



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

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair), Lorrie Hamilton, Steve McGurren, and Amy Vlastic

Board Members absent: Matt Block, Doug Stevens, and Bob Wright

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and Lou Rasmussen.

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

Karen Ward Reimer (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to approve the March 8, 2016 meeting minutes. Steve McGurren seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business
(None)

II. Council Liaison Report
A. 2016 Council Goals

Chris asked the Council Liaisons to elaborate on the Council's 2016 goal setting meeting, since they were unable to attend the last Park Board meeting.

Council Liaison Rasmussen reported discussions had been made, but with no conclusion, regarding naming rights and advertising policy in Leawood. The Council did name this as one of their goals for this year to have procedures and policies in place. They did ask the park staff to go forward with this. Another goal is to obtain an initial estimate for the trail connection under Roe and give that information to the County for discussion of a possible partnership.

Brian reported he and Brett Haugland of Continental Engineers had walked the trail, looking at different options. There are a couple of options once you reach Tomahawk Creek Parkway. The preliminary project estimate is \$627,000 and included:

- Pedestrian crossing signal at Tomahawk Creek Parkway
- Fixing the tunnel under Roe (drainage and lighting)
- Trail widening for bikes/pedestrians passing
- Connecting the trail possibly at the South Lake with an addition or going through parking lot.

The County's mill levy is being divided. Half is going to the Johnson County Park's deferred maintenance projects. The other half will be split between development of existing park land and trail expansion. Several years ago the County bought undeveloped land. The County Commissioners are under increased pressure from their Board to open additional parks and to do something with the land. Money is available for trail projects. The Commissioners do know about possible projects in Olathe, Shawnee, and Leawood. The City of Mission was going to do a trail project on the Turkey Creek Trail but the project has been dropped. There was \$230,000 in the County's 2020 Capital

Improvement Plan set aside for supporting that project. It is important to get on their list for potential funding.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked what does The Council need to do. They have voted unanimously to go forward, and our Commissioner is on board.

Brian replied writing a letter to the County's Park Board, giving them a detailed estimate and project cost would be the next step. Their CIP starts in September and will be completed by December. He suggested that Chris talk to the County's Park Director to discuss the importance of this connection to the County. The Tomahawk Creek Parkway Trail would connect Sprint, the Jewish Community Center, Olathe, and all the way to Stateline into Kansas City, Missouri.

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked why this is the first time he is hearing about a crosswalk.

Brian responded there isn't a sidewalk or pedestrian crossing going across Tomahawk Parkway

Lorrie added the project will joins a gap that needs to be connected. A crossing is needed. It's a safety issue.

Steve asked if a striped crosswalk could be put in and be sufficient.

Chris commented that perhaps a flashing light would work well.

Brian added could do something that you push a button and activate the sign.

Amy suggested it could be similar a school zone.

B. Naming Rights and Sponsorships

Chris commented she plans to reach out to other agency director's groups in the Metro area for input. She does question if it is to separate things? Or are naming rights separate from sponsorship or are they all together? Does the donor need to know what they are getting for their money?

Council Liaison Rasmussen stated it has never been put in writing. Historically the Mayor has made determinations depending on an "x" amount of money given.

Chris commented it seems like it has been done project by project:

- "The Lesson" art piece
- Three people gave to fire pit (a single plaque was placed there).
- Havdalah Garden (a single plaque was placed there)

Chris stated that she plans to start by creating a skeleton outline and then see how to structure. It will not be a blanket for everything. Do we want to include simple things like benches?

Steve suggested giving 10 examples of types and dollar amounts.

Amy added Deanne Rose has a policy in place. They mail to you the policy stating after 5 years if you would like to replace your item, you are given the opportunity.

Brian stated in the past our benches were refurbished when they need it, some are from 15 years ago.

Chris reported going forward staff has considered replacing the benches with a powder coated style, requiring less maintenance. They will last better over time and respond to elements better.

Council Liaison Rasmussen commented it is a judgement call what was discussed that night. The policy can be different depending how much money or what is being donated. If someone wants to donate 100% of the cost the City needs to have something in place for the naming rights.

Steve asked Chris if her suggestion is to check with different groups and then meet with her staff to draft a document. Would the Park Board then look at it and send it to Council for approval.

Chris replied yes, Council will accept or approve. Most donations will go through The Leawood Foundation. They will be getting their 501C (3) soon. Some do not want a tax credit. They do not mind making check to The Foundation.

Council Liaison Cain added our signage appears conservative and very tasteful; the materials used are of the highest quality, and it is best to stay that way.

April stated she would like The Foundation to create a checklist or menu of donations. Many people are driven by specific items.

Amy suggested contacting The Farmstead for direction. They have a very detailed list. An example is a tree; pick a type of tree and they tell you where they are going to plan it. If it dies you have opportunity to repurchase one.

Lorrie added there isn't any need to reinvent the wheel.

Chris stated they now have signs on girls' softball fences in Lee Summit. She noticed the signage; it really diminishes the appearance. The challenge will be, is it easier to deal with few than a large group. People normally don't mind being on the same sign with others. We need to keep signage to a minimum.

Council Liaison Cain commented that the Gezer rock sign looks nice and having nice plaque on the back would work well.

Chris stated that someone had suggested to her to put a similar rock at the Dog Park next to the entrance sidewalk. It will be placed at the corner and will also help detour those who are cutting across the grass. The stone is very natural, tasteful and will last. It will not be affected by flooding.

Brian added that the City of Topeka had an issue with a controversial organization that wanted to donate a bench. The group wanted to put more than their name on it.

Steve added a further need to consider a disclaimer stating the city has complete control over what is accepted or not.

Chris thanked everyone for their input she has made notes and now has direction. She is curious if Overland Park's policy is just for Deanna Rose, or broader.

III. New Business

A. Update on Pool Repairs

Brian reported the information about the pool waterline breaking. The water pressure built up causing a lot of damage. There are three points where connections and turns need to be made to the new waterline. A boring machine will be brought in tomorrow boring through

the ground in the front on the east side. It will bring the water supply into the basement pump room up and across the ceiling. The water will be dispersed through the plumbing out to all of the fixtures. Due to the fact the 4 inch pipe burst under the pool, there is a void where the soil was displaced. A mud jacking company is coming on Saturday to seal it off. Cracks are in the vertical walls between the men's and women's shower rooms. The City's building structural engineer is looking to see how much needs to be rebuilt or taken down. The goal is to fill the pool the first week in May.

Chris added restrooms need to be open to be able to operate. Council will see affirmations on the 18th of April for emergency repairs contracts.

Brian stated the old water line was a ductile iron line; now it will be replaced with a flexible material.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported damage to city property along the trail area by Tomahawk Trail at Roe going towards I-Lan Park by the gabion wall. A property owner hired a contractor to clear-cut trees and vegetation from their fence onto City property down to the bridge and on the other side.

Chris commented the need to be sure about the amount of trees destroyed. Potential charges will be based on value of tree size. Dustin has gone out and measured them.

Brian commented that the resident wanted to know if the City would pick up the debris cut and left behind by the contractor.

Council Liaison Rasmussen questioned will this be a courtesy notice, or trespassing citation.

Brian stated the trees taken down were hickory and oak. Contractors also put down grass seed in newly cleared areas.

Lorrie asked if the homeowner planned to mow the area.

Chris stated that the location is before you get to the bridge, on the left side, right above the gabions. There is always concern when this happens, not only due to the actual act but the effect on the neighbors who may want to do the same behind their property.

Council Liaison Cain inquired about what a trespassing fine actually means.

Chris commented that if it is over a certain amount of damage it can be sent out to the county.

Amy asked if the staff plans to replant the area or will we hire someone to do it.

Steve asked if the fine might be used towards restitution.

Brian said the resident said she had called the city 7 times. None of us have received a phone call.

Brian commented the homeowner is a photographer and likes to take pictures of wild life.

Brian continued reporting

- The tunnel underneath Roe Street had curse words written on the wall, since it was on the Overland Park side we notified them and they came out and painted over it.

- Did annual cleaning at Gezer pond; got rid of the smaller flagstones and built up the height of the creek body. The stone Wadi is really running fast after cleaning the pond.
- Crew worked on ½ of fence at Gezer as it had been leaning. Staff hand dug around all of the posts, placing come-alongs on the top and pouring concrete.

Amy asked if this was the Waterford Subdivision.

Steve stated the intersection at 151st street and Nall on the Leawood side needs some attention. It was his understanding that the agreement was with Overland Park that they maintain the intersections. What about the median? It is filled with weeds; he noticed all island had the same grass.

Brian commented that was an island that he didn't even know about originally. Overland Park had put down buffalo grass, and it died and is now full of weeds. It is under contract, and he will make sure that the contracted landscape company is aware of the problem.

Chris added that it reminded her of the median island to Park Place. This space is very unattractive as an entrance into Leawood from Nall.

Brian answered that Public Works was looking in to it some time ago, but ownership was never resolved.

Chris asked Brian to follow up with codes and get some resolution. She wonders if they have ever contacted them. Park Place has always been really good about taking care of their property, it in fact it is theirs.

Steve commented when you are driving down from Stateline on 151st or 143rd from Kenneth to Mission, he has noticed areas that need to be trimmed and maintained. A small portion on 143rd isn't horrible but it is getting there. He thought it might be the property owner.

Brian added it is depends on who owns the property. Sometimes it is a home's association common area.

Council Liaison Rasmussen questioned where 2016 Ironwood park slump in road project was in the que.

Chris answered it was a part of the \$500,000 moved to 2017

Council Liaison Rasmussen asked is City Park creek bank back on the list for \$300,000.

Chris answered it is on the list but doesn't have a date. This year's projects include:

- Trail/Bridge low water crossing
- Bunkers at Ironhorse
- Clubhouse Expansion

Brian added the bridge got a good fabrication date so they want to get done before the 4th of July. The goal is to get it done in a month.

Amy asked if this is the low water bridge.

Chris added it made sense to have Mega doing that detour connection up by the art piece to get it done. Lorrie had sent pictures of recent flooding.

Lorrie stated that the water was even higher the next day.

Chris reported that she would report for Recreation since Kim is out of town:

- Spring soccer started on the 26th. There are 1586 kids participating in soccer this spring compared to 1490 last fall.
- The First Tee golf spring session started yesterday at Ironhorse. Enrollment is up.
- Returning swim and dive team registration started on the 4th and non-residents started yesterday. New nonresident participates can start enrolling tomorrow.
- New lifeguard training starts this past weekend
- Cabin rentals started on April 1st; all are booked for this weekend.

Council Liaison Cain asked why some trees are randomly covered with wire on the raccoon trail at Ironwoods, what is the logic?

Brian responded the wire is being put around trees to control damage caused by the beavers. They are very difficult to get rid of and we can't live trap them. There are at least 2 to 3 of them causing extensive damage to the trees.

Chair Reimer asked what about City Park; it has had a beaver issue.

Brian responded there was problem at one time, in the creek, by the pond and around North lake. Goal is not to destroy but to control damage to the parks.

Chris reported the following:

- Installing RecTrac at the Aquatic Center will eliminate the need for additional staff on the weekends at the Community Center. Pool passes can now be purchased at the pool. Tony will be sending out information to past cardholders to let them know of the changes. This will be more convenient for patrons as well.
- Credit card capabilities will now be available at the pool and concessions which should improve sales.
- Challenge course training begins for the facilitators
- Ironhorse clubhouse met last Friday for Audio visual needs and wiring for alarm system expansion.
- Continental, who is the project manager for the clubhouse expansion, is working on the contract documents and is closer to the bidding period.

Council Liaison Rasmussen stated the County has approved the expansion of the wastewater plant just west of City Park. He asked if anyone had looked at the waste water outlet at Tomahawk Creek Parkway.

Chris and Brian answered that they hadn't, but would check with Joe.

Steve asked the group if they had seen the projected cost of the expansion.

Council Liaison Cain stated that Missouri was charging 3 times more; this will be much more cost effective.

April reported the following:

- Tea with Shakespeare normally sells out a month in advance. She has 6 seats available for this Sunday if anyone is interested.
- *My Fair Lady* rehearsals have started and tickets are now available at the front desk here in the Community Center. The Stage company is collaborating with the Church of the Resurrection using space and choir.

- At the end of the month there will be a lecture by Professor Paul Lair at the Oxford School talking about the original story and making of *My Fair Lady*.
- Schoolhouse is busy with end of the school year field trips.
- Arti Gras was a great success; it was elbow to elbow and is moving to the Lodge next February. The lighting is the downside so overhead lighting to the top of the grids will be added. It will be bigger and better next year.
- A new Plein Air Event is coming in June. People will be creating art in the parks. In mid-July Council Liaison Cain's office will host an exhibition and reception of the work. Photography will be included, not just painting.

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date – May 10, 2016

The next meeting will be held May 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the Maple Room of the Community Center.

Lorrie Hamilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Amy Vlastic seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Leawood Parks & Recreation Department