



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – June 12th, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.
Prairie Oak Nature Center- Ironwoods Park

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

Board Members absent: Gary Swanson

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain and 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 5:37 p.m.

Chair Karen Ward- Reimer made a motion to approve the May 8th, 2018 meeting minutes.

Steve made a motion to approve the minutes. Kim seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

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

Chris stated there is no consensus from City Council on the project but there has been a good amount of constructive discussion. Brian and Chris met with the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District staff to see if there might be potential funds or grants for which the project might qualify. A grant may be available through the County for a variety of dollar amounts, within approximately \$200,000-\$400,000, varying from year to year. Leawood would need to apply for the grant with the project in one complete phase rather than a two phase plan as previously discussed in the last Park Advisory Board meeting on May 8th. The County would be especially interested if the project connected trails between neighboring cities like Overland Park.

Council Liaison Sipple stated that the city council would like to see the project get started sooner rather than later.

Chris stated that the project is not likely to begin this year.

Steve asked when the county makes commitments for next year's grants.

Chris responded she didn't believe it would be soon because they are still drafting the application forms.

Council Liaison Cain asked if we have applied for this type of grant before.

Chris informed the committee that the funds previously assigned to this grant were used for municipalities to buy land, but recently the objective has been changed to helping municipalities develop and connect trails. Leawood has previously worked with this group when connecting the trail at Leawood City Park to Kansas City, MO through a T21 Grant but these are no longer available.

Brian stated that the Department of Wildlife and Parks will accept submissions for the 2019 year up until August 2018.

Chris stated that if the grant is a matching grant we cannot move forward until City Council approves matching the funds.

Council Liaison Cain stated that the council would likely approve the funding if there is a potential matching grant.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Board would make the final decision.

Chris stated yes, the Johnson County Parks and Recreation staff reports directly to the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners, which a policy is making board. They will likely not know more about the grant until it is posted on the KRPA website, which is open to all communities in Kansas.

B. Discuss Timeline of Road/Parking Lot Work – Ironwoods

Chris informed members that the project would be bid together with the 151st street expansion project and submitted to City Council for approval by the first City Council meeting in August. Work on the project would take place during weekdays in mid-August to late September.

Brian noted that the project would encompass all roads and parking lots at Ironwoods Park but not the trail system.

The committee discussed how several upcoming roadwork projects on Mission Road would integrate or effect Ironwoods Park. The group came to a consensus that the projects should not interfere with the park road resurfacing project.

C. View Hillside and Road (RE: Capital Project Priorities)

Chris informed the committee that she and Brian met with earlier today with Continental Engineering on a preliminary plan for the hillside area behind the Nature Center. This plan will include better drainage options as well as a plan on how to expand the useable space, currently containing some native plants but also unwanted vegetation, that backs up to the Nature Center. The drainage from the hillside is poor; water pools at the bottom of the hillside and occasionally comes in to the Nature Center. They are looking to put a natural material wall that is approximately 30 inches or less between the hill and the Nature Center.

Steve asked how many Leawood residents are affected by the space behind the Nature Center being unusable.

Chris responded it is a drainage and a programming issue; anyone that come to the nature center as a visitor is not able to use the outdoor space. The Nature Center staff cannot program the outdoor space as it is so small now and; the useable indoor space is small as well. They have done an excellent job at growing their programs but space is becoming more and more of an issue.

Amy stated the water will also damage the building eventually.

The group goes outside to view the hillside behind the Prairie Oak Nature Center

Lorrie asked if there needed to be recommendation for action by the Parks Advisory Board to move forward in creating a plan.

Chris replied that the next step after Continental Engineering has supplied a plan is to determine where the project fits in the capital improvement plans for the future.

Steve asked when we would need the money for the Trail behind City Hall from Roe to Tomahawk and how that might affect the hillside project. What year would the project be scheduled for. Are we budgeting for 2020 or 2021.

Chris responded the money would come out after 2020 because 2019's budget is going towards the pool house renovation.

Council Liaison Sipple asked approximately how much the project would cost.

Chris responded we have \$325,000 in the budget for the hillside repair but is unsure of the actual cost until a project plan is in place.

Steve asked where the property line ends on the hill. What will the development at the top of the hill contribute, if at all, to the drainage issue.

Brian responded that there is a ten foot wide trail at the top of the hill and more footage beyond that but he was not sure of the exact footage.

Bob stated he did not think that they should invest money in to making the area a feature but rather install a drain to divert water.

Chris responded they would still need Continental Engineering's professional expertise to devise a plan to divert the water effectively. The parks department has already installed a drain in the past and it did not divert water quickly enough.

Kim noted the water runs off to the sidewalk from snow melting in the front of the Nature Center and Lodge and turns to ice in the winter. The ice is very wide and you cannot step over it. It becomes a safety issue for anyone trying to use the buildings.

Kim G asked if Continental will supply us with different tiers of plans according to cost: high, medium, and low.

Chair Reimer asked what kind of programming could the new space supply.

Chris responded teaching kids how to grow simple vegetables or a pollinator garden are some ideas, as well as outdoor education classes. This goes with Parks and Recreation's ultimate goal of getting kids active and involved in nature.

Council Liaison Cain stated she thought fixing the hillside behind the Nature Center and dredging the lake at Ironwoods Park is a higher priority than connecting the trail from Roe to Tomahawk. Fixing the assets we have is more important than taking on new projects right now, especially since there is already a sidewalk existing from Tomahawk to Roe.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if we have already engaged Continental Engineering, if so, when will we have a plan to review.

Chris stated she thought we would have it by late August or September.

II. New Business

A. Clarification of April 10 Minutes From Council Work Session – Park Impact Fee

Chris clarified the park impact fees are for commercial and residential but not for renovations of either classification. If a developer is renovating an already existing structure, they do not need to pay the park impact fee again. The fee is only imposed on new structures or adding square footage to an existing structure.

Steve asked how much money this fee generates yearly.

Chris is not sure how much is generated annually as it depends on the commercial projects and residential new builds.

Lorrie made a motion to accept Chris's clarification of the minutes for future reference. Amy seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

B. Staff Reports

Brian reported the following:

- Maintaining trails is much easier now that new chipper truck has arrived.
- Excavating old mulch at Tomahawk Park and replacing it with new mulch.
- Constantly keeping up with new growth: mowing and trimming trees.

Chris reported the following

- Stride N' Ride was a success and the sponsor of the event Scheels was happy with the participation. Special thanks to Lorrie who assisted Kim at the information booth.

Kim reported the following:

- Summer is up and running, the busiest time of year for Recreation Department.
- Tee-Ball has 564 children enrolled.
- Two new practice fields are back in use at Tomahawk Park after renovation from flood.
- Facilities Supervisor position has been filled by Kirby Wiley. She is very familiar with Leawood since she was a Leawood resident growing up, used to work here as a seasonal and has volunteered for many Leawood events.

- Cardboard Regatta, located at Leawood Aquatic Center, on June 30th and we are still looking for teams to participate.
- July 4th Festival at Leawood City Park, fireworks and activities for the whole family, starts at 6 PM.

April reported the following:

- The Oxford Schoolhouse book club for 5- 10 year olds is running on Wednesdays.
- Two Grinnin' and Groovin' concerts have happened at Ironwoods Lodge: Funky Mama and Mr. Stinky Feet. Both concerts had excellent turnouts; approximately 375 people attended each event. Many of the attendees enjoyed the Oxford School House or the Nature Center after the concert.
- This is the third week of West Side Story rehearsals. Rehearsals are going very well.
- "Dancers" sculpture will be dedicated soon but no date set yet.

III. Next scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10th at 5:30 p.m. at the Leawood Community Center in the Maple Room

Bob made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Lorrie seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director