



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – October 9th, 2018 - 5:30 p.m.
Leawood City Hall- Maple Room

Board members in attendance: Chair Karen Ward-Reimer, Gary Swanson, Steve McGurren, and Bob Wright

Board Members absent: Lorrie Hamilton, Kim Galbraith, and Amy Vlasic

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 5:30pm.

Steve made a motion to approve the September 11, 2018 meeting minutes.

Gary seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Tennis Court Project

Brian informed the group that asphalt has been laid on the courts. The courts will need to cure for three weeks before they can be colored and striped. While the asphalt cures, they will be installing the perimeter fence. Thankfully, they have been able to save most of the perimeter fence for reuse since it was in good shape. The east side of the tennis courts will be excavated and sodded to allow for better drainage. There was no water damage from the past few days of heavy rain and flooding. The project is about 2/3 complete with only sodding, painting, and minor concrete restoration left to do.

Council Liaison Sipple asked when people will be able to use the courts.

Brian replied that with weather permitting, by November 1.

Council Liaison Cain asked what percentage of our courts are used for pickle ball, do we have hard data on tennis usage and pickle ball usage.

Chris responded the biggest problem is not the percentage of our tennis programs but times that pickle ball courts would be used. We only have six courts total and we have frequent tennis use and tennis lessons in the mornings. If the City wanted to build pickle ball courts, it would need to be at a location other than City Park. Unfortunately, City Park is extremely busy with soccer, especially because we have lost fields 11 and 12 to the Johnson County Waste Water project. Several other Parks and Recreation facilities like Blue Valley Hilltop Recreation Center offer inside courts, however they are not free. Pickle ball is gaining popularity and will most likely continue to do so.

Steve asked how much acreage is needed for a pickle ball court.

Chris responded she does not know off the top of her head but she has a file with pickle ball information that she can reference at the next pickle ball discussion.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if there would be a temporary solution for pickle ball that we could install in the aquatic center parking lot in the off-season.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there are any tennis programs other than our summer programs.

Kim responded that in addition to our summer programs we also have spring tennis programs. Unfortunately, pickle ball players and tennis playing are both in the morning.

Council Liaison Cain asked if there are any nets that are higher quality we might be able to provide.

Steve stated he thought that the Parks Advisory Board had previously voted to make one tennis court permanently a pickle ball court.

Chris responded that we did not move to have permanent pickle ball courts, but we moved instead to have one tennis court permanently striped for pickle ball. Since that time, we have agreed to stripe two tennis courts for a total of eight pickle ball courts. We may be able to consider providing more quality pickle ball nets. We would need a good plan on how to store and check out the nets.

Steve asked if we could possibly have one tennis court be a permanent pickle ball court.

Bob asked if we could possibly have hard data on how much our tennis courts are used.

Chris stated that we have no method of measuring this other than our programs and rentals, with some limited observation of other times.

Council Liaison Cain asked about the usage of the basketball courts, and if could they be moved and pickle ball courts put in their place.

Brian responded the basketball courts flood often, basketball courts are the most resilient feature we can have in that area that floods.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer suggested keeping pickle ball on the agenda for the next meeting to continue the discussion.

B. Update on Ironwoods Park Projects

Brian informed the group that the road improvement project at Ironwoods Park has begun. The segment from the main road to the shelter has an added curb for pedestrian safety. Unfortunately, rain has delayed the project by about two weeks and the completed date will be close to the end of the November.

C. Next Work Session on 96th & Lee Park

Chris informed the group that she will be taking City Council members on tours at different times of the 96th and Lee property on Thursday, October 11th.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the tour would include the interior of old city hall. She would like the interior to be included since it is an integral part of the conversation. She would like the City Council to be aware of a sense of scale of the property as well as what would be moved or added to the property.

Chris stated that pictures of old city hall have been provided in the information packet and the council members will probably walk the whole property to understand the space better.

Council Liaison Cain asked for an updated plan on the parking situation for the new fire station. Will park users and meeting room users be able to use parking spots at the new fire station?

Chris stated she would talk further with David Ley and Jeff DeGasperi to find an answer to the questions of parking spaces and usage.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if Chris had an idea on how much area a playground space would take and what type of playground would fit that area. His top priority for the park is a top-notch playground.

Brian expressed his opinion that to have a top-notch playground it should include both age ranges: 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds, and both playgrounds need to be separated from each other. The better the playground the more parking the park will need as it will draw more people to the park. He suggested that it not be a destination playground.

Council Liaison Cain stated the first thing she feels that needs to be taken care of is the outcome of old city hall. City Council needs more financials on all of the possible configurations of the property including the renovation or possible relocation of old city hall and the possible renovation of the old fire station. Council Liaison Cain asked who will be paying for these projects, will it come out of the Parks and Recreation budget. How much will it cost to add a bathroom to old city hall since a bathroom will be required? Council Liaison Cain requested information on how much these same facilities at I-Lan and Gezer Park cost to build so that they may compare those park's costs to get a better idea of how much this park will potentially cost.

April stated that it is her opinion that the Historic Commission would be happy with the old fire station or the old city hall staying at 96th and Lee.

Chris recommended tabling the CAPRA Accreditation item until the November meeting

New Business

D. 2019 Fee Discussion

Kim stated she has met with all Recreation Staff and the following fee recommendations are being proposed:

- **Special Events** – The top of the range is being increased from \$70 to \$125 to accommodate Vendor Fees for events such as the July 4th Celebration and the Truckin' it in the Park Food Truck Festival. The current vendor fees are \$125 for the July 4th event and \$35 for the Truckin' it in the Park Food Truck Festival. The July 4th fee includes access to the ice trailer, water and electricity where the vendors at the food truck festival are not offered any services.

- **Soccer League** – The fees for the Soccer League are being proposed to be raised by \$5.00 for, both Residents and Non-Residents. The new fees are proposed as follows; Resident - \$65, Non-Resident - \$75. This fee increase will offset the increasing cost of uniforms, pictures, awards and referees and will be implemented at the start of the 2019-2020 season which starts September, 2019. The last increase for the soccer league was in 2014.
- **Spring Soccer Tournament** – A range is being introduced for the Spring Soccer Tournament due to teams from the league being interested in participating in an end of season tournament. The range is proposed to be a range of \$185 to \$250 per team for both residents and non-residents as the majority of teams from our league have both residents and non-residents participating on the same team.
- **Screen, Projector, Blu Ray Rental for the Oak Room** – The fee for the use of A/V equipment in the Oak Room is being proposed to be raised by \$25 to \$50. With the upgrade to the A/V equipment in the Oak Room, the quality is now commiserate with the Lodge, which has a fee of \$50.

Steve made a recommendation to accept the 2019 fees as proposed.

Bob seconded the recommendation. The recommendation was approved unanimously.

II. Staff Reports

Brian reported the following:

- Ball field at Tomahawk Park did not sustain any damage in the rain and flooding this week.
- Donated paw wash station at Leawood Dog Park has been installed but it has been winterized for the season.
- City Park pond rock perimeter was damaged in a flood last year and will be fixed soon. The November 15th City Council Meeting will have the pond repair contract with McConnell and Associates on the agenda.

Kim reported the following:

- A/V project almost completed at the Lodge at Ironwoods.
- Seasonal job descriptions being reviewed and will be hiring in the late winter for 2019
- Nature Center and cabins are staying busy with birthday parties and scout events this fall.

April reported the following:

- 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. In case of inclement weather, we will move the event inside.
- *Mame* will be performed on November 1st-4th and the Leawood Stage Company will be raising money from tickets sales for CASA- a children's advocacy group.

III. Miscellaneous

Julie asked why the Gezer Park sprinklers were running all weekend when it was raining.

Brian replied that our sprinkler systems are reliant on rain cans to gauge rainfall and there have been issues with them. Gezer Park has small water volume so instead of watering the entire park quickly; we have to water it in many zones over a longer time. Unfortunately, we only have one irrigation tech and he is consistently inundated with projects. We need to invest in some better technology for rain gauges and work more proactively instead of reactively. In order to be proactive the irrigation tech needs to be made aware of other city projects so that he may schedule his time.

IV. Next scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the Leawood Community Center in the Maple Room.

Bob 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