall**

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair), Steve McGurran, Lorrie Hamilton, Doug Stevens, Amy Vlasic and Bob Wright.

Board Members absent: Matt Block

Council Liaisons present: Lou Rasmussen, Julie Cain

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

Karen Ward Reimer (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the November 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. 2016 Projects**

Chris reported on 2016 projects that will have an impact on the department. Two trail projects: a low water crossing, and another one at Tomahawk Park where it splits south on 123<sup>rd</sup> and then west all the way to Roe. The construction estimates are higher than expected. She needs to meet with Joe Johnson the Public Works Director to see if some of the cost for the south trail project could be considered a storm water project. Some money from the county might be available to pursue improvement to trail behind City Hall. We have closed the trail before the tunnel. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has now been funded again.

Steve asked what conditions existed in order to close the trail.

Chris responded the lights in the tunnel don't work; the other side by Sunrise Senior Living is somewhat a dead area. The water really builds up due to the lack of drainage, and the concrete tunnel has several cracks.

Chris reported the sprayground project at the aquatic center was moved to 2017. The amphitheater stage at Ironwoods Park needs to be replaced. The actual surface of the stage is failing; it is dangerous and very slick.

Steve inquired was there any type of warrantee. It is really new isn't it?

April responded it was built in-house in 2005 so there is no warrantee. It originally was going to be a temporary stage, only to be used three to five years.

Lorrie asked wasn't it made of manufactured decking materials.

Brian responded the weather impacts the surface. It shrinks and expands causing gaps between boards, leading to further deterioration. The same Geodeck material was used at an outdoor theater in Manhattan, Kansas. The support system on the sides and center is

cracking. Wings have been added, and a few long pieces show extensive wear and tear. It needs to be replaced.

April added skate boarders ride on it and their wheels have even went through the boards in some spots.

Chris commented that materials have improved in the last ten years. Scott Fanning is in charge of construction and is looking into materials that would be good for the replacement.

Chris reported Ironhorse's clubhouse expansion has received approval from the Planning Commission and Council.

Amy inquired about the time frame for the expansion.

Chris responded that it is on target. A meeting is planned soon with the architect, and both structural, and mechanical engineers. We will need a contract with them as it will be beneficial in planning and answering questions during the bidding process, and throughout construction. Originally the expansion was set for mid-October, but it will be moved up a couple of weeks if not a month. The permit to Wastewater for sanitary sewer expansion has been submitted. Some projects are still unfunded and others moved back. Money was available in 2015 for the park at Lee but this project will be put on hold and will likely go in following the new fire station #2.

Doug inquired about ADA accessibility project at City Park.

Chris responded that the majority of ADA projects are completed at the park. Even the golf course 18<sup>th</sup> hole is finally complete.

Amy inquired since mentioning the fire station, what about the community garden and the up keep of the area. A citizen had asked her why the neighbors weren't notified about the garden.

Council Liaison Cain responded there wasn't a structure or concrete built. The City is not required by any Leawood ordinance to send out notification to neighbors for a garden.

Amy asked if the garden will be continued this summer, and will it get bigger. Ellen Brown is concerned about not being notified before it was built and it is not well maintained. She said she had contacted the city and hadn't received a response.

Chris answered that she had not contacted her, but she will look into the matter.

Brian added the area will be improved once all plots are filled. One gardener has even planted rye to improve the quality of the soil. Some grass did grow up through the compost on the empty plots. Once all sections are rented many problems will be alleviated. Plus this past year was a rough year for gardening and they started late.

Chris added that she had turned the operation over to Dustin Branick. He has tweaked some of the policies, is taking pictures, and will let people know that they need to manage their space.

Chris reported that there was a project previously for the improvement of the middle lake of \$300,000 but Council Liaison Rasmussen had suggested we find out what is wrong

with it before going forward. In lieu of that, \$15,000 was budgeted for a study to determine why it will not maintain water levels.

Chair Ward Reimer commented Shelter A and B areas in City Park look really nice.

Brian added a few items are left to finish at the pool concessions. Handrails parts are being manufactured, but the majority of work is done.

Doug asked about the progress with the restrooms.

Brian responded that we are waiting on a light to come in. The spacing on the ladies side at Lions will be changing to meet ADA requirements. A partition will be added on the men's side.

Chris reported the area behind the Nature Center was originally planned to go with the repair of the road in 2016. A complete overlay of all the roads in Ironwoods was scheduled in 2017. It didn't make sense to spend money twice. This will now be slated for 2017. Another spot on the road is failing right before you get to the exit on to Mission Road. Will need to partner with Public Works and do this all at once. At Gezer Park the pond area will have its yearly cleaning.

Chair Ward Reimer inquired about the lights that were on at the tennis courts at City Park. The court was empty. Aren't those lights on a paid timer?

Chris commented they probably paid for an hour and just left after playing before the time ran out. Tennis players are dedicated; much like golfers if it's not too windy and cold they are out there using the facilities.

## **B. Villas of Ironwoods Trail Connection**

Chris reported that she needed to bring this up again. Mark Simpson is the one who has the Villas of Ironwoods development. He is advertising a trail connection to Ironwoods Park that has not been approved. She went out to revisit the area to see it from both sides.

Chris recalled that the committee is not excited about a trail connection coming out by the cabins, or the other option of going through the wooded area. One concern is to have a 10 foot trail, which means 30 to 40 feet must be cleared. This is the heart of a vegetative area in Ironwoods. Looking at the map of the park these trails would run parallel at the connection. The developer originally left a message for Brian stating that he would build some of the trail. The cost of that size trail would be between \$80,000 and \$90,000. Suggestions would be appreciated. Chris would like everyone to be able to enjoy the park, but we do not have money planned for this in the budget.

Brian added a prospective buyer had called him and wanted to know if a trail would be connecting the development to the park. He responded that nothing had been determined.

Steve asked what did the city initially tell Simpson before development was approved.

Chris answered that this development (the Villas of Ironwoods) are an Overland Park development and doesn't need to go through Leawood's process.

Council Liaison Cain added that she was told all of the upper lots closest to the park had been sold.

Chris commented that when she went to the site, all of the upper lots have “reserved” signs. The three models are under construction. One of them has a wrought iron gate that dead ends at the horse farm. Ideally it would be best to connect with a trail on the corner between the two developments. The problem is Mr. Simpson wants to come in on the northwest corner of his development. The other development wants to bring the trail in where the overhead line is located. This way he will not lose any lots. The detention pond is on the top and the retention pond is at the bottom.

Steve asked is this where he is promoting the trail to be located.

Brian added if the two communities would cooperate with each other and put in a path it would be the best option.

Chris stated that the challenge is they are not both city of Leawood developments. It would have been easier to work out if this were the case.

Amy questioned shouldn't the priority be with the Leawood development.

Lorrie inquired don't we have complete control of our property. They can do whatever they want on their property, but not ours.

Chris responded yes, she would like to work with them but another option needs to be proposed. Also, there is the matter of cost.

Lorrie stated that they can only do what the City agrees to do when it comes to the park. It is not realistic to clear out a section of tree line just for convenience.

Chris commented if he would have come to us before he platted the property we could have looked at alternatives that may have worked.

Brian suggested that one could take the sidewalk access to 151<sup>st</sup> street down to The Glyns and access the trail from that location. Another problem with the Villas trail is that it is six feet wide; our standards are ten feet wide. It is more like a sidewalk going into the park. The drainage swale that goes through there will require storm water attention. This is right through the heart of the timber area.

Lorrie added he is using the park as a marketing tool, saying that his development is connecting to Ironwoods Park's Trail System.

Steve questioned is it fair to say that he needs to come to us with a plan.

Chris added they would need to give him permission. This is why she is bringing it to the Park Board and confirming the stance on the following:

- Entry not by the cabins
- Not clearing wooded area
- Not paying for trail construction costs

*Consensus was made that staff and Park Board were on the same page with these three items.*

Council Liaison Rasmussen commented that he agreed with Chris. The budget is tight. The City should not pay for Simpson or any other developer for that matter and this is in Overland Park.

Chris stated that she wanted to be clear when she speaks to Mr. Simpson that a consensus has been made with staff and Park Board on these three items. Unless he can come up with a compromise that will work.

Lorrie added if you are living in a development next to the park you want to be able to have access. It is a marketing ploy.

Chris asked Brian if Mr. Simpson was going to fence his lots in the back area.

Brian responded yes, he was going to put in a fence.

Council Liaison Cain added she did speak to someone recently that had bought one of the back lots. These are beautiful high end villas going to finish between \$600,000 and \$700,000. Similar to Mission Reserve that is on the corner of 151<sup>st</sup> and Mission, the majority of owners will be retired. Personally she is not opposed to coming in by the cabins. She is sensitive to clear cutting trees. Why does the connection need to be as wide as the trail? Six feet verses ten feet? She does agree that the city should not pay for the trail. What is the precedent of feed in and connecting subdivisions? Who paid for them in the past? She does not want to clear cut longer or wider, but wants access to park in the most efficient way.

Brian responded one problem is physically bringing in equipment needed to build a trail. Other trees will need to be removed to bring in equipment. An additional problem is all of this movement causes root damage to the trees that are in the pathway. Not all damage is seen right away, over time that root damage will kill off trees in the area.

Chris replied that there was conversation before the trail was put in at Steeplechase. Some money for that trail was given to parks by the HOA.

Brian commented that the Steeplechase trail was a very short piece and ten feet wide. At Mission Farms (105<sup>th</sup> and Mission) they provided the connection, going under 435 and connecting over by the cell tower.

Lorrie asked even south of 435.

Brian answered yes.

Council Liaison Cain added that Park Place paid for the majority of the trail on 117<sup>th</sup>.

Chris added that Park Place also paid for the trail and bridge behind City Hall.

Council Liaison Cain commented that she has been approached by a Leabrooke resident who would like to approach the city if there was ever a road put in. They would want to talk to the city as it is now just a big mud pit. One more connecting partnership may be requested for Ironwoods. We need to get precedents established.

Chris commented when our projects are done. We need to go back to Ironwoods and revise the master plan, and take a trail out to Kenneth.

Council Liaison Cain commented that requiring a gate at the Villas project is a good idea. Only those that live in that subdivision have the code. It will not be public access and should eliminate the concern for having an opening by the cabins.

Brian stated that he told the developer it was preferred to have the trail alignment along his property line. Simpson wasn't too open to the idea; he doesn't want the trail to go through his lots.

Chris added she remember the first meeting with Mr. Simpson at which time he was going to pay for the connection. The second meeting he was going to pay for half and last time they met he wasn't going to pay for any of it. If he proposes a solution that meets the majority of our criteria, we would be open to working with him.

Amy inquired how many feet. 75 ?

Brian replied 75 yards.

Council Liaison Cain added that is what is happening at Leabrooke. The road ends but someone at Leabrooke is mowing so it will not be so nasty to access the park without going several blocks to the park. She suggested to the person that approached her, to speak with their neighbors, developer, and then come as a group to the City.

Chris commented that she had made notes and now knows where to go from here.

### **C. Signage at Dog Park**

Chris reported that Alice Hawk , Chair of Leawood Foundation, confirmed that the park will receive a large donation from a trust the beginning of this year. Some of the money is planned for the dog park but the majority of the money will be used on the inclusive playground. Alice had asked to get a consensus from the board so that she can confirm with this donor and previous donors about the acknowledgement of their contributions. The Mayor was not in favor of the "presented by" signage under the Leawood arched sign.

*Chris passed around samples of ideas for bronze signage on a large upright stone.*

Chris continued she likes the way the bronze plaque cuts in and is mounted in the limestone.

Chair Ward Reimer inquired where the sign would be placed.

Chris replied great question; it could be inside the dog park, probably staying on the right side however; we do want to leave some of the area open to bring the trail down from College Boulevard eventually. People use that undeveloped trail all the time. Choosing the right side would avoid flooding areas. Looking at the dog park, everything on the left is susceptible to flooding and swifter moving water.

Chair Ward Reimer asked about the area right off the trail.

Chris replied that this might work and staff could put decorative rock around it.

Council Liaison Cain questioned if a minimum contribution was established for sign recognition.

Council Liaison Rasmussen added that the Mayor determined a minimum of \$1000 or more.

Steve asked will there be a problem with the people that donated the land. Should we recognize them?

Chris responded it was established at Gezer having many big donors. It was determined 51% of donation would be individually recognized.

Lorrie commented her preference would be one sign at agility course. She prefers less signage, leaving space for additional donors.

Chris prefers not to use a lot of signage, overdone, or too large.

Doug suggested something more tasteful at the agility course; the rock was a nice design.

Chris commented that something similar to what is done with our art pieces might work by the agility course.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked the committee to remember he was offered more money to put in a championship course.

Steve added making it one sign as visible as possible, without putting it in a place with a floodplain issue, would be preferred.

Bob added many times donation plaques have levels and here, the goal is to minimize signage. One shared sign to distinguish, allowing for future donations seems smart.

Chris commented she has direction to take back to Alice.

## **II. Council Liaison Report**

Council Liaison Cain reported:

- Art piece for the Justice Center has now been chosen. The Arts Council and the Art in Public Places Initiates Committee worked very hard and long on the decision. The piece reflects a change of direction that the committee originally had thought. The structure is seventy-five feet in actual width, and goes back to the ancient Egyptians. It was thought if a man was innocent the weight of his heart was compared to the weight of a feather. The feathery texture of chestnut leaves is a botanical symbol of justice. An upside down cone is the centerpiece of the scales. The piece is very linear as well as a symbolic learning tool.

Chris reported that they are still working on a temporary art piece by City Hall. She had reached out to the Nelson recently. They responded that they are very slow in making decisions but asked that we not give up hope.

## **III. New Business**

### **A. 2016 Goals**

Chris reported that she always asks staff to come up with goals, and not just projects to work on each year. It can be organization efficiency, finances, working on accreditation, and additional things going on. We always continue to look at programs to insure that a niche is being filled. If it is a duplication, or deteriorating maybe it is time to partner with someone instead of standing alone. She would like to take the opportunity to ask board if there are any areas that are coming up on the horizon. She plans on bringing back to the board any unfunded projects to see if they want to reprioritize from two years ago.

Brian reported:

- A goal of his was to improve awareness of Emerald Ash Borer in the City

- Explore having bike race or open street bike ride referred to as a Cyclovia.

In regards to the Bicycle Friendly Community Award:

- Received honorable mention. Strongest point was law enforcement.
- Need to get “way finding signage” to improve our score.
- Engineering components- lacking of bike lanes.
- Education efforts - need to have one or two classes. In the past they were not well attended, perhaps target a specific group such as senior and drivers for motor vehicle awareness

Brian stated that the City should be a model as a bike friendly business; chamber support is also a way of improving. We have a large number of recreational riders, but we are lacking commuters that ride for transportation.

Feedback from cycle shops, as well as interviewing the local community, is another aspect of the process. Didn't receive any negative feedback from those interviewed.

- Box Day Cyclo-cross Bike event the day after Christmas was well received. The race participants liked the course but the wastewater expansion at City Park will eliminate the cycling course.
- Buying a salt spreader to help improve snow removal on trails especially the shaded areas to help with de-icing.

Chris asked Brian to share how Parks help with the snow removal, and how they work with Public Works. What are the priorities on getting the city back running during snow events?

Brian responded four inches or greater of snow, all park maintenance workers become A and B shift street snow plowers. When the streets are completed the Public Work employees help parks clear the public sidewalks of City Hall, Library, and public safety areas. Less than four inches of snow; four park employees are loaned out to public works. Supervisors and park maintenance staff help clear the parking lots.

Chris commented that trails are not their first priority. They must make sure police and fire can get around and public buildings are accessible.

Lorrie added that cleaning the trail is great, but once the snow starts melting, it turns in a sheet of ice. Thawing during the day and then refreezes overnight. It then becomes a no win situation.

Brian responded that the salt spreader will improve this.

Chris reported that she wants to make sure that the City has master plans for the trails. Trails can be an expensive amenity, especially when near creeks. This will include everything that we have to improve or add to the current trail system, when it was completed and an estimate of what needs to be done in the next ten to 15 years.

Chair Ward Reimer questioned if this was the master plan or study that was done a couple of years ago with a consulting firm. At that time there was a list of priorities for the parks. Is this the list Chris is talking about revisiting?

Chris responded that she could bring that information to the next meeting and can compare where we are now but this is a different plan that can be done in-house. Her department works through expenditures as a team. Prioritizing within our departments and then with

the city as a whole. The alcohol tax is a big benefit. It's coming in more than projected. Many programs and improvements are funded out of this tax.

Steve asked if new members can get a copy of the master plan before the next meeting. It is a great idea to look at the master plan, 2016 projects what is unfunded the priority list, line it all up and compare.

Chris stated that it goes by year, out to 2021. It is reviewed annually and things can and sometimes do change.

Chair Ward Reimer commented it also shows what has been accomplished.

Chris added it is also important for the staff to let the citizens know where their tax dollars are going.

She continued to report that wastewater is having a public work session on February 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2018 project at that will affect City Park. The meeting will be in the Oak Room at 5:30. A reminder we do not own about the soccer fields on the west side. Originally they were thinking about putting underground tanks under those fields but this has changed. Richard, Joe, and Chris have met with Johnson County Wastewater a couple of times. She inquired of Council Liaison Rasmussen if wastewater was doubling.

Council Liaison Rasmussen responded that capacity is doubling in size. They do not want to ship to Missouri.

## **B. Staff Reports**

Kim reported:

- Busy hiring seasonal employees for summer positions
- Submitting information for Summer Program Guide next week
- Camp dates are set
- 2017 budget is being reviewed and completed by staff
- Daddy Daughter Date Night will be at the Lodge on January 30<sup>th</sup>
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> is deadline for spring soccer registration
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration planning is well underway. Flashback will be the band performing again this year.
- Jacinta has started contacting food trucks for August 27<sup>th</sup> Food Truck Festival, and is currently looking for two bands for the event.
- 690 followers on the Park's Facebook page
- Twitter has 151 followers

Chris commented having a number of followers on Facebook, and Twitter is beneficial in communication. We are trying to close the dog park only for severe flooding. Frequent users of the dog park know to go to these sites to find out whether or not the dog park is open. Plus, our rainout line, and website provide four different resources for information.

Brian reported:

- Twenty years in a row have been involved with Tree City USA; recently he has turned in the next application.
- Third year for receiving growth award
- Emerald Ash Borer informational meeting is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Oak Room, at City Hall. Providing a different location to encourage more people to get involved

We are trying to send out information to Homes Associations that were not represented at the first meeting. Changed the day of the week as well as location.

Following the first workshop we started a task force about Emerald Ash Borer. The second meeting will be at the end of January.

We are developing a tree questionnaire to send out to all Leawood Home Associations. This information will also help us with Tree City USA application. Some questions include:

- Inventory of trees, number and types
- How much is spent on tree work
- Disease Treatment
- Plan planting, pruning and removal
- Is there a certain company or companies they use
- Budget to tree work

This will add more money into our community Tree USA application. This data will be beneficial. To qualify to even apply to Tree USA you need to have two dollars per capita, with just the city's information we have eight dollars per capita. HOA's tree information will be beneficial in the application.

Council Liaison Cain inquired if Brian would be open to adding members to the tree group. Constant Care Lawn and Tree Service had approached her and would be interested in the task force.

Brian stated that they are welcome to join. An HOA management representative has attended task force meetings. He continued to report:

- He also is trying to do a better job at conserving water. The total water bill for 2015 was over \$60,000. He will focus this year looking into different ways to conserve water.
- Working with Leawood Police Department to have a benefit bike race. The funds raised would help some of our officers to be able to participate in the "Ride for the Fallen." The city sends two officers, but there are more that would like to participate. The event idea is to have a Circuit bike race, two mile length lap, maybe on Tomahawk Creek Parkway. It would be broken down into age groups, number of laps and a certain amount of time. After the race families could enjoy riding together on Parkway while it is closed. The ideal time would be the day before the Labor Day Run as barriers would already be out.

April reported:

- Fifth season for Arti Gras Juried Art Show is the last weekend of February. Opening night reception is Friday, February 26 in the Oak Room from 6 to 9. Viewing of the finalists is available on the Leawood Cultural Arts Page of our Website. Click on Arti Gras logo then scroll to gallery to see finalist. Eighty two artist participant this year. The exhibit is up all weekend.
- Auditions for all three Leawood Stage Company shows will be March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 Seasons block busters
  - *My Fair Lady* in conjunction with the Church of the Resurrection, performance will be May 5-7 at the church
  - *Once Upon A Mattress* (summer)
  - *Sweeney Todd* (fall)

Lorrie commented that "British Invasion" production was awesome. Everyone enjoyed singing along.

April reported two new events.

- Plein Air
  - Painting throughout park system June 12th and 13th
  - It will include water color, oil, acrylics and pastels
  - Children's Category
  - Photography category
  - Pooch Painting- This art work can be taken home; a paw cleaning station will even be available.
  
- New Family Event this fall at Ironwoods
  - It will include all areas at the park
  - Pumpkin carving, hayrides
  - Nature Center, Cabins, School
  - Activities inside the Lodge

Chris added it is good to change things up. Put some programs and events on the shelf. April went several places to get ideas for a Harvest Fall Festival and has come up with some great ones.

### **C. Next Scheduled Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at 5:30pm in the Maple Room of the Community Center.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton  
Parks and Recreation Director