



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.
Gezer Park- West Shelter

Board members in attendance: Chair Karen Ward-Reimer, Lorrie Hamilton, Kim Galbraith, Gary Swanson, and JoLynn Hobbs

Board members absent: Amy Vlastic and Bob Wright

Council liaisons absent: Julie Cain and Chuck Sipple

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

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

Kim Galbraith made a motion to approve the August 13, 2019 meeting minutes. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Bike Kiosk Project at City Park

Brian informed the committee that he has met with Vireo and AB Creative and they are working on designing the shade structure for the bike kiosk. Vireo has completed a construction plan so that our staff can start reviewing the site. They are still awaiting funding from the South Loop signage project. The South Loop signage project will begin once the Mission Road project is completed. Whatever funds remain from the South Loop signage project will be directed to the bike kiosk project.

Chris asked what the approximate timeline is for deciding what materials they plan to use for the design of the shade structure. She suggested using metal, and not wood because of maintenance issues. Chris asked when the parks maintenance staff will start working on hard surfaces including concrete and stonework.

Brian stated that once the shade structure has been designed and materials have been picked it will take eight weeks to arrive.

Chris stated she would like to begin working on the hard surfaces before winter begins.

B. Update on Tennis Court Renovation

Brian informed the committee that there are cracks on the surface of the newly renovated tennis courts. Several cores of asphalt were taken to determine if there was anything defective with the asphalt blend. The report indicated there was no problem with the asphalt blend. He had a meeting with the asphalt supplier and the Continental Engineering project managers and they believe there are residual cracks in the original base of the tennis courts.

Brian added that when they installed the asphalt there were periods of rain before and after and the temperature varied greatly, which might be a reason for the cracks. They have decided the fix will be to apply a fiberglass overlay product. This product will cover all cracks. As of now, the courts will be open in the fall and winter but we will start the process of applying the new product in the spring of 2020. Brian stated that it is under warranty and we will not have to pay for any of the repairs.

II. New Business

A. Discuss Proposed Photography Permit Policy and Fees

Chris stated that they have had several issues with professional photographers using the parks, especially Ironwoods for photo shoots. Not only is this against our ordinance it is often times very disruptive to organized activities and rentals in the park. After researching, she has found that most of the surrounding agencies have policies for professional/commercial photography.

Lorrie added that she has seen many photographers in Leawood parks recently. She stated she believes that because Overland Park has instated a policy and photography permit fee, many photographers now use Leawood park locations to shoot.

April asked if the Lodge at Ironwoods Park renters would have access to photograph all around Ironwoods Park during their rental time.

Kim C. responded that within reason, yes renters may photograph in the park. We do not want them to disturb activities at the Oxford School House, Amphitheatre, or Nature Center.

April asked about the busloads of high school students coming for prom or other school related pictures. She stated that they have a tendency to take up quite a few parking spaces, which is an issue on dates that another party has the Lodge at Ironwoods rented. She stated she would like our policy to address this issue as well.

Kim C. stated that it is a public park and balancing the public use of the park and renters use may be difficult.

JoLynn stated that enforcing the policy could prove difficult as well.

Lorrie stated she has an issue mainly with professional photographers that are setting up on the trail and within the parks. They are professionals that have many people coming in for portraits. They are making money within the park boundaries.

Chris stated that we will continue working on the policy and incorporating the concerns brought up today. We will bring an updated draft to the next meeting. After we have a policy in place, we will need to work with police to discuss how to enforce the policy. We will also need to work on how to go about informing the public of our new policy. City Council will have to approve the new policy to move forward. Chris stated that we are not looking to prohibit individuals or families who want to use their own cameras or phones. Just the commercial photographers.

Camille asked if we should issue permits by the day instead of permits by the hour since we do not have full time employees at the park all day to enforce hourly time limits. She also asked if we should consider an annual fee.

Kim C. responded she would not do an annual fee or have an annual fee with blackout dates such as our City events and soccer Saturdays.

JoLynn asked that instead of putting stick signs in the popular places for photographers, might we place signs at the park entrances.

Kim G. asked to clarify if this is only for photographers who make money from their professional photos.

Chris clarified that yes, this policy/permit is for commercial and professional photography use.

III. Staff Reports

Kim reported the following:

- Fall soccer started September 7th. We have over 1.600 this season (fall).
- Doggie Dunk had 237 dogs this year.
- Kim met with Great Plains SPCA on partnering for several events in 2020. They are considering cat yoga and adoption events.
- Facilities and Events Supervisor position closes this week.

April reported the following:

- August Concert Series ended last Sunday.
- “Art on Loan” Sculpture arriving October 3rd. The piece is a kinetic piece named “Sky Writing I” by artist John King
- Into The Night Fall Festival will take place at Ironwoods Park on Friday night October 4th. There will be many fun activities for kids including a petting zoo, train rides, and live performances. There will also be several hand-held food choices.
- “Fall Into Art” art show will be happening in the Oak Room of Leawood City Hall on October 18th (opening reception), 19th, and 20th (show)
- Leawood Gallery Crawl, presented by the Leawood Arts Council will take place on Friday night, September 13th at five Leawood Art Galleries.

Brian reported the following:

- Park staff has been draining the pool, winterizing the pool building.
- Fall seeding projects are beginning.
- Sodding around “Walking Woman” is complete
- Planting fall bulbs.
- Ryan Lowe doing a great job with turf care and soccer fields look great!

Chris reported the following:

- City Council will be deciding on locations for “Point Defiance” relocation in Ironwoods Park. There are currently two location options.
- Please join us this Thursday at 9:30 a.m. for the plaque dedication at Gezer Park.
- Future Park at 89th street is on hold because the developer has not yet completed his plan approved by City Council and the Planning Commission.
- April’s position is currently open to applications. April will be retiring on December 8th.

IV. Miscellaneous

Kim G. suggested that we potentially engage Bakers Man Production to utilize a 360 degree camera and drone footage to do virtual tours of our parks.

Chris stated she is vehemently against the most recent article of KRPA magazine regarding E-games. She believes it goes against the mission of getting children/teens outside and away from screens. She is planning to write a letter to the editor to express her opinion.

V. Next scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held October 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Maple Room of the Community Center.

Lorrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. JoLynn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director