



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.
Maple Room – Community Center

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

Board Members absent: Bob Wright, Doug Stevens

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain

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

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

Amy made a motion to approve the April 11, 2017 meeting minutes. Lorrie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on I-Lan Park Signage

Chris reported that the sign had shipped and will arrive tomorrow. Horticulture Supervisor, Dustin Branick and his team are working diligently on the landscaping. The path of crushed limestone from the pagoda is being carried over into the new space and will be very similar in nature as what is planted on the south side of the restroom. It is a very nice and appropriate transition with the three-sided sign being placed in the middle.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the sign has to do with the Leawood Bridge.

Chris explained the information that will be on each of the three sides as well as some of the activities that are planned for the delegation. She is not sure who is committed to what activities.

Council Liaison Cain shared the events she is attending.

Chris mentioned that coincidentally, the Leawood Police Honor Guard will be presenting the colors at the Royals game that will be one of the activities. Mayor Dunn and the Mayor of I-Lan will be throwing out first pitches.

Gary asked what the size of the delegation is.

Chris said 13-15 people. Kim is in charge of transportation for the group and making sure snacks and drinks are on the bus daily.

B. Update on Inclusive Playground Project

Brian discussed the debate about the surfacing for the project. He stated that VarietyKC has reached out to some of their former partners to see if they will provide the concrete and labor at no cost. This will be a considerable savings. They have done the same with another contractor to provide the fence. He will be meeting with a representative tomorrow.

Chris asked to speak regarding the fence.

Steve asked if the City Administrator knew the Board was against the fence.

Chris stated that although she is aware that the Board did not favor the fence, in discussion with the City Administrator she was directed to let Variety proceed with the installation. She reminded the Board that Variety's concern, and that of the parents of children with autism, is the potential for a child to run from the space.

Steve asked what the material will be.

Gary asked if it was split rail

Chris replied that the fence will be the black powder coated chain link fence.

Brian stated that the fence will be 42" high.

Chris stated that she did not favor the fencing either but this was the decision that was made.

Lorrie stated that she wasn't at the last meeting but if she had been, she would have adamantly opposed it. Parents are responsible for watching their children.

Chris reiterated that the fence is for the protection of children with autism. There may be benches located near the openings in the fence at two locations but there will be no gates. This would make it too hard to maneuver getting devices through the gates.

Brian stated that the entrances will be where the two Variety signs will go. They will be placed up against the fence and the opening will be six feet wide.

Chris said that staff will look at the fence once installed and determine what can be added in terms of landscaping to soften the look. The fence color does match the majority of the posts on the playground, so maybe it will blend in better than thought.

Brian said it may seem strange for those using the shelter but the sign will make it seem more sensible. We have been struggling with weather to complete the project

Chris stated that we would not make the earlier proposed opening of May 18 due to the issue with the surfacing and the fencing. The date needs to work with Mayor Dunn's schedule, VarietyKC, the Royals. The next date considered is June 5 but in speaking with the contractor, they do not feel it is likely to be complete. Other options are 15-17 or 20-21 of June. She will keep the Board informed once the date is set.

Chris discussed some of the ways that donors can be recognized other than signs.

c. Update on Trail Project

Brian stated that the bids were opened on the project and lowest and best bid came from Mega Industries. They have done work for the City before, including the ADA accessible sidewalks and the approach to the bridge that leads to the dog park. There were twelve bids submitted. They wanted to start the project earlier but there is not another meeting of the council in May to approve the contract so they will start on June 6. There will be a detour set up and it will be posted on our website and social media. The deadline will be Labor Day.

Chris asked Brian if he had talked to the contractor about the need to close off the shelter and playground during the project. When we find out we need to be sure this is also included on the postings so trail users will be aware.

Brian said that maybe we can ask them to keep the shelter and playground open on the weekend when they are not working. He will check with the.

II. New Business

A. Vacancy of Park Board Liaison, Dr. Steve Kaster

Chris shared that Council Liaison Dr. Kaster had the opportunity for a career change in Dallas and will be leaving the city and his council seat.

Julie shared the process of how his seat will be filled. It will be an election that will take place in November.

B. Discussion of Event Signage Frame on Mission Road (Ironwoods Park)

Steve shared that 99% of the signs we see in Leawood are professionally done. He then referred the sign/banner holder on Mission, across from the entrance of Ironwoods Park, as not meeting the standards. (*Chris held up a photo of the sign stand he was referring to as a point of reference.*) It seems cheap and temporary.

Chris said that she agrees it does look bad and should be improved. She had a complaint from a Leawood resident just last week about the same issue. Because it is in the ROW, it cannot be permanent. That is how the frame to hold the event banners was born. She stated that perhaps the best solution, in addition to a more aesthetically pleasing frame style, would be to standardize the banner size (or one of two sizes) for each event with room for two at any given time, as it is not uncommon to have two upcoming. Ideally, it would be nice to have it on the east side but there is much more vegetation and also the sign to the entrance of the park. She proposed that staff look at other options and come back with them to the June meeting for further discussion.

Kim pointed out the ones that are located on the corners of Town Center as a potential option.

Julie stated that we must follow our own sign ordinance to which Chris agreed.

Chris said what is there now is just something that we got used to doing. It doesn't mean it looks good and it should definitely be replaced.

C. Staff Reports

Brian reported the following:

- Flower beds are being planted
- Tree work is being completed along trails and at Ironwoods
- The pond at Gezer has been cleaned out
- Filling the pool
- Plantings at the pool have been completed
- Completing interviews for Turf Supervisor position
- Next week is Bike to Work Week

April reported the following:

- Lecture at the schoolhouse Saturday morning
- School has been busy with field trips.
- Arts Council had great show at Leawood Fine Arts
- Art on Loan from Leawood Fine Arts on display inside the Nature Center (Bugs by Jane Oliver – 3 giant bug paintings) – Reception for the artist in Late June.
- Stage Company hosted a packed audience at Tea with Shakespeare.

- Senior Barn Players performed last week with larger crowds.
- Getting ready for summer events.

Kim reported the following:

- Soccer finished up last week
- Tee ball and Coach Pitch leagues start June 6 with 566 kids enrolled
- First tee spring session ends next week
- Pool opens in eighteen days. Pool pass sales are steady
- National Trails Day is June 3. Nature Center will have a relaxed event.
- Duck sales for the Duck Derby have started. The event is June 17
The Bank of Blue Valley sponsors the event.
- Food Truck Festival is August 26 at City Park
Flashback will be the band.
- Four Fried Chickens and a Coke will perform at July 4th event.

Chris thanked Brock Shafer, Recreation Supervisor, for getting the new shade structure installed at the Tennis Courts. They were much needed as they had been there since 2001.

- Interview for IT Director have commenced.
- Dedication of Justice Center Art took place on May 18.

Julie asked if this will be featured in any future magazine publication. She had a neighbor who wrote an amazing piece about the thoughts of what she saw in the interpretation of the sculpture. She will send to Chris for follow-up.

- There are two art selection committees working at this time. One was to look for a location south but a location has been hard to find. They are looking at a piece that is currently down at Zahner's called the "Dancers". The Mayor suggested perhaps at College and State Line. The other is looking at an addition in the sculpture garden.

D. Upcoming Date to Remember

- June 3 is Pooch Paint at entrance to Dog Park
- June 23 Foundation Donor Reception at Ironhorse

E. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, June 13 at Ironhorse Golf Course

III. Misc.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department