



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – May 8th, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

Board members in attendance: Chair Karen Ward-Reimer, Lorrie Hamilton, Amy Vlastic, Steve McGurren, Gary Swanson, Bob Wright, and Kim Galbraith

Board Members absent: None

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain, Chuck Sipple

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

Chair Karen Ward- Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Chair Karen Ward- Reimer made a motion to approve the April 10th, 2018 meeting minutes.

Lorrie made a motion to approve the minutes. Amy seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Discuss Outcome of Public Meeting on 96th & Lee Future Park

Chris stated that the Public Meeting on the 96th & Lee future park had about 30 residents in attendance. Approximately six residents spoke, including nine year old Kora, regarding what they wanted and did not want for the future park. The residents stated they wanted screening and did not want excessive lights, noise, or activities happening at night.

Brian added that residents had brought up the issue of access on the east side of Lee Boulevard. There are not currently sidewalks on the east side of Lee Boulevard.

Lorrie and Julie noted that they thought approximately 40-50 people were actually in attendance at the meeting but very few spoke.

Chris noted that residents had questions about the 4 ft. bike lanes that will be added to Lee Boulevard. The bike lanes will reduce width of road. Chris also noted that a crosswalk will probably be necessary but was not sure how that would interact with the fire trucks leaving the station. Chris also noted that it is still necessary to determine the plan for the old fire station in order to move forward in engaging a consultant for the park. Chris added that Fire Chief Dave Williams was instructed to have Jeff DeGasperi, the design architect for new station, inspect the interior bays of the old station for structural soundness. He reported that the bays are structurally sound.

Steve asked if City Council had any key findings that came out of the meeting that would help them make an informed decision on retaining or removing the old fire station.

Council Liaison Sipple replied he thought there was a good list that came out of the meeting of what residents wanted and did not want, which may be helpful to give to the consultant. The current plan for the new fire station, located at the south end of the property, is to have three bays, one for working fire truck, one for historic fire truck, and one spare bay. It is his understanding that Fire Chief Williams did not plan to use it for either historic or functioning trucks.

Chris also stated that Chief Williams said the new station could be used for meeting space that can accommodate 29 people. If this were the case, there would be no need to add a meeting room to the back of old City Hall, unless the council decides otherwise.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the meeting space would be open to the public.

Chris replied it would be similar to the public meeting room in the Justice Center, which is open to the public because staff is always there to monitor it.

Steve noted that there is very little land for the park and it doesn't make sense to keep the old station if the park has to be designed around it.

Chris shared that the current footprint of the new fire station leaves 1.72 acres to complete the park, including parking. Chris noted the two bays of the old fire station is 1,200 square feet and the old City Hall is 1,120 feet (without foyer). Chris suggested moving the two buildings side by side, maybe with a courtyard in between, if the council decides to keep the original two bays.

Amy asked what the consensus was of what the citizens wanted.

Chris replied citizens mentioned they wanted green space and 9 year old Cora would like a playground where kids of all abilities could play. Chris stated playgrounds are usually built with two specific age ranges: 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds. Cora, preferred the younger age group.

Brian added several citizens who live behind the property requested privacy.

Council Liaison Cain added that she thought the best course of action was to save the two center bays of the old station, use them as a shelter, and use Historic City Hall for a restroom facility. She stated she did not know the cost of keeping the old buildings versus raising Historic City Hall and building a new shelter and restroom.

Lorrie noted that she did not think that a shelter was mentioned by any of the citizens at the meeting.

Chris responded that staff should use their professional expertise in recommending a shelter for the park. The shelter would be small, enough for two picnic tables, similar to shelters on Tomahawk Parkway and not available for rent.

Council Liaison Cain stated she would need a dollar amount to make a sound decision. Julie thought there was plenty of space once the cell tower was removed.

Chris clarified that the land the tower is on is designated for the new fire station and not the park.

Steve asked what the regulation is for how far a park must be from a property line is.

Chris replied she thinks the setback for the new station is 15 feet on the south. Parkland may be different and she is not sure about any structures.

Steve responded that the consultant should create a scaled drawing, which included the old fire station to decide on what the plan should be for the park space.

Chris replied that it would be best to decide on the plan for the old station before creating a plan that included the new fire station. If it is decided to keep the old station, it will not move.

Council Liaison Cain added that the old City Hall could be moved next to the old station, so the two building facades are right next to each other.

April added you would not need the driveways in front of the Fire Station 31 if it were not a working fire station, which would add more green space.

Steve added he did not know how big the parking area would need to be if there will be a public meeting space.

Chris added parking will be determined by the potential meeting space. One of the charges in the RFP was to maximize the space and that square footage of any public buildings drives how many parking space will be there.

Council Liaison Cain responded that it did not make sense to raise the old station and add a meeting room on to old City Hall.

Council Liaison Sipple added that if there was a meeting space in the fire station, there is no need for a park attendant because it will always be monitored. He suggests using a meeting room in the new fire station versus the old station where you would need an attendant for the meeting room.

Chris added that Leawood Parks and Recreation would not be using the old station bays as a meeting room.

Steve asked if the group was in consensus about using the new fire station for meeting space.

Council Liaison Sipple stated that the meeting space would be in old City Hall if a bathroom were added. It will remain for historic records.

Council Liaison Cain clarified that old City Hall is not ADA compliant. More information is need to move forward in planning the use of the space and nothing will be decided until next council work session.

B. Discuss CIP Meeting with Council, RE: Trail from City Hall to Tomahawk Creek

Chris informed members that the trail from City Hall to Tomahawk Creek is a priority for the City Council. Scott Lambers, City Administrator, has asked the Parks Advisory Board to review and prioritize upcoming funded and unfunded projects from the years 2020 through 2023 and see how the trail from City Hall to Tomahawk creek might be incorporated into the list of funded and unfunded projects up to 2023.

Steve asked if there was a cost estimate for the project yet.

Chris replied \$691,000 is the current estimate with contingencies.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the plan takes care of the tunnel improvements on Roe and asked if the plan includes a sidewalk.

Chris replied that it does include the tunnel improvements on Roe and that it does also include a widened trail/sidewalk, as it will have to be widened in order for it to function as a multi-use trail.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there was a particular pool of money this was coming from or if the money will be coming from the existing Parks Budget. If there is an additional \$691,000.00 in the budget should it be used for this project.

Steve asked if the money would eliminate any funded projects up until 2023.

Chris clarified that the \$691,000 would not be in addition to the current budget; it would come out of the budget beyond year 2019. Chris stated the City Administrator, requested the Parks Advisory Board review funded and unfunded projects from 2020 until 2023. With the exception of \$200,000 for City Park restrooms fields 11 and 12 and \$1.8 million for 45 acres at Ironwoods not be considered or reviewed and reprioritized. Then he requested each Parks Advisory Board member compile all funded and non-funded projects into one list based on priority. Each board member will independently rank his or her top five projects from the year 2020-2023 by priority. Chris stated this is another opportunity to look at projects from 2020- 2023 and reprioritize them to include the \$691,000 for the trail from City Hall to Tomahawk Creek.

Council Liaison Cain stated it was difficult to rank the projects because they had planned on the typical annual budget of 1 million dollars.

Amy asked if the citizens of the city felt the trail from City Hall to Tomahawk Creek was a top priority.

Chris pointed out that the Ironhorse golf course is not adequately represented to prioritize the projects they have on the unfunded list. However, Council Liaison Sipple is also on the golf committee and can discuss with golf committee chair.

Steve stated the simplest route would be to take a funded project and move it to unfunded rather than completely reprioritizing.

Council Liaison Cain stated she thought it was crucial to hear what the Parks Advisory Board's thoughts were on the matter before moving forward in reprioritizing the list for City Council. This was stated at the CIP work session in April and why it is on the agenda for discussion tonight.

Chair Ward-Reimer noted that several projects like Shelters A and B at Leawood City Park have been pushed back for many years.

Lorrie added the trail is a top priority for herself and others who live nearby but maybe not necessarily for the community at whole, especially if it effects the outcome of other projects.

Chris stated that safely crossing Roe is an issue especially with more residential and hotel developments coming in.

Council Liaison Cain pointed out that there are already existing sidewalks on Town Center Drive.

Lorrie replied the crucial aspect of the trail from City Hall to Tomahawk Creek is the underground tunnel for pedestrians.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there was a way to segment the plan as to not incur at \$691,000 in one year.

Council Liaison Sipple stated he thought it would be possible to divide the trail plan into two phases. Phase 1 would be to extend the trail to the sidewalk with a bridge. Phase 2 would be widening the trail and adding a crosswalk at Tomahawk Creek.

Steve asked about the priority of project #71029: repairing hillside drainage and rebuilding garden area at Ironwoods.

Kim C and Chris responded that the hillside runoff is a top priority because it effects the road.

April asked if the city could negotiate with developers for the corner of Park Place to provide some funding on the trail.

Chris responded that the City has already negotiated with the hotel developers to fund creek improvements and negotiating about the trail is unlikely.

Chair Ward-Reimer asked if the group would like to vote on maintaining the list of funded and unfunded projects or reprioritizing the list, or propose breaking the trail from City Hall to Tomahawk Creek into phases.

Lorrie was in favor of phasing the trail in order to keep the hillside repair at Ironwoods on the current funded list.

Council Liaison Sipple requested that the staff reviews proposed phase one and make sure it all works out financially.

Chris replied she would work with David Ley, Director of Public Works, on the proposed two phase project.

Council Liaison Cain asked if it would be better to wait for this project until the hotel is finished.

Bob noted that the trail project as a whole, as a connector to the heart of the city and making the city safer for pedestrians, is in his opinion, a higher priority than several other projects like the repair of the hillside at Ironwoods park.

Chris suggested the June meeting be at the Nature Center at Ironwoods so everyone could see the hillside status. Chris also noted that the hillside runoff is affecting the roadway causing large “bubbles” in the road.

Steve motioned to set aside \$275,000 that had already been set aside for the North Lake Restrooms at fields 20/21 or the north lake in the year 2021 and move that project in to the unfunded list. Then, take that \$275,000 and potentially repair and enhance tunnel form underneath Roe to the sidewalk at Town Center Drive.

Lorrie seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

C. Rotary Tree Planting Project – Ironwoods Park

Chris stated that phase one is complete, 20 trees have been planted around the trail at Ironwoods Park. The gift totaled \$5,000.00, and the parks staff is very grateful.

II. New Business

A. Grant Application for Healthy Kansas

Chris stated staff members April, Brock, Fire Chief Dave Williams and herself submitted a non-match grant application to KRPA (Kansas Recreation and Park Association). They are working on using the potential \$5,000 for enhanced programming for mature adults. Topics range from social, cultural, and physical wellness and sessions would include a lunch. The staff is working to do something on Thursdays in September. Topics would include but are not limited to cooking for one, safety in the home, chair exercises, speakers and health checks. Staff would partner with Johnson County Health and Environment, Johnson County Health and Aging, Leawood Police Department, and Leawood Fire Department for weekly topics. The grant money, if awarded must be used by October 1 of this year.

III. Staff Reports

Brian reported the following:

- Pool will be filled today.
- Parks maintenance is losing covered storage now that pool is open.
- Lost five trees and one trash can at Gezer during tornado.
- Starting Tomahawk Ball field repair this week. Should be done by May 21st.
- Having a hard time filling positions, especially seasonal work, because unemployment is at a low driving up the price of labor.

Chris reported the following

- Please pay attention to people breaking park rules like illegal dumping. She recently caught a person depositing four large white bags of private trash in the barrels in City Park. This was reported to the Police Department. Resurrecting the Park Ambassadors program would be a good idea. Volunteers that keep an eye out and are able to call dispatch if they see any illegal activity.

Kim reported the following:

- Spring activities are wrapping up.
- There are 544 kids are enrolled in Tee-ball and Coach Pitch with more likely to enroll.
- Swim and Dive team enrollment is open. Dive Team has 31 members, which is very high
- 105 swim passes have been sold of which 42 were online.
- Applications coming in for position vacated by Jacinta Tolinos. Hoping to start interviewing in the next week or two.
- A/V improvements are approved for Oak Room and Lodge at Ironwoods.

April reported the following:

- The Oxford Schoolhouse is busy with fieldtrips.
- Summer schedule at Ironwoods is up and full of activities and concerts for all ages.
- The summer production of *West Side Story* starts rehearsals next week.
- Leawood Stage Company successfully completed their first show at Burns & McDonnell Auditorium of *Enchanted Evening*.
- New sculptures "Dancers" has been installed just north of City Hall across the bridge.

IV. Miscellaneous

- Bridging the Gap did an excellent job cleaning up the trails along Indian Creek.
- Stride 'N Ride is Saturday, June 9th at Leawood City Park from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and includes activities for beginner to experienced bicycle and walking / running enthusiasts. There will also be food trucks, demonstrations, lots of prizes and a fun scavenger hunt.

V. Next scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Prairie Oak Nature Center

Lorrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Steve seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director