



## **ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes – July 11, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.**

**Maple Room, Leawood Community Center, 4800 Town Center Drive**

Board members in attendance: Chair, Karen Ward-Reimer, Steve McGurren, Amy Vlastic, Bob Wright

Board Members absent: Lorrie Hamilton, Doug Stevens, Gary Swanson

Council Liaisons absent: Julie Cain

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

Karen Ward - Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

Karen called for approval of the June 13 minutes

Amy made a motion to accept the minutes

Bob seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **I. Old Business**

#### **A. Duck Derby Event Recap**

Kim reported that 173 ducks were sold for the event and \$582 was raised for the Leawood Foundation. Bank of Blue Valley once again provided money for prizes that included; Beats wireless headphones, an iTunes Gift Card, Gift Cards to Dave and Buster's and AMC Movie Passes and Gift Card for concessions.

Chris suggested we consider shelving the event for a couple years and bring it back later.

Kim mentioned that it appears that when a specific fundraising project is tied to the event such as the inclusive playground project, participation increases.

#### **B. Inclusive Playground Opening Recap**

Chris stated that the Grand Opening was well attended. VarietyKC mentioned to Chris that more people attended the opening of the playground than any other grand opening they have been involved with.

Chris mentioned that the Parks Department worked very hard to complete the retaining walls and landscaping in time for the Grand Opening Event.

Amy mentioned that she was disappointed by the article in the Kansas City Star regarding the playground. She stated that only VarietyKC was mentioned in conjunction with the playground, the City of Leawood was not mentioned in the article.

Chris stated the Press Release she sent to the media outlets was specific and mentioned both the City of Leawood and VarietyKC.

Chris stated some finishing touches such as the benches and monuments still need to be installed at the playground site.

Chris stated that she has reached out to the Blue Valley Recreation Commission's Special Population Coordinator, Nan Kanter to explore program opportunities with the Blue Valley Recreation Commission at the playground.

Karen stated that she thought the fence surrounding the playground turned out well.

Chris stated that money was received from the Leawood Garden Club and will be used to enhance some landscaping in inside the playground

Chris mentioned that she would like to add signage stating "no bicycles" and "no dogs" at the entrances to the playground. She stated that bicycles can damage the poured in place surfacing and dogs within the playground area are potentially at the eye level of many guests, which could be dangerous, especially in an enclosed space.

Bob inquired if dogs could be within the playground area if they are leashed.

Chris stated that dogs do need to remain outside the playground area.

Bob inquired if a dog hitching post could be installed outside the playground area

Chris stated that a hitching post is a good option.

#### **C. July 4 Celebration Recap**

Kim stated that inclement weather adversely affected crowd size for the July 4 event. All went well for the guests that did attend and the band was well received.

#### **D. Update on Progress of Trail Project**

Brian reported that the recent rain has slightly delayed the project. The contractor poured a couple hundred feet of concrete today and will be pouring again tomorrow. The Parks Staff is hauling excess dirt from the trail project to the golf course to place around the clubhouse.

Steve inquired if the staff is dumping the dirt and filling an area below the clubhouse.

Brian responded yes, this is one of the areas where dirt is being placed.

Brian reported that families with young children are continuing to use the playground at Tomahawk Park with construction vehicles moving through the area. He stated that he has had difficulty with groups using the playground refusing to leave. The Police Department had to be called on one occasion to ask groups to vacate the area. He has added additional signage to the area regarding the closure of the playground and shelter.

#### **E. Action on Resident Issues at 123<sup>rd</sup> and Mission**

Brian met with the resident to discuss options for screening his home from Mission Road. Dustin Branick will be coordinating the project and will be planting evergreens in the resident's back yard.

Brian stated that he still has concerns about mature trees blocking out sunlight to new plants and trees.

Brian stated the vegetation was removed on the opposite side of trail during the project.

Steve inquired if the planting of the trees in the homeowner's yard was a one-time concession.

Brian stated that it is a one-time concession and the planting will take place in the fall. He also stated that the homeowner would be responsible for maintaining the trees.

Steve stated that the residents' sprinkler system would need to cover the new trees.

Steve also stated that it was a nice gesture by the Parks Department to offer this concession to the homeowner.

#### **F. Update on Action of Ironwoods Event Sign on Mission Road**

Brian reported that he met with April Bishop, David Ley and Richard Coleman at the entrance of Ironwoods Park to discuss signage requirements. By city ordinance, signage may be a minimum of 5 feet away from the road. The current temporary sign is three feet away from the road. The maximum height of the sign should be no taller than 5 feet; the current sign is 6 feet tall. The current frame is constructed of signposts. During the meeting, it was decided that the sign could be re-designed and moved to comply with the city ordinance as well as placing something on the site that is more decorative (signage system similar to the signage at Town Center Plaza). Once Mission Road is widened, all items in the right of way will be removed.

Steve inquired if a frame that is removable could be installed.

Chris stated that the frames at Town Center Plaza are placed in a sleeve in the ground and the frame at the entrance of Ironwoods Park could be similar.

Brian stated that the current frame is set in a sleeve in the ground. He also stated the new frame could be constructed from better materials and include a decorative cap.

April stated that the frame at Town Center Plaza has a grip system at the top to attach the banners so they don't sag.

Amy inquired if the new frame would be constructed of wood or metal

Brian replied that it would be a metal frame, possibly similar to wrought iron fence

Steve asked if that was the best option at this point.

April stated that it is the best option.

Brian stated that a more permanent option could be added when Mission Road is widened.

Steve stated a more permanent looking sign frame and consistent banner sizing would look better.

Steve inquired about the time frame for the frame installation

Brian stated that it would be installed this fall.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Remaining 2017 Projects**

Chris stated that the stage replacement at the Ironwoods Amphitheater is complete.

Chris stated the redesign of the area behind the Nature Center is being delayed until 2018 to be completed in conjunction with the driveway improvements and overlay of the parking lots. She is also concerned that the amount allocated (\$200,000) may not be enough to complete the project.

Chris stated that there are projects scheduled at Ironhorse Golf Course in 2018.

Chris stated that the tennis courts are scheduled to be resurfaced in 2018.

Chris stated the pool building at the Aquatic Center is scheduled to be rebuilt in 2019. She also stated that redesigning the filter room could be a challenging project.

Steve inquired if any of the mention projects will require a significant amount of time and involvement from the board.

Chris stated that they would not.

Chris stated that the repair to the tunnel under Roe Avenue is scheduled for 2018 as well. She is considering requesting the project to be pushed into the future. The allocated \$100,000 does not include trail expansion.

Karen inquired about the condition of the cabins.

Steve mentioned they look nice and are in good shape.

Chris stated that the cabins have had routine maintenance performed on them (paint, minor deck repair, etc.) over the years, but the interior and the furniture is holding up extremely well.

Steve inquired about the proposed trail connection from the new development south of Ironwoods Park.

Chris stated that the developer for that project does not plan to move forward with the residential homes. We will see what happens if a new developer submits a plan.

Steve inquired if the art piece east of Paddy O'Quigley's at the entrance of Ironhorse Center is owned by the city.

Chris replied that the developer of Ironhorse Center owns it and the artist is Tom Corbin.

## **B. Staff Reports**

Brian reported:

- He has been working on a recreational bicycle route through the city that follows the Bike/Ped Plan. He stated that it would cost \$50,000 for signage throughout the route. One route will be north of I-435, an 11 mile loop through residential streets. Approved sign style in the manual of uniform traffic signal devices.

Karen inquired how far north the northern loop would extend.

Brian replied that it will extend to Somerset Drive.

The loop south of I-435 will be 30 miles in length and will extend south to 151<sup>st</sup>. The route will go through residential areas and into Ironwoods Park. He also reported that there has been some discussion among the bike committee members about the use of part trail system in south loop. He has received requests for a route that does not include the trail system for the road cyclists. The route crossing major intersections has made the route challenging to set. He did state that sidewalks are present at most major intersections.

Steve inquired when 151<sup>st</sup> Street is scheduled to be widened.

Brian stated he did not know the answer but would find out and let Steve know.

- Repairs have started on the retaining wall east of Mission Road and south of College Boulevard. The Parks Department is helping with the project.

Steve inquired if the wall to the east near the farm is a concern.

Brian stated that there is some concern. He also mentioned that the wall on the north side is starting to bulge. The Parks Department is working to keep the drainage structures open and unclogged.

- Going to Minneapolis next week to attend a Toro sports turf forum. He will be touring facilities and learn about new products.

Kim reported:

- The Tee-ball / Coach Pitch Baseball season is at the halfway point and this week is team picture week.
- The Dive League championships were last Saturday and the Swim League championships are tomorrow.
- The Girl Scouts have hosted three separate camps at Ironwoods Park this summer.
- The Fall Soccer League deadline is next Wednesday.
- Tony Nichols is working with the state of Kansas to register the slide with the state as an amusement ride and receive a permit.

Steve inquired what the permitting process entailed.

Kim responded that the slide needed to be inspected by a qualified NAARSO Level II or above inspector, meet ASTM International F24 Committee Standards, along with additional documentation.

Kim stated that Tony has been unsuccessfully attempting to contact Whitewater, who is the manufacturer of the waterslide to receive additional documentation.

Chris stated that Whitewater has historically been unresponsive. She also stated that the Kansas Recreation & Park Association has been in communication with the Kansas League of Municipalities through the lobbyist for KRPA.

April reported:

- LSC summer production, “Annie” opens on Thursday. If anyone would like to have reserved seats, be sure to contact her. She also stated that it is an amazing cast and the show will be phenomenal.
- Sundays in the Park Summer Concert Series begins on August 13 with the Nace Brothers. August 20, is David Basse, August 27, Hard@Play and September 3, Heat Index. She also stated that concerts are held rain or shine. The concert is moved indoors to the Lodge if it rains or is too hot.
- Things are busy at the schoolhouse.
- The APPI group is going to meet a week from next Tuesday to discuss upcoming projects. One piece is significant, one representational, and another being consider in the pre-event space at the golf course. They are also going to discuss purchasing the buffalo and relocating it to a different space- perhaps the entrance to Ironwoods Park.

Chris reported:

- A reception for the City Council and Golf Committee was held recently at the new Vista at 154 space at the golf course. City staff and key contractors who worked on the project also attended. The booking for the space is going well and the price point is slightly higher than the Lodge is.
- The wastewater plant expansion still on schedule for May of 2018. We are potentially losing fields 11 & 12 during construction. We may need to evaluate using the outfield of the Tee-ball fields as an additional soccer field.

Steve inquired if Lee Boulevard will remain open during the construction process.

Chris stated that the road might be subject to temporary closures; but that conversation was some time ago. She plans to discuss any updates on the project with Public Works after it goes before the Council. She also stated that there has been discussion of raising the elevation of Lee Boulevard by 8 feet to get it out of the flood plain.

Steve inquired if a new facility will replace the old facility.

Chris responded that they are reusing part of the existing structure and constructing new structures as well.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date is August 8

Bob made motion to adjourn the meeting. Amy seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director  
Parks and Recreation Department