



ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – October 10, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.

Maple Room, Leawood Community Center, 4800 Town Center Drive

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

Board Members absent: Bob Wright

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain

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

Karen Ward-Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.

Karen called for approval of the September 12 minutes

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes

Lorrie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Sign Replacement at Ironwoods Park Entrance

April stated that the new sign frame has been ordered and the old frame has been removed. The new frame will take a few weeks to construct. The new frame will be able to accommodate two banners. As a reminder, the sign will be the same as those located on the corners of Town Center Plaza.

Chris stated that all banners placed on the new sign frame will be uniform in size.

B. Discuss Current Parks Maintenance Staffing & Equipment Situation

Brian stated that the Parks Department is going through the process of getting storage containers approved. Interact meetings will be held later this week and next week.

Brian stated that he will be submitting his application to the Planning Commission for approval. All property owners within 500 feet of property line of the location where the containers are being placed need to be notified of the application and have the chance to attend an interact meeting.

Chris stated that the Planning Commission may request landscaping or fencing around the containers

Brian stated that the Planning Commission is requesting that the containers be placed on either gravel or concrete and be anchored down. He also stated the containers might be on-site for a couple of years.

Steve inquired about the cost of each container.

Brian replied that they cost approximately \$7,000 each.

Brian reported that many large pieces of replacement equipment have been approved by the Governing Body and have been ordered. Additional skid loaders, turf utility vehicles and a few additional items will be on the next Governing Body Meeting agenda for approval.

Brian reported that some of the lawn mowers that were declared destroyed by insurance were able to be repaired for temporary use. Now, two of these have stopped working. The replacement mowers will be purchased in 2018. One large mower will be purchased this year due to an anticipated price increase in 2018.

Brian reported that staff is reorganizing spaces in the parks to accommodate the crews. One crew is based out of the maintenance building at City Park, one is based out of the maintenance building at Ironwoods Park and one is based out of the Public Works facility. It is very tight and some equipment will have to remain outside.

Brian reported that April is renting a larger storage facility to store stage platforms that are currently in the Lodge garage. This will allow items used more frequently to be stored in that area.

Chris stated that she does not have an update on the plan for a permanent facility.

C. Discuss Current Pickleball Court Use and New Request

Chris reported that she met with two residents this morning regarding a request for pickleball courts. They became aware of pickleball being played on the tennis courts while walking in City Park. The residents are now active participants. Chris explained that pickleball is increasing in popularity not only with seniors but with families as well.

Chris stated that she was willing to have a pickleball overlay painted on two of the tennis courts when the courts are resurfaced next year. She stated that one pickleball court will fit on each side of the tennis court. The tennis court net will divide the courts.

Chris reported that the group would like a designated pickleball facility, which due to a lack of space, is not an option for City Park. One potential area might be east of the land the City owns at the corner of Town Center Drive and Roe where a potential future senior center may be constructed.

Chris stated that the staff and park board agreed to take care of infrastructure before adding new items so a designated pickleball facility is not planned for the near future. She reminded the board that there are \$5 million worth of projects still on the unfunded list in the CIP.

Lorrie stated that this is a small group of people requesting this facility

Chris replied that pickleball is continuing to increase in popularity. Many neighboring cities are installing courts. She also stated that the overlay on the existing tennis courts is a good start. If a huge demand for pickleball courts develops, it can be evaluated further.

Chris stated that the pickleball participants are using the courts in the mornings when there is generally not a lot of court use by tennis players.

Chris stated that while at the NRPA conference, she spoke with a representative from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) who stated that the USTA will not sanction a tournament at any facility that has any lines on the courts other than tennis.

Julie inquired if the tennis courts currently have striping for the Junior Tennis League.

Chris replied that some of the courts are currently striped for that purpose.

Julie inquired if the tennis courts would have three different sets of lines on them

Chris stated they would but the markings for pickleball and JTL would be in lighter shades of green and the markings for the tennis courts would remain in white.

Chris stated that the painting of the pickleball courts could be completed in house to save money. It would cost the city approximately \$180 to purchase the paint and stencil as opposed to having a contractor mark the courts for \$325 per court.

Chris stated the pickleball group who is currently using the courts stores their equipment in the tennis building.

Chris stated that we could do a better job of serving the 55+ age group with more activities, when feasible.

Chris shared that the pickleball interest group would like to make a presentation to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and she suggested either November or January. She advised them to contact chair, Ward-Reimer to be placed on the agenda.

Steve inquired when the pickleball courts would be painted.

Chris replied that they wouldn't be painted until the tennis courts are resurfaced in 2018.

Chris stated that the painting of the pickleball lines is something that could be written into the contract and completed at the time of the tennis court resurfacing.

Gary inquired where the pickleball players are currently playing in Leewood

Chris replied that they are currently using the tennis courts at City Park and using tape to mark the boundary lines.

II. New Business

A. Major Projects for 2018

Chris stated that the trail renovation from Tomahawk Park to Roe Avenue is complete as well as the rebuilding of the stage at the Ironwoods Amphitheater. The Nature Center hillside drainage project has been moved to 2018 due to scheduled repair of the road in front of the Nature Center along with the drainage under the road. The parking lots at Ironwoods Park are scheduled for an overlay as well.

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

Steve inquired if the Parks Maintenance facility will be completed in 2018.

Brian stated that there are currently no plans to construct anything.

Steve inquired if the city placed the facility on land we currently own, would construction take a year.

Julie inquired if dialogue regarding the Parks Maintenance facility should happen.

Chris stated that \$100,000 for improvements to the walkway under Roe Avenue has been moved to 2019 and the renovation to the bathhouse at the Aquatic Center is scheduled for 2019. The design work should begin in the fall of 2018.

Chris stated that the replacement of the audio-visual equipment in the Oak Room and the Lodge is scheduled for 2018. We are working to get the equipment in the Lodge replaced in early 2018 prior to the HOA meeting.

Chris stated that she will be setting up another meeting with the task force assigned to the 96th & Lee Boulevard project.

Chris stated City Administrator, Scott Lambers appointed Bruce Martin to the task force. Bruce is currently the chairperson of the Historic Commission.

Bruce, on behalf of the Historic Commission, will be making recommendations regarding the location and use of old City Hall.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported:

- The new volleyball standards have been installed at City Park. These are replacements to what existed previously. The standards are adjustable to accommodate different ages and abilities.
- The pool is currently being painted. Most of the white areas have been completed, the black striping still needs to be finished.
- He is still working on his inventory of items damaged in the floods.
- The crews are still repairing sections of fencing that were damaged in the floods.

Karen inquired if Shelters A & B in City Park are on a cleaning schedule. She mentioned that birds like to roost in the beams.

Brian stated that the shelters are on a schedule and are cleaned prior to and following a rental. If the shelters are not rented, they are cleaned approximately once a week toward the end of the week. Water is not available near shelters A & B so the staff had been using the water truck to clean the shelters but it was totaled in the flood. Keeping the birds from roosting on the beams in the shelters is a challenge.

Kim reported:

- The soccer season only has three weeks left.
- The Recreation Staff is wrapping up their end of season meetings and reports.
- The Tomahawk Trail Clean Up will be on November 11, 10:00am-1:00pm. Registration is available online.

- The Holiday Lighting event will be held on Monday, November 20 at 6:00pm.

April reported:

- “The Mousetrap” opens on Thursday.

Lorrie stated that the information regarding online ticket sales needs to be improved. The ticket selling process was not explained to the public and people are not going to be happy paying a 25% upcharge. She suggested including the service charge in the price of the advertised ticket cost.

April stated that they would be incorporating the upcharge into the ticket cost for future shows.

April reported:

- The Into The Night Fall Festival was held on Friday, October 6 at Ironwoods Park. The weather cooperated and it was a well attended event.
- The Natural Reflections Plein Air event started on October 6 and is still ongoing. Artists were offered to complete quick challenges last Saturday and Sunday. Artists can work anytime during the week. Artists will be offered one additional quick challenge this Saturday. All artwork is due November 4. An artist reception will be held on November 5, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate office located in Mission Farms. All of the pieces submitted will be on display at the Better Homes & Gardens office until November 18.
- She will be starting on Arti Gras following the completion of the Natural Reflections event. Artist submissions for Arti Gras will be due the first week of December.

Lorrie inquired if Arti Gras and the artist reception will be at the Lodge.

April stated that the event will be held at the Lodge although the lighting is challenging for the artists.

C. Misc.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: November 14

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director

Parks and Recreation Department