



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2016 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

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

Board Members absent: Bob Wright and Doug Stevens

Council Liaison present: Julie Cain

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

Karen Ward Reimer (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Steve McGurren made a correction to the May 10, 2016 meeting minutes. He reported talking to the executive director of Johnson County Parks and Recreation District and it was decided they will build an all-inclusive playground in the county, but not at Meadowbrook Park.

Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the May 10, 2016 meeting minutes. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Special Business

A. Introduction of New Park Board Member – Gary Swanson

Committee members and staff introduced themselves to new board member Gary Swanson.

II. Old Business

A. Naming Rights and Sponsorships “Draft”

Chris reported that everyone should have received a copy of the “Naming Rights Draft”, noting her initial thoughts as far as suggested changes/concerns are in red. She still wants to include having procedures in place on how to transfer money from the Foundation to the City. If the Council adopts the policy; what is the time frame going to be? Is it a reimbursement or initial purchase? At this point in time almost all donations go through The Leawood Foundation.

Amy added she brought in her personal copy from a Farmstead donation. It includes how long it is good for, and the cost of everything involved. A photo of the donation and tax receipt is also sent when it is put in place. Some of the choices are: swings, benches, butterfly houses, wind chimes, commemorative sunflowers and brick donations. This information is around eleven years old. She likes the shopping list approach; depending on how much money you have to spend it’s easier to make choices.

Brian commented he likes having a time frame on sponsorship; that way there is turnover. Sometimes you can have too many of one thing.

Council Liaison Cain mentioned that the information included a finite number of benches and trees. The bench donation lasts for eight years.

Chris commented the value is based on the life of the bench. Keeping it simple and going to a brochure for these types of “gifts” versus bigger initiatives that come from The Foundation. A brochure is easy to look at and can be sent as a PDF or mailed to prospective donors. Maybe something can be added in the Fall/Winter Program Guide asking if residents are aware of the program.

Chris thanked Amy for bringing in the information. She had reached out to Overland Parks Recreation Director and hasn't received any response from him. Greg Ruether, who they have worked with on the trails, did send her their Art Gift Policy and General Donation Policies.

Chris asked Steve if he would like to share his notes and comments on the draft.

Steve commented he had made some notes. His first question was on the page titled Process; point 1. Are we saying we will not take money that is not listed for Capital Improvement Projects?

Chris answered probably yes. We do not have a fund set aside just for that. The Foundation may do that but typically people want to know what their money is going for.

Steve replied he was thinking if someone contacted us for something completely different from what the City is considering. Maybe something like a skate park, if it is not on the C I P list, it makes it sound like we wouldn't take their money?

Chris replied she would not want to accept money for something that is not projected to be a project; one that had been reviewed by the Governing Body during the annual CIP process. By taking the money it would imply that it would be built.

Council Liaison Cain responded projects are projected pretty far out. It is a valid point maybe we take the money and it doesn't make the CIP after a certain number of years it gets put into a general fund.

Steve added maybe explaining we would consider their idea over a certain time frame. It gives us a chance to add or revisit projects whether funded or not.

Chris replied the draft policy is to determine or recommend what is needed. It needs to be 51 % of the cost of a major capital project or amenity. The Foundation has a continuous project list that is reviewed annually. To say impossible would be short sighted.

Steve asked is point 4 of the draft really a subset of point number 2? It explains the process; might be an option. He likes the idea of acceptance by the Mayor and City Administrator.

Council Liaison Cain stated the Mayor and City Administrator are involved with the acceptance of any solicitation.

Chris added it ties in with what we have just talked about in regards to solicitation of funds and whether we have the resources to cover the purchase price or the ongoing maintenance costs. The process begins with The Mayor and the City Administrator reviewing it, determining whether it merits going to the Council.

Steve asked should rare situations be added to the end of sentence to include corporate names. Does this exist anywhere in today's environment?

Chris added she doesn't want the signage to be an advertisement of solicitation. A logo is one thing, but we should not use contact information on signage. A QR code that we would approve would be a better option if desired.

Amy asked should we have a different policy for memorials, and maybe another policy for corporate sponsorships; it seems like two separate things.

Chris commented that a sub category of sponsorship is different from a corporate donation; along with duration of donation and naming rights. The corporate donations or large donations; naming rights are a subset of that. Having the conversation today we decided to take money from a trust we were given, and make it one of the pillars for the inclusive playground. At the time of the donation, the trust did not express any interest in naming rights. It is certainly better to have the policy in place rather than considering a case by case scenario. It can be extremely time consuming, plus it makes it easier to make a decision.

Chair Ward-Reimer reported sending information to Chris from Portland, Oregon. They ask for minimum of 60% of capital construction costs and development. Plus a 20% provision included in the endowment for programing, and a commitment of 20 years.

Lorrie commented that is an interesting concept to include maintenance costs. Something we might want to consider with the all-inclusive playground. The life of the playground surface and maintenance of recoating is not in the annual budget.

Council Liaison Cain stated under solicited funds made payable to Leawood Foundation indicating the purpose of the funds. Sometimes no specific project is included with the donation. The need to add the word "may" to the paragraph because not all funds are directed. She suggests the need for the Park Board to review major donations, and adding layers of approval like the Arts. All of their donations go through Arts in Public Places Initiative. APPI is a sub-committee of the Leawood Arts Council who approve pieces before going to the City Council. Her opinion is that the Park Board should also see projects that are going through The Foundation.

Chris replied the Park Board would approve any unusual situation, signage, or facility amenities. Items listed in a brochure (trees, benches) should not need to come to the Park Board for approval.

Steve commented in his notes he had thought about adding "with the Park Board approval or input". Not exactly sure where to put this in; perhaps after the discretion of Director of Parks and Recreation, or somewhere else in document?

Chris commented what typically happens when it is put on the Council's Agenda; it is under the category of committee recommendations.

Gary asked is there is a list of Council approved projects being solicited.

Chris answered there are current projects being solicited through The Foundation; The Council has Capital Project list that go out 5 to 10 years. They have a list of both funded and unfunded projects. Chris will get Gary a copy of what is current.

Chris noted she will make revisions to the draft document based on tonight's discussion; send out Steve's and Doug's notes, along with pages 5 and 6 of Portland's information, and Amy's information. The next two meetings the Board will continue to work towards updating the document to present at the second Council Meeting in September. The Council also might come back with recommendations.

B. Update on Trail/Bridge Project

Brian reported the goal was to complete trail bridge project before Memorial Day weekend, but due to heavy rains they were unable to finish the backfilling by then. The bridge is now open, and staff will start putting up split rail fencing from the parking lot to stop people from cutting across the open area. He has notified the contractor about the potential problem with some of the 2 x 12 decking boards starting to cup, indicating the moisture levels were too high. A person might not notice when walking across it but it does cause a rougher ride. Typically the manufacturer will give us replacement lumber at no cost to correct the problem.

Chris added the split rail fence will run over by the creek towards the south and then along path.

Lorrie commented yes, it will take a fence to eliminate the short cut. The regulars on the trail have given a lot of compliments and love the new bridge. Everyone noticed how quickly the work was completed considering the weather.

Brian added he measured for the railing today and it will take about 80 feet to complete.

C. Update on Inclusive Playground Project

Chris reported on May 27th, The Foundation turned in the application for the Kansas Parks and Recreation Healthy Initiative. The playground will have an area designed for ages 2 to 5 and 5 to 12. The outcome should be known tomorrow. The project is currently on the Planning Commission agenda for June 28th.

Chair Ward Reimer asked Chris if she feels sponsorships/donations money will help us take care of the new playground.

Chris reported she has a presentation at 7:15 tonight with the Lions to discuss the playground. It has a lot of equipment including a zip line, and zero g swings. One objective is that kids can play and engage playing together and not separate. Bucket swings and the expression swing will also allow parents and children to move together. Facial interaction occurs when you swing face to face. The shadow play element is an excellent amenity for children with autism. A disc swing allows someone to move from their chair onto a disc with free swinging motion. The surface will be pour in place with some areas consisting of wood fiber.

There will be a donation tree wall on the side of the Maintenance building which is adjacent to the play space. The leaves on the tree will have names of donors indicating a \$1000 donation. She is currently working with Victoria from Play4All on pillar sponsor packages. Alice Hawk has contacted Commerce Bank and a couple of other foundations and will be sending them the new brochure that is being created by Play4All at no cost.

Steve asked Chris to let him know when the Hall Family Foundation has been contacted and he will make a connection.

Gary asked is this project fully funded.

Chris responded we are currently seeking corporate, private, and the initiative from the KRPA Organization through Cunningham Recreation. The \$407,000 project includes everything except for tipping fee for the demolition materials. The money requested through KRPA is only good for providing the main structure pieces. The zip line is not included. The Foundation already has \$200,000 that includes \$50,000 from the City.

Chris stated we are seeking four pillars at \$25,000 each and Alice has contacted AMC and intend to make an application again this year. We have 8 to 10 corporate foundations on our radar so there is a lot of opportunity. Victoria with Play4All has been extremely helpful with wordsmithing the “ask” by effectively explaining this service amenity will be serving hundreds of thousands of kids over the next twenty years and what it will bring to the community.

Chris reported that Alice intends to ask Variety KC for \$25,000 for the 2 to 5 space. She may also ask that they partner with Royals Charities for \$25,000 giving the Variety KC naming rights to that space. Calling out pieces of equipment to sponsor will help in limiting signage. She will check to see if the Mayor still plans to make the ask for the concrete.

Lorrie asked is this the complete new installed price. From the presentation it sounds very low.

Chris responded the area is perfect to build at; we will only need to do limited regrading and we decided not to pursue custom pieces via a theme. It will be better to put the money into elements of the play structure that will remain timeless.

Steve stated he remembers the new Independence all-inclusive play Park was 14,000 square feet and was projected at \$1.7 million.

Brian added that park was installing themed pieces, and is very costly. Engineered Wood fiber will be used in many places of our playground instead of only pour in play creating a savings of \$100,000. None of the light fixtures will need to be changed out keeping cost lower as well.

Chris stated The Foundation said \$400,000 plus or minus 10%. The Mayor and Alice will sign and send out cover letters with the brochure to corporations similar to their annual appeal letter. We are pleased with the plan and had Jennie Sumrell who is PlayCore’s Director of Education review the plan to make sure all of the seven principles of play were included in the design.

Lorrie added this will make it a destination playground.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked when the project needed to be completed.

Chris replied that if we are awarded the equipment through the KRPA/Cunningham Recreation initiative the playground needs to be completed finished by November.

III. Council Liaison Report

Council Liaison Cain reported:

- Leawood recently joined the Healthy KC initiative. An individual will need to be 21 in order to purchase tobacco in Leawood. Statics are staggering if addiction occurs before age 21.
- The 135th corridor development has had its 3rd public meeting with a lot of participation.
- She is now on the Leawood Chamber Economic Board. Sitting on both sides of the table gives a different perspective. It is about finding the balance.
- The new owners of Park Place are a multibillion dollar national corporation. They referenced projects all over the nation. It is really interesting to hear their take on signage.

IV. New Business

A. Discussion of Ideas for Amenities at 96th and Lee Property

Chris reported that Scott Lambers asked her to add this item to the agenda tonight. He wants input from the board on the park space for the property located at 96th and Lee. Fire station 1 is going to move where the old police station was located. The former City Hall building will remain at the same location. The whole area to the north is open to suggestions. The lease on the cell tower is not going to be renewed and is going away. We also need to consider parking, a single rest room facility, water, sewer and electricity.

Steve asked if the City Council has already made recommendations.

Chris reported there are three City Council work sessions scheduled starting on June 20. Everyone is invited to attend.

April added if you look at the area the City owns this is a prime location for Public Art. Nothing is there right now.

Council Liaison Cain commented Ward One has wanted a playground for some time.

Brian added he took a rough look at the Gezer Playground to compare space. It is not a square and is approximately 65 x 100 feet. Gezer's playground size is too large for this location. He needs to find out how far a playground area needs to be away from the homes.

Chris commented the playground size may be somewhere Gezer and Brook Beatty parks. It needs a balance of parking versus amenities. The parking will need to be reconfigured; it was designed for previous usage.

Steve asked what the acreage is, and are there plans for the Old City Hall.

Chris replied it is around three acres, divided into thirds. The Historic Commissions would like to turn the old City Hall into a small museum.

Amy asked if it has enough space to become a senior center.

Council Liaison Cain stated originally there was some thought of doing a community art center at the fire station.

Steve suggested a fire station theme for the playground and spray pad be included in the park design.

Amy added a cooling or misting pad would be less expensive than a spray pad.

Lorrie added the area has always wanted a walk to neighborhood park. It needs to include a small shelter.

Chris commented there had been discussion about the old firetruck being displayed there. She would like someone like Doug Picker from Indigo Designs to come up with a master plan of the park space. One example would be choosing the shape of a shelter; square or octagon like the ones at City Park. Most people agree the materials like stone and wood reflect the area. She agrees public art needs to also be included at this location.

Brian added the north section of property closest to Lee Boulevard has the most beautiful sugar maple tree in the city. He doesn't want to lose such beautiful trees.

B. July 4th

Kim reported the following:

- The band Flashback is coming back this year. They are very well received.
- Western Enterprises will be doing another \$25,000 fireworks show
- Added a new food truck with a patriotic theme who will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs and other goodies
- Other food vendors include Dip n Dots, snow cones, bar b que, corn dogs, funnel cakes, turkey legs, and kettle corn. There will be plenty of food for everyone
- She has 4th of July packets for all of the Board Members

C. Staff Reports

Brian reported the following:

- The new Kermis bike race is still trying to find a title sponsor. Waiting on registration till the race is named. He had a great meeting with LL Bean asking if they would give \$3000 in merchandise and another \$3,000 in funds. Gordon Biersch will also provide a portion of their adult beverage sales to the donations. Race expenses will be around \$6000. The dollar amount raised over that will go to the inclusive playground project via the Foundation. Sponsors over \$1000 cash over expenses would have space on donation tree. There is space for 10 food trucks. There will be several age brackets with different heats. We will open up the course for anyone that wants to ride on the Parkway after the race. It will have a festival feel
- Started mosquito treatment in catch basins and ponds, and will continue to treat throughout the summer months. Public works is also going to order treatment and put in some treatment in storm water basins. Ironhorse is also treating their ponds.
- Continue spraying grass and weed areas in traffic islands
- The City's Ash trees have all been treated for Emerald Ash Borer

Chris reported the following:

- Bids open at 2:00 this Thursday at City Hall for the Ironhorse Clubhouse Expansion. Later that night there will be a Golf Committee Meeting

- Co-hosting an after-hours event with Dean and Deluca for the Leawood Chamber After hours at Ironwoods Lodge next Wednesday from 5 to 6:30.

Kim reported the following:

- Duck Derby is this Saturday. The Bank of Blue Valley is the Sponsor along with Corner Bakery Café. There have been 132 ducks sold to date. Mr. Stinky Feet will also be performing and is sponsored by the Leawood Arts Council.
- Pool opened on Memorial Weekend. 2,700 passes have been sold so far this year, 250 over what was sold for the season all of last year. RecTrac is now networked at the pool so we can sell passes and take charge cards at the pool and concessions
- Summer T-Ball has 670 participates. Games will start Monday. The ideal number is around 400. Baseball is more popular thanks to the Royals.
- Balloon Tree and other half day camps start next week

April reported the following:

- “Once Upon a Mattress” performances will starts July 14th. We are currently in rehearsals.
- Sunday in the Park Concerts Series start August 4th
- Book Club is at the Schoolhouse on Wednesdays through July
- The Plein Air art in the park and pooch painting had lower attendance than expected due to the hot temperatures. This was the first year for this event and we may change the time of the year in 2017. Two of the quick challenge events were sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and Arts Council. Invitations for the Art Exposition featuring this art work will go out this week. It will be at Julie’s office at Mission Farms from the 7th to 17th. The Artist reception will be Sunday, July 10th starting at 5:30.

Chris reported that Chair Ward-Reimer also came out and participated in water color painting.

The next meeting will be held July 12 at 5:30 p.m. at Leawood City Hall in the Maple Room.

V. Misc.

Lorrie asked if we are still pursuing charges or fines with the homeowner who did the clear cutting off the trail.

Brian replied that he had talked with the prosecutor and they are working with them and their lawyer.

Steve McGurren made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton
Parks and Recreation Director

