



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.
Maple Room – Leawood City Hall

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

Board Members absent: Amy Vlastic

Council Liaisons absent: Julie Cain, Lou Rasmussen.

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.

Steve McGurren made a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 meeting minutes. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. CIP Revisions

Chris reported that she attended the Capital Improvement work session last night with the Governing Body. The Topeka State Legislation has proposed imposing a lid on property tax. This is a cause for concern and therefore some projects, scheduled over the next two years, have been moved back. Today Chris went through CIP with the budget manager making adjustments. It will be July before its known what the impact really will be. The CIP projects 10 years out however; it is reviewed annually.

Matt inquired what the overall impact will be to the city.

Chris replied that it could be anywhere from \$2,000,000 to \$6,000,000. Parks moved back \$500,000 for both this year and 2017. Two trail projects were originally planned for this year and we plan to do only one; the low water crossing project was already bid out and had come in under bid. Renovation of an older section of trail at Tomahawk Park from the split at 123rd going west to Roe will not occur this year. The Ironhorse Clubhouse expansion will start in September.

Bob asked what is meant by the tax lid.

Chris explained the proposal of the bill currently being considered.

Steve questioned why the state would do this; meaning the piece that would allow for the monies outside the tax lid needing to go to the voters without telling them what the money would be used for.

Chair Ward-Reimer commented in years past a tax increase to finish City Park was placed on the ballot. Many citizens were opposed to the initial request. It took a conscientious effort to educate voters on the need and reason for the completion of park. It then passed overwhelming.

Steve asked is the limit based on dollar or percent.

Chris commented it is not known how much the limit is going to be or its base until July or later.

The clubhouse, low water bridge, and bunker repairs at the golf course will begin in 2016. The drainage, retaining wall, previous discussed trail, and garden repairs at Ironwoods will then move to 2017.

The Amphitheater stage will also go to 2017.

The City has committed \$50,000 to the Inclusive Playground; this is in addition to the funds raised by Leawood Foundation. Some projects in 2017 were moved to 2018, including the irrigation improvements at Ironhorse, Roe tunnel improvements and resurfacing of the tennis courts.

The bathhouse renovation was increased to \$1million. The City of Fairway recently spent \$1.2 million on their new structure. Our project should be less as we do not plan to do party rooms and nothing is being done to the pool. She will visit with board after finding out in July about rethinking projects for 2019, and 2020.

The restrooms for the North Lake, field 21 and Tomahawk Park are still in the CIP although it has been determined that they cannot be hooked up to sanitary. There are also restrooms still being shown on fields 11 and 12 in City Park but this is land owned by Johnson County Wastewater. Unfunded Projects include the future park at 96th and Lee.

The property marked for the Activity Center is the corner across the street from the library and as per the City Administrator will be primarily for senior adults.

Matt commented he thought it was to be a Community Center.

Chris responded that the staff is very interested in including seniors but not having rooms just for seniors. Staff would prefer one building that all age groups could use. This reduces the need for additional staff. Many Council members do not support a true Community Center that may include a walking track, fitness room, and class rooms at this time.

The report on the changes in the CIP is more of a point of information so board members will know what has changed since the last time the CIP was discussed with them. When more information is available, Chris will let the board know.

Steve asked who does approval of any changes as times goes on.

Chris said that the Governing Body has the ultimate review and the current document states "approval by the Governing Body". She said she believes the park board will have input but does not know at what point.

Chair Ward-Reimer suggested that it might have meant governing body with recommendations of Park Board.

Matt asked if the clubhouse renovation is set for starting in the fall of 2016.

Chris responded yes, the ability to move up the starting date from mid-October to September 1 will be helpful. Getting it closed in before weather restraints set-in is critical. Approval of an agreement with the architect & the engineers is on the agenda for the next Council Meeting. Originally it was a design/build but now it will be a construction agreement, which we hope the bids will come in for under \$1,800,000. We have already encumbered \$90,000 to the engineers and \$50,000 to the architect/structural and mechanical engineers.

Steve questioned the date on CIP.

Chris answered this is from last night's meeting with the Governing Body

Steve asked is this different from what was sent.

Chris commented it is different from what you saw the last time you received it.

II. Council Liaison Report

A. 2016 Council Goals

Chris commented since the council liaisons are absent, and the Parks Department was mentioned in the Council's 2016 goal setting meeting she wanted to let Board know that the following two items were made part of the goals:

1. Policy for naming rights and sponsorships

Staff will begin researching other agencies for information on #1. We will start with a skeleton draft and work from there. Recall that we discussed at a previous board meeting that trees and bench donations with plaques are not our responsibility to replace in perpetuity. If a donor buys a bench for \$2,000, the lifetime is 5 to 10 years the city should not be expected to replace that donation.

Matt asked will staff come up with that structure.

Chris replied that they will come up with a draft.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked if Chris would go over with new board members the policy of naming things after people or what has been done in past. How it was established.

Chris commented we don't have any policies set in place. One must consider different areas and scenarios when defining policies. Perpetuity of benches hasn't been established. Some donors or foundations do not want recognition while others do. Going forward she now has a starting point to build on with discussion and with the Board's input. Chris asked for emails with any suggestions the board may have.

2. Trail Connection – City Hall to the Greenway

Council Liaison Rasmussen wants to finish the trail connection project and plans to take a position on that at Special Business Item on the agenda.

Chris asked the board to recall when the commercial development went in to the east, the developer was going to put in a bridge for \$25,000. Normally the cost of a bridge is about \$1000 a foot, and this was underestimated. The Council has agreed as a part of goals, for us to look into cost. Brian has made a first blush estimate (very rough) with an engineer. He has also contacted the County to see if they might consider participation financially.

Brian reported the most expensive route would be a traffic signal at Tomahawk Creek Parkway. Public works would prefer a pedestrian crossing in the middle of the block. He has worked with Continental and it is similar to the one we are going to install. The installation would be closer to \$80,000 in that location (just west of the condo pond). The total project rough estimate would exceed \$600,000. Another project mentioned earlier that was unfunded was the low water Roe tunnel improvement. This is not included in the Tomahawk Creek Parkway Project. It really is just a culvert; big enough to use for a pedestrian crossing. Adjustments also need to be made to the lights, the consideration of head clearance, and correcting issues with puddling of water at the east entrance. Public works proposed taking out the concrete and redoing it to improve area.

Brian continued that Council Liaisons Rasmussen had asked the County Commissioner about joint tax money that could be used to share in the cost of connecting trails from

Leawood, Sprint campus, and Jewish Community Center. Brian sent this preliminary proposal to Johnson County.

Chris added Outdoor Land and Water Federal Grant just got reinstated this past fall. Brian needs to contact Linda Lanterman Kansas State Parks Director about any potential grants. Please note that this is exploratory only at this point and staff has not been directed to make this a project.

Lorrie commented it seems ridiculous to tear out a sidewalk along the northern portion of Town Center Drive and turn it into a trail. The trail can be accessed via the parking lot with less improvement costs.

Brian added walking into the street is the worst case design scenario.

Chris commented the north sides of the parking lot plans are to lay the trail back a bit and it will open up drainage where silting has occurred over the years.

Brian commented that crossing the intersection at 5:00 would be very difficult.

Chris commented that the five-foot sidewalk taken by people from here trying to cross Roe and down to the greenway is not wide enough for passing with bikes or strollers. Traffic on this sidewalk will increase as more units are constructed in Park Place.

Matt asked why not widen the sidewalk to 10 feet, and skip the bridge.

Doug commented you need to cross somewhere.

Lorrie added the east side of the Roe tunnel opens up onto Sunrise Senior Living property. Since we do not own the property there is a need for rerouting the trail.

Brian reported Public Works may prefer not to put in a traffic light. The best and safest scenario would be to cross in the middle of the block.

Lorrie suggested it be away from the intersection. The median over by the piece of art is the best place to cross for a pedestrian. The problem is traffic is not slowing down. The next intersection is a safer crossing, the least destructive, most economical choice.

III. New Business

A. 2017 Budget

Chris reported that staff didn't have a lot of options with an allowance of 1.5% increase to operating funds, no decision packages and no new employees. Staff continues to look at programs to insure that a niche is being filled and that we are considering duplication of services where applicable. An example would be the daddy daughter dance. Everyone is doing it, churches, girl scouts, etc. We are asking ourselves if we should continue this event. Maybe replace it or shelve it for now. We did some modifications to the Freaky Fall Fest replacing it last year with the Food Truck Festival.

Steve asked if these budget constraints are being driven by the state or is that recessionary impact, or property tax.

Chris reported it has been proposed by the city administrator as a concern for actions that may be taken in Topeka.

Chair Ward-Reimer added that she believed the property tax went up 12%.

April stated than in regards to her cultural art budget; it does not increase until population changes.

Chris added the state has threatened to take liquor by the drink funding in the past. The City receives 10 cents from city sales and the county. In the past this money has been used for big projects or capital equipment. It is divided equally with the Dare Program, Parks, and the General Fund.

B. Park Impact Fee

Chris reported she will be short with this, and will send out something next week if necessary. Every year Planning does an Impact Fee Report for Parks and Recreation. It is a summary of accounts of projects and what has been collected. If anything changes within the year, we need to prepare a short statement of the events including acquisition of land or construction of facilities.

C. Work Session with Council on Inclusive Playground

Chris reported the kickoff event for Inclusive at AMC was a good event but currently there is no strategic plan for moving forward with the project.

The Foundation does an excellent job working to make our projects come to life but often appeals for donations are being made to the same people.

Chris explained the following background for the newer members of the board:

In 2000-2001 the City Park playground had pieces that were failing. We salvaged some of the old pieces by repainting and adding new pieces to the remaining structure; that was 16 years ago.

We knew that playground would need to be replaced at some point in the future so when the Foundation asked about future projects this seemed like a good choice, especially considering their success in raising funds for Gezer's playground.

Kim and Alice worked hard on an application to AMC's Foundation and we received a \$10,000 grant. We have been discussing some options with Cunningham Recreation about the project. They will be making a presentation about fundraising for and building an inclusive playground at a work session on April 11.

The Foundation, Park Board and the Council will meet jointly to hear the information. Everyone will see the same presentation. The presentation will take place at 6:00 pm in the Oak Room. Chris will prepare a memo for the Governing Body's packet; the board will receive the same information.

Bob asked what was the cost differential for this kind of playground compared to a non-inclusive.

Brian commented a regular playground can be themed just like this one. The features might have sound or musical design that can be used to stimulation certain kids. Some kids need less stimulation and having a different area to include them.

Chris reported that all playgrounds are expensive. This one will require ramps and other pieces that make the playground useful for all children.

The subsurface is the same no matter whether inclusive, ADA, or regular. The cost difference can be \$200,000 plus, but it can also be scaled back depending on fundraising efforts. That is why working together with a design team makes sense. We need to decide what is really needed. It is also difficult to bid out and hard to work with just one manufacturer. Cunningham has picked Kansas for healthy play initiative. One grant is for a 5,000 < and one is for 5,000>. There will be six grants to apply for across the state; two in each region. The grant will be for a match in equipment not cash.

Steve asked is there some kind of study or survey that the community needs or wants this type of park.

Chris answered that no survey has been done however; if you are going to replace or build a new playground at this busy park why not make it for everyone.

Bob added it is not tax payers we are talking about. We can swing for the fences, welcoming people from the outside community.

Lorrie added it then becomes a destination playground.

Steve questioned why the city would limit their amount the amount. Is there a concern about being accountable for the funds.

April added the Foundation did do the entire fundraising for Gezer and they were successful.

Matt asked is this the only company doing this. Is the money matched with their equipment? Plus they lend you a person to do the fundraising.

Chris stated they are trying to position themselves in the parks and recreation community. There are certainly other companies who can do this. Cunningham has done playgrounds at Lake St Louis and one in St Joseph. The Mayor has also spoken to someone with Royal's Charities and they are interested in hearing more about our project.

Alice Hawk (Foundation Chair) spoke with former park board member Rod Crawford at Arti Gras who has a child with downs syndrome who would like to help us with the project.

April added sometime donors want to do a particular area; i.e. the garden club might want something relative to gardening/landscaping.

Matt added he is sold on this project.

D. Staff Reports

Brian reported that his crew is working at Gezer Park this winter getting rid of the gravel and smaller stones around the sculpture pond. They will be cleaning the pond starting on March 17.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked how often this is done.

Brian commented that it is cleaned every year.

Brian went on to report that the eastern half of the fence row (north side of park) has been leaning for a long time. Contractors don't want to fix this because of needing to get into people's backyard to excavate and reset the fence. It could be long project. The City required Wilshire and Waterford Market Square to put in the fence.

Matt questioned if we are setting a precedent.

Chris added that whoever puts in the fence owns the fence. If the developer put it in it is the responsibility of the homeowner. If the City installs it, it is the City's responsibility to maintain it.

Brian every house bought the "extra" land is where it is leaning.

Brian also reported the following:

- Painting the Restroom floors at the pool
- Building shelves at Lions concessions

Kim reported:

- 2017 budget is due on Friday
- Spring/Summer Program guide is out
- Enrollment for Tee-ball/Coach Pitch is coming up
- Spring break camp 1(Lego) was last week Lego
- Eggstravaganza on March 20th. Madison Dental will be the sponsor this year. Boy Scout Troop will be selling hot dogs and chips
- Spring soccer has 1540 kids participating
- Fall challenger sports premier partnership is moving forward.
- Season hiring is underway for the pool

April reported:

- Arti Gras was bigger than ever, more artists and more attendance.
- Leawood Stage Company has three productions this year
- First Sunday in April the Kansas City Ballet Company II will be performing at the Lodge. It will be an educational presentation.
- Tea with Shakespeare is taking reservations.
- Hosting a senior actor's short play by a local Playwright.
- Passed out calendar for the arts
- Paul Lair professor will be at the school house on "How My Fair Lady" came about.

Chris added:

- The Food Truck Festival is scheduled for August 27th and we are expecting another big crowd.

IV. Misc.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked what was happening with Pickle ball.

Chris reported that she has spoken with the County and confirmed that they are planning to install courts at the new Meadowbrook property.

Matt asked aren't ours striped.

Chris added we agreed to do one court and if they wanted to get portable nets we would store the nets for them but the group who contacted us was not amenable to this.

Chris commented the dog park is always busy. All of the 57 parking spaces were full the other day.

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12th at 5:30pm in the Maple Room of the Community Center.

Matt Block made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Doug Stevens seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Chris Claxton, Director of Parks & Recreation