



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.
Maple Room – Community Center

Board members in attendance: Chair Karen Ward-Reimer, Lorrie Hamilton, Steve McGurren, Doug Stevens, Amy Vlastic, and Bob Wright

Board Member absent: Gary Swanson

Council Liaison absent: Julie Cain

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

Residents attending: Arthur Berger, Bill Izard, and Dana Orr

Karen Ward-Reimer (Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the October 10, 2017 meeting minutes. Lorrie Hamilton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Presentation by Arthur Berger- Leawood Pickleball

Chair Ward-Reimer welcomed the residents to the meeting and asked if they would introduce themselves to the Board. The group came to make a presentation about pickleball and answer questions.

Mr. Berger passed out information showing diagrams of courts, facility, and equipment.

Mr. Berger thanked the Board for letting them come. He reported the history of pickleball and how it came into existence. The sport is one of the fastest growing, with over 2.5 million participates in the United States. The game is great exercise, inexpensive, but very addictive once started normally do not quit. Arthur and two others have temporary nets and a bucket of balls everyone uses. Chalk marks the lines for play. When the temperature is above 40 an average of 20 players will be at City Park, around 8:30-10:30. Currently they use the southeast corner tennis courts at City Park.

Arthur stated Leawood is the only city that does not have a designated place for pickleball. Prairie Village has outdoor courts and Overland Park just opened four at St. Andrews Golf Course. Unfortunately, there isn't bathrooms, or drinking fountains. People know where City Park is they go there for the dog park, soccer, biking, or swimming. Plenty of parking, drinking fountains, and restrooms.

The cost of converting a court is a lot less than building one. Springfield, Missouri built four new courts for \$640,000. He realizes that Leawood doesn't have that kind of money but it can be a centerpiece of advertising. Tournament play is possible when there are eight courts, drawing players from all over.

Age demographics are 70% are 60+, 24% in 40-59 group, and 6% are under 39.

Amy added professional players can be seen at Chicken N' Pickle in North Kansas City.

Mr. Berger proposed dedicating two tennis courts on the southeast corner to pickleball. The cost to insert pickleball net posts per court is about \$400. A post sleeve is \$25 but is not needed on a permanent post. The sleeve provides the ability to remove the post and to tighten up the net for a temporary play. Someone other than his group used paint to mark lines on the court. It was not his group's intention for someone to do that. The marking were not straight and conducive for play. Stencil kits to put the lines down neatly would be helpful. The total cost of supplies is approximately \$700 per court. Putting in eight courts around \$6000 is just in supplies. He is guessing on the labor of putting in holes at 3 times the cost of each court. The estimation totaling \$25,000. It would be nice to have bleachers and of course more space to put chairs between courts.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked how many courts the group is currently using.

Mr. Berger responded currently two tennis courts. The diagram he passed out shows the conversion of two tennis courts into eight pickleball courts but they do not have the nets for that many.

Amy questioned the holes being in different places. Does drilling holes in the court for nets affect the play of tennis?

Mr. Berger responded he thought a cap could be put on the holes.

Amy stated that a cap on a tennis court could affect the bounce of a tennis ball in play.

Steve asked if metal caps put over the holes works.

Bob noted that right now there is only portable nets and not needing any holes. He is confirming that Mr. Berger can share courts with tennis.

Mr. Berger commented from his perspective, the courts are underused. He understands the budget crunch. A minimum request is for Leawood to provide a stencil kit to mark the lines. He appreciates the City letting his group put up portable nets and allowing them a storage area for their supplies in the tennis building. They can continue to use portable nets.

Steve asked does anyone show up to play tennis during the time his group is there.

Mr. Berger responded he hasn't really seen tennis players in the morning. Mostly during the summer, he sees kids for camp or on Friday a lady's league. The premier fenced courts are the ones used for tennis. His group doesn't use those courts.

Amy questioned if Leawood currently has tennis tournaments. Or do high schools use the courts?

Kim responded occasionally tournaments are played here. Various schools like Barstow and De Sion rent five tennis courts during late afternoon during the week when they are in season, leaving one court available for open play. The United States Tennis Association occasionally will use them for tournaments. They will only sanction courts with just tennis lines.

Mr. Izard asked how many courts are currently in Leawood. Do other city parks have tennis courts?

Chris responded Leawood's only has six tennis courts and all are at City Park.

Mr. Berger asked what is next in the process to get things moving forward.

Chris shared she had met with another resident and his wife earlier about pickleball and the need to connect with the Park Board. She told them several years ago when the Park Board decided to redo the master plan. They made the decision to take care of existing infrastructure first, which is a significant amount.

Starting with American Disability Act issues at City Park and other locations. Second to that, the facilities needing repair like the pool bathhouse coming down and being rebuilt. Resurfacing tennis courts before going on to any other project. Part of the charge of the Council and City Administrator was to prioritize those things. The court refurbishing was moved to next year since something else desperately needed to be fixed. In addition, there is \$5.2 million worth of projects that remain unfunded in the Capital Improvement Plan.

Funding for next year was approved back in March 2017. Ratified by the Governing Body this last August. Budgetary standpoint now looking at 2019 it will be submitted in February 2018. She agrees the courts desperation need attention in regards to being resurfaced.

Currently Leawood has a favorable active summer program with kid's lessons, leagues and rentals. Kim Curran is the Superintendent of Recreation overseeing all of recreation including the operation of the tennis courts. Brian Anderson is the Superintendent of Parks and his staff is responsible for maintaining the area including the nets and standards.

Discussion needs to occur between Park Board and staff before moving favorably forward, including going forward on any new projects whether conversion or partial conversion of courts.

Bob stated he thought that applies only for significant budget items not \$6000. He doesn't see the need to wait a year and a half before putting down stripes, and maybe drill holes for nets.

Chris responded she can't answer that without looking at the budget. An unbudgeted \$6000 expense typically becomes a decision package for the next budget cycle.

Bob commented just one-step down from that would be the labor to put down stripes and the paint. Maybe do that sooner than later.

Chris added doing something like this during the court renovation would make sense.

Steve asked does the budgeted plan include striping. Does that only include tennis?

Chris said that this only included addressing tennis. Resurfacing in the fall at the end of season gives staff time to complete the project from a weather standpoint. She thinks it was pushed to 2019 but will check. Money that is budgeted two years previously, in some cases, never seems to be enough due to increasing cost over the period of time. She agrees pickleball is a great activity. It is a matter of logistics if the City had more courts, or new indoor facility. Leawood doesn't have the same facility resources as Overland Park. Johnson County does plan to have outdoor pickleball courts at Meadowbrook in the future.

Bob commented the game is providing services. Just based on volume bases, 20-30 people using the courts five days a week for pickleball seems to give more bang for the buck. He rarely sees anyone playing tennis on the courts.

Amy asked how many are playing pickleball in the morning.

Mr. Berger answered he has two email list together totals around 40 players. His email list is 80% Leawood residents.

Amy asked does this group play in tournaments. Is that a big deal for his group?

Mr. Berger reported they just show up to play. Prairie Village tried leagues at Harmon Park it didn't go over very well as it was fashioned like a tennis league. Pickleball does not operate the same way. Tennis leagues always need to have a partner.

His group prefers to play outdoors but many play both. They want to play every morning if the weather cooperates. The Carriage Club has pickleball putting a plastic floor on ice skating rink and has paddle tennis in the winter. Hilltop has eight indoor courts and it is packed. Sylvester Powell has three, Matt Ross two, and Lenexa three all in their community centers.

Doug stated from a proposal standpoint two tennis courts equal eight pickleball courts. Does converting one into four work?

Mr. Berger answered his group would take it. Pickleball is a very social game with players rotating in and out. The hot summer players need more breaks they enjoy sitting and talking waiting to play.

Mr. Izard mentioned he loves that people just show up and four go out and play. You do not need to come with a partner to play. Chicken and Pickle League is \$50 and you pay up front. They keep records and it is very competitive.

Amy added they probably have a six or eight week league.

April asked if any other facilities in Johnson County charge.

Mr. Berger answered the indoor ones charge anywhere from \$1 to \$5. Matt Ross charges \$2 requiring one is over 50 years old. You do need to be a member to go to these facilities.

Mr. Izard added that outdoor Chicken and Pickle is the only one that charges for outdoor courts.

Chris asked from staff perspective who does Mr. Berger see removing and putting in poles back and forth between pickleball and tennis play.

Mr. Berger answered is would be whomever was in charge of court maintenance.

Chris asked how would scheduling of switching courts work. Many rent tennis courts for a particular time. She is not sure how to free up staff who have other duties like mowing. Or how staff would know when to convert a court. She is not saying staff can't but it would be problematic.

Mr. Berger commented removable courts would need a fee for the service or reservation. Permanent courts would not need a fee for service.

Chris stated it would be different if the facility had eight tennis courts currently. She is concerned about making two courts permanent. Taking two from the six would take 30% of the tennis courts. That is impactful for programming our current programs.

Steve verified with Mr. Berger that they are requesting taking one court and turning it into four or preferring them to be permanent, 1st come 1st serve, free, and available anytime.

Mr. Berger answered yes, and isn't that how tennis is now. Do they reserve tennis courts?

Chris responded yes, a couple of groups like to play at a certain time. The fee is based on residency.

Kim added others rent three days a week extending a rental for a month time. The courts are dead in the hot summer days from about 1-4:00 in the afternoon.

Doug asked if one court were to become permanent for pickleball and leave another one open for tennis. Does it have a negative impact on the rental to Barstow?

Kim responded it probably would. They do ask for all six but we will only rent five. One is open for other players.

Steve asked do they pay.

Kim answered yes; they rent for practice and games. USTA matches don't use that often but when they do they pay also.

Bob added switching to convertible courts could cover demand of residents. When rented, staff switches to tennis only. It would just be an economic factor.

Kim stated the need to research open or capped holes. The effect on inbound play or possible slip hazard. She has never seen them.

Chris asked if the group was aware of any converted courts of this nature in the metro so that staff could go take a look at them.

Mr. Berger answered he isn't aware of any.

Steve commented turning one into four shouldn't have impact on Barstow.

Mr. Berger stated, if not resurfacing until 2019, let him stripe the tennis court for pickleball play. It has different color lines not green or white, in fact gray. He would like to put down professional looking lines for next summer something more respectable.

Chris asked from her perspective would it be at his group's cost. Do they have a problem doing it and then the courts being torn up the next season?

Mr. Berger stated his group is willing to put in something to get it done. The nets are now in the third year one is getting a little shabby.

Mr. IZARD asked Mr. Berger, how much are the nets, \$120?

Mr. Berger answered that nets are \$150. He gets a 10% discount being a member of United States Pickleball Association.

Chris asked if the \$186 is for the stencil and the paint.

Mr. Berger responded each kit has three3 cans of paint.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked Mr. Berger, even knowing the courts were being resurfaced in the fall he would want to mark the court for only one season.

Steve commented sounds like a good test mode for one season at a low or shared expense.

Doug agreed it is good test ground.

Steve confirmed the plan is to still using temporary nets not drilling holes.

Bob added that in this “test” the staff gets an idea of the volume usage of the courts. His point is 20 people using every morning. Stenciling will make lines better. Not getting that many complaints when using five courts on how many are using the courts. They probably will spill over and use the pickleball courts to practice tennis.

Steve commented yes, and at a low or shared expense.

Mr. Izard suggested putting pickleball in the program guide. He goes to the Huntsman World Senior games every year in St George, Utah. Pickleball is the only games that sells out.

Mr. Berger added if Leawood got marked courts it could be in the official USA Pickleball Association registry.

Chris reported the number one responsibility is to serve the residents of Leawood, although it is ok if people play who are not residents. If we advertise and start drawing a lot of people this group might not have space to play.

Bob stated how to gauge the level of interest spring and summer. He asked how we share the expense. Or is it better to provide the labor for the striping?

Steve commented this is a good question.

Chris stated someone should be able to provide the amount of time it takes to mark a court. The cost of employee or employees is already known.

Bob asked if the Board agrees to do temporary striping, could Chris provide an employee to do it.

Chris stated she would need to talk to Brian. It might take more than one person.

Steve asked would it be reasonably fair to say staff prefers putting down the temporary lines down to ensure the quality. Would Chris prefer outsourcing?

Chris responded on a temporary base, her staff might be able to do or would not have a problem of outsourcing.

Bob Wright made a motion to allow temporary striping for the spring and summer allowing the Park Board to gauge the level of participation more accurately. Then, make a determination to evaluate longer-term strategy of permanent verses convertible courts. Doing so on one tennis court making into four pickleball courts. Steve McGurren seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Amy confirmed the group will continue to use the temporary nets.

Mr. Berger said he really appreciates the Parks and Recreation Department letting them store the temporary nets at the park.

Bob added this way a court is not permanently lost. The group should have a better experience and evidence if they have more demand than tennis courts.

Doug commented the temporary trial court can be used as the 6th court or an open one when the other five are rented.

Mr. Berger reported an indoor community center court has more lines for several sports, badminton, 3 point basketball, volley ball etc. Matt Ross just resurfaced the indoor facility color-coding the lines green for pickleball. The other lines are white, blue and red.

Kim added the different striping currently used for junior tennis probably will not be put back.

Chris reported going to conference and talking to USTA. They will not sanction a tournament if any other strips besides tennis are on the court.

Mr. Berger invited everyone out Friday at 9am. During hot weather, play goes back to 7 am.

The Board thanked the group for attending.

II. New Business

A. Discuss Recommendation of Art Piece for Installation on Greenway

April shared that two different selection committees have been working over a year and have recommendations ready. Panel II has selected a site behind City Hall on the grass triangle backing up to Roe. It is not on parkland therefore doesn't need the Board's approval. She is excited about being in the approval loop and the piece is already constructed.

Panel I is working on a site along the greenway of Tomahawk Creek Parkway. Michael Stutz is the sculptor they are considering. He has visited Leawood and wanted to create something fitting for the area. He is excited about this opportunity to display his wrapped bronze sculpture. The teal color patina will be easy to maintain. Stutz did two proposals one male and one female walking on stones. The female is the one chosen. The location will border the soccer fields across the street from the southeast corner of the Justice Center. The walking girl will be stepping on stone facing the northbound traffic of Tomahawk Creek Parkway. The area doesn't flood as easily as the rest of area.

Chris added it is close to where 20 and 21 soccer fields are located.

Lorrie asked is the stone going to be natural like the one the "Bison" is mounted.

April responded yes, a natural limestone.

Lorrie asked April if able to use some stones they already have.

Chris stated the stone needs cutting specifically for the art, and supporting the density of the sculptor.

April reported the figure is 7 ½ feet tall. The stone she is walking on is between 2-3 feet.

Steve commented the picture of the piece looks awesome.

April added currently that the median has a lot of underbrush. The plan is for Parks to take out the rough stuff up to the first big tree. The clearing will provide the art more visibility from the southbound lanes.

Bob asked if the sculpture would be lit.

April responded yes, it will.

Steve inquired about the cost of the piece.

April responded the cost of the figure is \$75,000.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked how far away it would be. She wonders if a driver will be able to tell that it is a sculpture out of the corner of their eye.

Chris assured her it is different from the deer that really look real. The sculpture placement is closer to the tree line.

April reported the artist has done a walking man in Pasadena, California but not a woman.

Lorrie Hamilton moved that the board accept the recommendation of committee's Panel I of the walking woman sculpture along the Parkway. Amy Vlasic second the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chris added to April's point the City is not required to have an interact meeting. They did decide to notify the Edgewood cul-de-sac residents that about the selection of Panel I. A notice was sent for the meeting scheduled for tonight at 7:15. Both art pieces will go before the Planning Commission on November 28th.

Lorrie asked the timeframe on each piece.

April reported the Parkway piece is estimated to take 6 months to construct after approval. Stutz has agreed to allow us to name the work.

Doug asked is Panel II selection going in at the temporary art location.

April stated no, it would be behind City Hall across bridge on the wedge of grass next to Roe.

Chris stated each piece for that location is 20 feet high. The stainless steel and core ten columns was a part of an exhibit recently on Park Avenue in New York. The German sculptor Ewerdt Hilgemann is now living in Amsterdam.

April added it is currently in front of the Vanderslice Building at the Kansas City Art Institute. If anyone wants to see it, it is better to go during the day since it isn't lit.

B. Staff Reports

Kim reported the following:

- Fall Trail Clean Up was on November 11, approximately 75 participated picking up a ton of trash along the parkway and in the parks
- Holiday Lighting is Monday, November 20th at 6 pm
- Breakfast with Santa is on December 2 at the Lodge
- Nature Center open house that same day

- April will talk about the Oxford School House during her report
- Spring soccer signup opened on Monday
- Lifeguard applications start Dec 1st for the 2018 summer
- Alpine Tower annual inspection at Ironwoods Park. A representative flew in and inspected the course and was impressed good it looks. Dennis applied the total wood preservative after the inspection. One of a few structures in the country doing a yearly application.
- Pool painting is complete

April reported the following:

- Wrapping up Natural Reflections event between now and Saturday. Can see art from the Plein Air event on display at Better Homes & Gardens, Mission Farms.
- Arti Gras applications are due 1st week of December
- Prairie Holiday Traditions event as Kim mentioned is going on the same time as Breakfast with Santa. It will be at the Oxford School House. Families especially with kids will enjoy old-time music, crafts, and games. It is really a lot of fun.

Doug asked if the pieces are still for sale at Mission Farms.

Chris responded yes, really nice pieces this year. She and April were very tempted and wanting to buy everything.

April agreed reasonable price and fairly small pieces.

Chris reported the following:

- Kim is working with IT staff to get some specs for audiovisual bids for both Lodge and at City Hall. Trying to get those out before 1st of January and complete install before the Sustainability Event in February.
- Leawood Foundation Donor Recognition will be at Vista 154 this week
- Halloween morning, a donor event was held at the Dog Park. Nice plaque with the names of the big donors of the Dog Park. Former Council member Lou Rasmussen attended with his son Kurt who had given money for the play equipment.
- The Hall Family will have a plaque as well, recognizing JC and Elizabeth Hall Family for the donation of the land.
- Dog Park is still very heavily used
- Benches at Inclusive Playground are installed. Plaque and concrete to come in the spring.
- Starting to get replacement vehicles for flood.
- Spring/summer Program Guide information is due in January and will be going out in end of February or the 1st week of March. Fall and winter guide comes out the first week of August

Chris reported Brian will arrive shortly. He is giving an update to the Planning Commission about a Self-Propelled Leawood. She asked the Board if they remembered a couple of years ago The Kermis? Participates came to race and just left afterwards. This year a small committee of staff has formed to do a different type of event. The focus will be on cycling and walking/running for a healthier lifestyle plus the added benefit of transportation.

Kim will work with Jacinta Tolinos Program and Facilities Supervisor focusing on the walking. Phil Goff and Karry Rood from the Police Department along with Brian will plan the biking portion.

Chris wondered if they had notice a couple of signs on the Parkway Island showing bike trails. Self-Propelled Leawood has a 10 mile north loop and a south loop. The educational event will include a bike rodeo, and helmet fitting. The Saturday event will be from 9-1 at City Park. The tentative date is June 2nd or 9th.

The decision was made to put to bed the Labor Day Run due to dwindling numbers and it is no longer a part of the Mid America Master Race. When it started 28 years ago, there were only a few runs. Jacinta found that over the Labor Day Weekend there are locally 14 running events, which is a lot to compete with.

Brian reported the following:

- Reported his crew has planted over 3000 bulbs for spring
- Golf course, and in all of the parks there is a lot of work going on
- Working on several fact sheets for City Council agenda for purchasing equipment replacing flooded items
- Winterized drinking fountains

C. Next Scheduled Meeting Date- December 12 or January 9?

Chris asked that sometime people are busy during the holiday season.

Bob asked if there are any actionable items.

Amy suggested looking closer to the December 12 to decide if have an agenda that would need to meet in December.

Chris stated she doubts if there would be actionable items. She will double check and contact the Board.

Chair Ward-Reimer added they have not met in December in some of the years past. The holidays can get crazy. Next scheduled meeting will be determined later. It will be at Leawood City Hall in the Maple Room at 5:30.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve McGurren seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director
Parks and Recreation Department