



ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

Maple Room, Leawood Community Center, 4800 Town Center Drive

Board members in attendance: Lorrie Hamilton, Steve McGurren, Doug Stevens, Gary Swanson, Amy Vlasic

Board Members absent: Bob Wright, Chair, Karen Ward-Reimer

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain

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

Amy Vlasic called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Amy called for approval of the August 8 minutes

Lorrie made a motion to approve the minutes

Doug seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Progress of Trail Project – Tomahawk Park to Roe

Brian reported that there was some damage around the new surface due to recent flooding. The trail remained solid but some soil had washed away around the edges. Reseeding was necessary. The banks had moved from where the creek. Rip-wrap was added to stabilize the banks.

Lorrie reported that the trail is now smooth and lovely.

Brian reported that the contractor will be putting down fabric and seeding along the trail.

Julie noted that there are now very steep drops to the creek due to the recent rains, especially near I- Lan Park.

Brian mentioned that a tree fell while he was on the trail. However, he was able to move a safe distance.

B. Update on Sign Replacement at Ironwoods Park Entrance

April reported that she spoke to Len Corsi, General Manager at Town Center Plaza to find out which vendor they had used to build their sign frame, only to find out that 3 of theirs had been stolen recently. They will be reordering soon and we may be able to add our sign to their order to save cost, or at least have them built at the same time.

C. Report on Impact of Flooding on August 21 and Future Plans for the Parks Facility

Chris reported that Scott Lambers report to the Governing Body at the September 5 meeting was non-specific. He has been in contact with the City Manager of KCMO regarding future discussion regarding the area on both sides of the state line. The staff will probably not be returning to the Parks Maintenance facility.

Brian stated that the crews have been finding ways to continue to get their work completed. The Parks staff has been borrowing equipment and eight vehicles from the golf course, Public Works and the Planning Department. They have rented a bobcat, which is constantly used by the department.

Brian said that the crews have all been starting their days at the Justice Center but they are beginning to report at three different locations. Scott Fanning's crew will base at the Public Works Facility, Dustin's crew will be based at the Ironwoods Maintenance building and Ryan's crew will be based at the City Park Maintenance building. It will be very tight but doable for the short term. The seasonal staff is no longer working, which is typical for this time of year.

Brian stated that they are beginning to replace small equipment but then the problem that they face is where to store the new equipment. The plan is to purchase Connex boxes like the Stage Company uses for storage for the summer production at the amphitheater. They will be used temporarily, perhaps up to 2 years. City Park will get one 40' unit, Public Works will get one 40' unit, and Ironwoods will get two 20' units.

When asked what color the containers are, Brian said that they are currently beige but since the City will purchase them, they can be painted any color we wish. He also explained that they would be strategically placed out of public view or as unobtrusive as possible.

Chris stated that while small equipment is being replaced the vehicles and larger items will be on the City Council agenda in October.

Amy asked about where a new Parks Maintenance Facility could be located. She wanted to know if a central location was necessary or if the property at 96th & Lee was under consideration.

Chris stated that the site at nearly 3 acres was too small to hold the Fire Station and the Parks facility and is too residential to be considered.

Julie noted that there are 17 property owners on the corner surrounding the current Parks facility. Some businesses may stay and others may choose to relocate. It could be years before that area is redeveloped.

II. New Business

A. 96th and Lee "Park"

Chris reported that a Task Force had been formed. Scott Lambers asked that they create an RFP for the design of the remaining space including the Old City Hall and Fire Station building locations. The number one priority is to build the new fire station while the old one remains operational. Fire Chief, Dave Williams has had a "first blush" plan created to evaluate the needs for the space of the new station including the ingress and egress for the maneuvering of the larger trucks. According to these drawings, the Old City Hall would need to move slightly to the north. At the moment, the fire station will be constructed in 2019 and occupied in 2020.

It is likely that a local company will be most interested to responding to the RFP, due to the small size of the project and available space.

Chris said that there are currently many unknowns such as: If any of the Old Fire Station will remain and how it would be used, where Old City Hall will move and if it will include an addition on the back, timeline, staging location for the building of the Fire Station, what will be included in the park area such as playground or spray ground, along with other amenities.

During the initial meeting the Task Force noted some challenges that need to be considered; where to park & display the old fire truck (for safety to the visitors it shouldn't be in an active station), keeping fire station #1 operable while construction is underway, fencing or separating the new fire station from the park area, location of utilities, screening from the neighbors, unisex restrooms or not. The Task Force also discussed naming of the new park but that will be low priority at this time.

Brian suggested that a landscape plan for the entire site be created at the time of the original plans to include all irrigation and to make sure the two plans compliment the entire space.

B. Review Staff Recommendations for 2018 Fees

Chris presented the proposed changes for 2018. Fees discussed were:

- **Tennis Court Rental.** The price range change is proposed in hope of gaining group rentals for multiple courts on multiple days, such as schools.
- **Seasonal Pool Pass.** The proposed cost increase should cover the pay increase for staff, credit card fee use charges and the repair to the main water line. Chris suggested that it is better to make incremental increases than to wait to 2020 with the opening of the new pool building.
- **Replacement Card.** The proposed reduction is due to technological improvements greatly reducing cost of card production.
- **Superpass.** Increase approved by the inter-local agreement.
- **Swim Lessons.** Reduction proposed due to duration of class from two weeks to one.
- **Caribbean Course.** The reduction for rental of the course is proposed in hopes of increasing rentals for this particular climbing tower only.

Lorrie moved to accept the changes as proposed. Steve seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Staff Reports

Brian reported:

- The wood at the amphitheater behind City Hall is being replaced due to safety issues with rotting wood.
- The pool is being repainted.
- Summer plantings are being removed and mums are going in.

April reported:

- A Governing Body Work Session will be held on September 18 to discuss two new pieces of art to be potentially placed in the city, as well as a recommendation on the purchase, and possible relocation of the art piece "Pointe Defiance".
- The Leawood Stage Company will present "The Mousetrap" the classic Agatha Christie murder mystery. The show will run Oct 12, 13, 14 - 7:30 & Oct 15 - 2:00 pm in the Oak Room at City Hall. Tickets are sold in advance online at www.leawoodstageco.org

- The Oxford Schoolhouse will host “History of Mystery” to tie in with “The Mousetrap on Saturday, September 30th at 10:00 am.
- The second annual Into the Night Festival will be held at Ironwoods Park on Friday, Oct.6th from 5:30 – 9:00. The event features crafts, games, activities throughout the Park. LAC will host the entertainment portion of the evening. The event will take place rain or shine, due to the ability to use indoor spaces in the nature center, lodge and schoolhouse.
- Natural Reflections The second Plein Air Event in Leawood Parks will run a full week, October 7-14 for painters and photographers. There will be three Quick Challenges. The Exhibition and Awards Reception will again be held at Better Homes and Gardens Realty office at Mission Farms November 5-18.

Chris reported:

- Successful events were held; Food Truck Festival, Labor Day Run, and the Doggie Dunk, which had a record number of dogs at 276.
- Demand for Pickleball is growing. There are indoor and outdoor courts nearby. If Leawood added courts, the question is where and with what funding source.
- Police & Fire will host there annual Open House tomorrow at 5:30.
- Citywide Large Item Recirculation Day is Saturday. Banners and signs are up around the City. This event now takes place twice a year; Town & Country no longer picks up things not taken.
- Vista 154 at Ironhorse is booked for all Saturdays in June 2018. There is a new event space in Overland Park, near Deer Creek. Noah’s Event Venue is a national “chain” event space.
- Taste of Leawood will be held Saturday night at Town Center Plaza.
- The annual National Recreation and Park Association Conference will be held in New Orleans on September 25-29. Chris and Kim will be attending.
- Fees changes will go to City Council on October 16th.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: October 10.

Lorrie made motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department