



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

Board members in attendance: Karen Ward Reimer (Chair), Lorrie Hamilton, Amy Vlasic, Gary Swanson and Bob Wright

Board members absent: Doug Stevens, and Steve McGurren

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain, and Dr. Steven Kaster

Staff members present: Brian Anderson, Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, 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 15, 2016 meeting minutes. Bob Wright seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Inclusive Playground Project

Chris stated Rodney from Cunningham Recreation has advised us that his team is waiting for the weather to break to be able to pour the concrete for the playground. The opening will move from January to a later date giving more time to complete the signage with Variety KC and the demonstration site signs from GameTime. It will be on a Saturday or a day when families can come and enjoy the opening. The Foundation has met their fundraising goal.

Amy asked who is installing the playground.

Chris responded the playground manufacturer does the installation. When they are finished, we will spruce everything up with landscaping. The old black powder coated benches were starting to show some wear and Brian's crew recoated them. They will be reusing them along the trail and down by the lake.

Chris spoke with Alice Hawk about changing the donor's reception. In previous years, the event was combined with Arti Gras. Chris suggested maybe having the event later in the spring at the expanded Ironhorse Clubhouse. The reception sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. It will also give us a chance to show off the new clubhouse and the new video boards can showcase the Foundations projects over the last 5-10 years. Alice agreed and will present the idea to the Leawood Foundation at the January 19th meeting.

Lorrie asked since the Foundation has met their goal, do they plan to start on a different project. Are they generically raising funds or is there a named project going forward? It makes sense to have one.

Chris stated that this year the annual appeal letter did not name a project. It explained the focus on what they have accomplished. She suggested talking about what they would be doing in 2018 or 2019.

April reported The Arts Council, Foundation, and Stage Company are co-sponsoring this year's Arti Gras. The art recipient can determine who receives the donation. The event is not a large moneymaker but participation is growing.

Gary asked what is going on at the Old City Hall.

Chris answered they are finishing the design for the fire station. It has not been discussed recently.

B. 2017- 2019 Projects (CIP)

Chris passed out information

Chris stated the information includes a copy of the front pages of the City's 2017 budget book i.e. the council's goals for the department and the current CIP timeline of projects. The Council set these goals in January of 2016 and will review them again this month.

She does want to discuss current and future projects. Work is going smoothly at Ironhorse clubhouse. The bunkers look great and are now complete. The bridge project was also completed in 2016.

A group comprised of Joe Johnson the Public Works Director, Chris, Brian, and Brett Haugland from Continental Engineering met several weeks ago on the stretch of trail from the playground in Tomahawk Park over to Roe.

Brian added this is something we looked at a couple of years ago when we started the trail bridge project. The cost was too high for one project so it was broken into two. Brett had previously completed some of the design work and will need to finish before the bids go out. Brian would like to take bids this spring and then decide with the contractor the best time for the project.

Chris reported improvements behind the Nature Center and the Amphitheater Stage at Ironwoods will start soon. She has some concerns about the numbers at the Nature Center. April is working with Scott Fanning on the replacement of the decking on the stage.

Chris visited with Finance to discuss the potential need to add an inflationary rate of 1 ½ to 2 % to projects if they go beyond two years from inception into the CIP. Some of the numbers can be 5 or 6 years old. It is very rare that the prices go down. A date notation of the estimate will help in having a more realistic dollar amount going through the next budget cycle.

Chair Ward Reimer asked what the timing on the stage project is.

Brian responded they want to get it done before the pool season gets started, so very soon.

April added they are trying for the end of March. It does depend on the weather.

Brian reported they would do a trail detour for the park to Roe trail renovation, using the sidewalk along Roe and Tomahawk Creek Parkway crossing at 119th. When working with concrete it is better to use barricades to keep people out of the area.

Lorrie added the detour really isn't a big deal. You might need to cross the Tomahawk Parkway at 119th.

Brian added it would not be long-term detour, perhaps only taking a couple of months.

Chris stated looking at 2018; the big concern is the pool bathhouse. She is not sure about the two year timeframe to replace the building; remembering the problems and repairs that occurred this past year. Changing a million dollars in a plan will influence some things. The need to be move items back or put others on hold. Chris will check with Joe Johnson about the overlay and access roads projects that total almost \$600,000. Ironhorse will do their improvements. The bridge behind City Hall still needs a connection. She knows the county used to focus on helping agencies acquire land. Now, they are changing that focus to help cities in expanding, building and connecting trails. They will be reaching out to cities for funding opportunities.

There is uncertainty about the tennis courts; they are bad and have some substantial cracks. Many of our residents use them and she would like to see the project stay in 2018. We have had some minor damage recently to the courts. Brian's staff took pictures where someone or a group had used a yellow can of spray paint marking lines for pickle ball on one of the courts and were ready to mark another one. The lines were not even and the culprit left some of their pickle ball equipment. A police report was filed. Chris did contact Kathleen, not inferring that it was her group, but to see if they knew who might have done it. Brian is looking into the cost of repairs.

Another issue to report at City Park. A black pickup truck was collecting leaves from residents in the area and then dumping them by the Lions Shelter. Pictures were taken of this brazen act and were

turned over the police. The pictures were also posted on our Facebook page. The action did stop after the first snow.

Bob asked did we offer the tree-recycling program during the holidays. Is there a leaf collection place like in Kansas City? Do we have a need for compost? Everyone on the north side of I-435, has large oak trees and are bagging continually.

Amy asked how we get the companies to continue collecting leaves in the winter.

Council Liaison Cain stated that is a homes association question. They will need to work it out with the trash provider.

Bob asked is there a place in Leawood that leaves can be a composted.

Brian responded that a composting site is very involved. He has worked in other cities that had composting. It requires a minimum area of an acre and a permit from the state due to concern for storm water runoff. The best ones have someone to monitor for trash debris and constantly turning the leaves. Finding a market for the compost isn't easy and Leawood really does not have a site big enough.

Chris asked if board would like to see more information about the bathhouse or should we table for now. She needs to talk to Scott Lambers about it.

Bob asked what is scheduled and approved for 2017.

Chris responded everything in orange on the front page is funded and approved.

Bob questioned is everything from 2018 forward subject to change.

Chris answered it is funded, but something can always change. Things can come up that are not on these pages or needs to be repaired. Several years ago, the CIP was included with the budget process. Now the CIP is completed first and then the operating budget.

Bob asked about the park at 96th and Lee being unfunded.

Chris responded since it is looked at every year it can change. It does depend on the construction plans of the fire station to be finished. The plans are complicated by the cell tower. The station sets east and west it is not wide like station 2. The fire station comes first, then maybe City Hall, then the park.

Chair Ward Reimer asked does the graphics represent the Council priorities.

Chris answered no it shows the dollar budget amounts. Parks and Recreation is \$10.5 of the City's \$63 million overall budget. Our department represents 17% of the total budget.

II. New Business

A. Staff Reports

Brian reported:

- Met with Dustin Branick, Scott Gamerl, Chris and past community garden members. They are talking about different possibilities and looking at properties to approach for use or development. They want to determine where to go with the program.

One idea is not to divide the space into individual plots but work together gardening the area as a group with rows of vegetables. The group would plan and determine what to plant. The food could be donated to a pantry or divided.

Maybe some church properties in the northern part of town might have some green space for the short term.

Originally, everyone had his or her own plot. Water One has an underground water tank property on Nall close to 147th Street. It is a flat and open piece of land that might be suitable for a garden. He did contact them and they were not opposed to the idea. They do not have construction plans for that site until 2020.

Council Liaison Cain asked if they are going that far south isn't that property parallel to Ironwoods Park. Can we use some of that area?

Chris answered there are some reasons she has some concerns about this. The best property out there should be, in staff's opinion, used for the greater good of more people. It's a question as to whether valuable parkland should be used for a very small number of people since we do not do this for anyone else. There is some land that might be appropriate on the site, but it floods easily. It would not work for a garden unless users were willing to potentially sacrifice their crops in the event of a flood. The land that is programmable or complimentary to what we already have is prime for other development that has been discussed for the future. They are looking at three different sites. Council member Fila is going to make a report at the February Council meeting. Questions may include what interest there is and how it was determined.

Brian commented there is a lot of wild life at Ironwoods, especially deer. It would require a lot of fencing, and the expense of putting in water that area of the park. A goal is to keep the community gardens their own entity. Parks would be more of a resource of information, and not in charge of the gardens.

Council Liaison Kaster suggested it would be better to start a temporary garden to gauge interest and see how that one goes before the City puts in irrigation.

Chris commented Scott Gamert is starting a seed library and will be promoting it at the Sustainability Summit. Classes in container gardening is another option.

Amy commented that is something to think about in the planning of Ironwoods. Originally was earmarked not as active a park as City Park.

Amy commented it is a lot of land if they don't have anything earmarked she would like to have another dog park.

Brian continued reporting:

- The soil at Ironwoods is composed of red clay and a lot of rock. A couple of years ago he tried to get master gardener Dennis Patton to do a program and take care of the garden out there. He declined saying the soil would need to be amended dramatically and he wouldn't want to take it on.
- Many might know about the crazy driver and police pursue at Gezer. The driver entered in the park through Pawnee. The truck then crossed the wadi and surprisingly didn't do any damage.
- The relatively nice weather has allowed crews to work on landscaping, and preparations for spring.
- The Lodge floor was resealed
- Kansas Shade Tree Conference it is in Topeka next week.

Chris reported:

- Repainting the pool for \$60,000
- \$ 50,000 for bike route sign system
- \$ 25,000 Shade structures for T-ball
- Two Art selection committees are meeting. One is for a piece in the Sculpture Garden, the other one will be out south probably not until late 2018. Each piece is budgeted \$115,000 also includes installation, engineering and sight work/installation
- Kansas Recreation Park Association will be the 30th - Feb 2. Chris Troy the Director in Wichita to meet to discuss accreditation.

Kim reported the following:

- In the process of hiring 2017 summer temporary staff, Tony started interviews in December

- Changed credit card processing to include chip readers
- Several requests for girl scouts to use Ironwoods. One group will have a Twilight Camp in June from 4-8
- Breakfast with Santa had 318 participates
- Dad and Daughter Date Night will be January 28th at the Lodge
- Spring soccer registration deadline is February 1st

April reported the following:

- Selecting the art for Arti Gras this year with over 100 entries. The event has moved to The Lodge. Hope the board can come to opening night on Friday. Crown Royal, a new band, will be performing. Come over the weekend. A portion of the sale of art goes to the foundation or stage company.
- This weekend shifting to auditions for “Broadway with Love”. They will be Monday and Tuesday evenings.
- “Broadway with Love” will be at the Community Center. A great date night you can buy cheaper for you and your sweetheart or you can buy a table of eight.
- Rehearsals for “Bonnie and Clyde” will begin soon
- “Annie” audition will attract a lot of little girls

Chair Ward Reimer moved to have the next meeting on Wednesday, Feb 15 in the main conference room due to Valentine’s Day. The Maple room is being used on that date and the board will meet on the main floor in the main conference room.

III. Miscellaneous Items

Bob Wright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department