



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – September 11th, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall- Maple Room

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

Board Members absent: Bob Wright

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain

Council Liaison absent: 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 5:45 p.m.

Chair Karen Ward- Reimer made a motion to approve the August 14th, 2018 meeting minutes.

Steve moved the motion and Lorrie seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Tennis Court Project

Brian informed the group that the project has been set approximately a week behind schedule because of rain. The old court surface has been milled and the grid and mesh layer are in place. The next step will be to pave the court, which they must do it when the grid layer and pavement will not get wet. The pavement surface must cure for about three weeks. Continental is doing a great job with quality control on the project. The goal is to have the project completed by mid-October.

Amy asked if two of the tennis courts will be pickle ball courts.

Chris clarified that two tennis courts will be striped for pickle ball, which is the equivalent of eight pickle ball courts. There will not be retractable or removable nets.

B. Update on Ironwoods Park Projects

Brian informed the group that the staining of the Lodge at Ironwoods is in progress. A large lift has arrived and unfortunately rutted the south side lawn of the building. The second project at Ironwoods Park is the mill and overlay of the roads and ADA accessibility improvements. ADA accessibility to the Oxford Schoolhouse and the Prairie Oak Nature Center will be improved with new concrete work and sidewalk paths. Several handicap parking spots will be moved and a retaining wall will be placed around the spots to maintain

the correct ADA grade. The retaining wall addition will hopefully help fix water pooling issues as well. Cabin 1 will have the entrance ramp transition at a better grade from the road. The turning radius at the entrance of the playground parking will be fixed as well. Additionally, for pedestrian safety, there will be a curb put in near the shelter and playground area to distinguish the road and trail sections better.

Chris added that these ADA accessibility problems were not initially known when the park was built because new ADA regulations came out in 2010.

C. Next Work Session on 96th & Lee Park

Chris informed the group that the work session on 96th and Lee has been moved from October 1st to October 15th. The September 17th City Council agenda will have a discussion item regarding a contract for approximately \$12,000.00 with Jeff DeGasperi for consulting on the structural options for the old Fire Station. This will provide information to the Governing Body for the October 15th work session.

Council Liaison Cain requested that the pictures of the old Fire Station and old City Hall be sent to her digitally before the work session. She also requested scheduling a time for City Council members to walk the 96th and Lee property and tour the old buildings so that they can make a meaningful decision.

II. New Business

A. Fee Discussion

Chris stated that the 2019 fees discussion will occur at the October meeting. They will present next year's fees for discussion then recommendations will be presented at City Council. Chris passed around the department's 2018 fee schedule and the pricing policy. She reminded the board that based on our pricing policies events such as the Labor Day run should not be subsidized by the City.

Chair Karen Ward Reimer asked if they anticipated many changes for fees next year.

Kim C. responded that they did not believe so, probably only soccer and pool pass fees will be raised. Kim stated she has a chart of all the fees that have been changed over the past seven years if anyone would like to see it.

Steve asked that if he remembered correctly from last year's discussion on fees, they collectively decided to gradually raise fees every year instead of a large fee raise every several years.

Kim C. stated that fees that require a gradual increase are revised every year or two, but several fees such as court rentals are at fair market value and should not be raised every year.

Gary asked what the fee and rental revenue has been for the last several years.

Kim C. replied that the majority of our revenue through the month of August is approximately \$950,000.00 and we usually hit about one million dollars at years end.

Gary asked if the revenue has been constant. If our costs have gone up shouldn't our fee revenue go up congruently.

Kim C. responded that every year there are several areas that go up and several that go down and it usually ends up balancing around the million-dollar mark.

Chris stated that the department starts the budget with a zero base every year and the department discusses areas that need addressing. They do not allow fees to stay stagnant if costs go up substantially. There are certain programs, based on the pricing policy, which should not result in a deficit.

Kim G asked for the fee chart to be provided as a stack bar graph.

Amy asked about Ironhorse Golf course and rental fees.

Chris clarified that is the Ironhorse Golf committee's purview.

Amy asked how Vista 154 bookings have affected the Lodge at Ironwoods bookings.

Chris stated that Lodge at Ironwoods bookings are going well but Vista 154 bookings are slightly slower this year compared to last year, however there is a continued increase in golf events. There are a lot of new and popular wedding venues in downtown Kansas City, Missouri right now that are offering low prices to couples to fill dates and get the word out about their venues. They are planning to do combination marketing for both Vista 154 and The Lodge at Ironwoods to increase booking and maximize marketing budgets.

Council Liaison Cain asked if we were planning to join Instagram soon because we are losing a share of the social media market, especially the millennial market. She stated she would be happy to discuss it at the next City Council meeting to get the ball rolling for City Council approval.

Chris stated she would absolutely be in favor of joining Instagram and possibly several other social media platforms in order to gain a new audience of potential customers. Chris stated she learned of a group that specializes in social media strategy and overall marketing strategies called Sprout Communications. The County of Shawnee has used Sprout Communications and is very pleased with their marketing plan.

III. Staff Reports

Brian reported the following:

- Fall lawn and landscaping is in progress. They will be planting approximately 600 chrysanthemums, aerating lawn areas, and making sure soccer fields are in good shape.
- Large Item Recirculation Day is September 17th for all neighborhoods in Leawood.
- North Lake tested positive for microbes of Blue-Green Algae. The North Lake is now on an EPA watch list for potential Blue-Green Algae. Blue-Green Algae is harmful for humans and animals to drink, however fish are safe. We are still determining if the

Fishing Derby will still take place on the scheduled date. The EPA will not be testing any of our other lakes but we have regimens in place already for treating lakes.

- Bike station installed at I-Lan Park.

Chris reported the following

- Chris will be presenting at the Leawood Rotary breakfast tomorrow.
- New donor plaque at Gezer Park to honor major donors is underway. Installation location and date, as well as dedication date to be determined.
- Please like, share, and ask your friends to like our Facebook page.

Kim reported the following:

- A/V project almost completed at the Lodge at Ironwoods.
- Soccer was rained out last Saturday; we have 148 teams this year.
- 174 dogs at the Doggie Dunk last week, it rained on and off all night, so attendance was slightly down from last year.
- Free Hula Hoop class had a good turnout and there is interest in continuing the class in the future.
- Chinese immersion class will soon be offered for preschoolers.

April reported the following:

- Last week Bark in the Park had a smaller turnout because of the rain, but Bark! The Musical had a great turnout for its Friday and Sunday shows.
- Into the Night Fall Festival coming up on Friday, October 12th. The event has entertainers, petting zoo, train rides, arts and crafts, face painting, balloon artist, storytellers and much more, bring your whole family and enjoy the festivities
- *Mame* is coming up the first week of November and the Leawood Stage Company will be raising money from tickets sales for CASA- a children's advocacy group.

IV. Next scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9th 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