



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Maple Room- Leawood Community Center**

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

Council liaisons present: Chuck Sipple and Julie Cain

Special guests present: Councilmember Debra Filla, Mac Fechtling, and Kayla Bruce

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

Chair Karen Ward- Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Kim Galbraith made a motion to approve the October 8, 2019 meeting minutes. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Update on Art Installations**

Chris informed the committee that they are very close to completing the plans for the installation of “Inspiration” and “Women of The World”. They will likely be installing “Inspiration” in April or May of 2020. The pieces will be on the planning commission agenda on November 26<sup>th</sup>. “Women of The World” will be placed in the Justice Center courtyard with a four foot high limestone base. The plan will likely be to bid both pieces at the same time, so that one construction company can complete both installations.

**B. Discuss Proposed Photography Permit Policy and Fees**

Chris informed the committee that she discussed this with the City Administrator and it has been decided to require commercial photographers to obtain permits but they will not be charged a fee. The permit will help inform the commercial photographers the limits and rules of photography in the parks including: no large furniture, no blocking or obstructing trails, no interruption of programs or rentals, and no moving existing park structures.

Kim G. asked to clarify if staff is allowed to contact police to have the photographers removed, if they violate any of the restrictions.

Chris replied yes, staff may call police if the photographers are violating any of the rules or if they do not have a permit issued for that day.

Chris added that we are working on the permit and signage to inform photographers of the new permit policy.

## II. New Business

### A. Discuss Community Garden

Councilmember Filla informed the committee that they have had a great experience with their temporary garden location at 96<sup>th</sup> and Lee Boulevard. The gardeners and task force members have learned many lessons from the temporary garden and are hopeful for the future of the community gardens in Leawood. Councilmember Filla introduced Kayla Bruce, a member of the Community Garden Task Force and asked her to speak about the success of Overland Park's community gardens.

Kayla informed the committee that the community garden task force wants to emulate the same participation and quality of the Overland Park community gardens. The Overland Park community gardens have over 60 plots that are consistently filled from year to year. Overland Park's gardens have a variety of amenities including: bug cages built by local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops, garden shed for tools and information, a giving grove orchard, and decorative landscaping around the perimeter.

Council Liaison Cain asked where Overland Park's community gardens funding comes from.

Kayla responded that they received grant money, residents put their own money in, and they rely on donations.

Council Liaison Sipple asked how many Leawood citizens have used the garden at 96<sup>th</sup> and Lee in the last four years.

Kayla responded she believed it was 24 people.

Councilmember Filla added that they have not been able to promote the gardens effectively because of the uncertainty of the future of 96<sup>th</sup> and Lee fire station project. Councilmember Filla added that she would like the funding for the garden to come from a separate source other than the annual Parks and Recreation Department's operating budget.

JoLynn asked if the community garden task force would like to have multiple locations of community gardens, so that it may be easier to access for residents all across Leawood.

Councilmember Filla replied yes, eventually the task force would like to have northern, central, and southern community gardens. She added that she believes the mission of community gardening is essential to a sustainable future for Leawood.

Council Liaison Cain stated her understanding from the presentation at the City Council meeting on November 5, was that the money for the community gardens plan would be coming out of the Parks and Recreation Department's annual budget. She felt the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should have a say in the location and funding of the community gardens, if they will be contributing funds for the project.

Kim G. added that the task force should explore sustainability grants and private donations.

Chris asked to clarify the questions being asked of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Councilmember Filla replied that the number one goal is to find a permanent location for the community gardens. They are proposing a small portion of land just north of 143<sup>rd</sup> street, and would like input on that location from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Chris stated there is a potential new location for the community gardens, which was suggested by another councilmember at the last meeting: Ironwoods Park. She added that the area available for use is just east of the maintenance building in Ironwoods Park. The building has water and restrooms, which could be used by the community, garden users. We will need to add ADA parking spots as well as grade the land itself. Chris stated she will look into the cost of using this land as community gardens.

Lorrie made a motion to recommend pursuing the Ironwoods Park land for the community garden and for the Community Garden Task Force to pursue private funding from grants and private donations or partnerships. Kim G. seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Council Liaison Sipple suggested that the community garden task force be removed as a subcommittee of the Sustainability Advisory Board and become a subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer stated that we will add Council Liaison Sipple's recommendation to the next meeting's agenda.

#### **B. Discuss RFQ's for Parks Maintenance and Pool House Design**

Chris stated that she has almost completed the RFQ for the pool house design, bid, build project. Chris added that she is expecting the RFQ document for the Parks Maintenance building from Brian Anderson very soon. The company selected for the projects must have experience in pool building and maintenance facility design and building.

Council Liaison Cain asked who will be reviewing the RFQ submissions

Chris responded that staff will reviewing the RFQ submissions.

### **III. Staff Reports**

Kim reported the following:

- Spring Soccer registration is open for Leawood residents.
- Breakfast with Santa will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Lodge at Ironwoods. We will feature one live reindeer this year!
- Working on seasonal hiring procedures.
- Working on switching lighting at Lodge to LED.
- Holiday Lighting will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup> in the courtyard at City Hall at 6:00pm.

April reported the following:

- “Nun crackers” will take place at the Lodge at Ironwoods on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> 2019.
- Holiday Traditions on the Prairie on December 7, at the Oxford Schoolhouse in Conjunction with Breakfast with Santa at the Lodge at Ironwoods.
- “Cracked” a reimagined Nutcracker by Vida Dance Company will take place at the Lodge at Ironwoods on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Brian reported the following:

- Working on trail design behind City Hall that will run under Roe Boulevard.
- City Park pond reconstruction has begun will likely be completed at the end of April.
- Working with developer at Village of Leawood in regards to the land, they will be donating to the City for parkland. There are still some issues with the landscaping not matching the plans they submitted to the City planning department.

Chris reported the following:

- April’s last day is December 22<sup>nd</sup> and we will be having a reception, date to be determined.
- Holly York will be the new Cultural Arts Supervisor; her first day will be November 25<sup>th</sup>.

**IV. Miscellaneous**

Chris reminded the group to RSVP for the Kansas City Metro Area Parks and Recreation Directors Association Commissions and Boards Appreciation Banquet.

**V. Next scheduled Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be held December 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Maple Room of the Community Center.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director