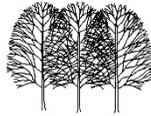


LEAWOOD



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts

ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2020 - 5:30 p.m.

Maple Room- Leawood Community Center

Board members in attendance: Chair, Karen Ward-Reimer, Amy Vlastic, Kim Galbraith, and JoLynn Hobbs.

Board members in absent: Bob Wright, Gary Swanson

Council liaisons present: Chuck Sipple

Council liaisons absent: Julie Cain

Staff members present: Holly York, Chris Claxton, Kim Curran, Brian Anderson, and Camille Sumrall

Guests present: Jean Wise, Mary Tearney, Dennis Smith, and Brian Adams.

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

Amy Vlastic made a motion to approve the December 10th, 2019 meeting minutes. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on North/South Loop Bike Kiosk at City Park

Brian informed the committee that the bike kiosk at City Park is progressing. They are still working on grading the area to be ADA compliant however; it is taking longer than expected because they are running into quite a few utilities. The shelter materials and furniture have been priced out and they will cost approximately \$50,000.00. Brian will keep us posted on any major updates.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if it was still possible to add a water fountain to the kiosk. He also asked if it was possible to have a tall bike related sculpture or sign to indicate that the area is a bike station.

JoLynn asked if there will still be a compass design on the ground.

Brian responded yes, there will be a compass like design on the ground of the kiosk.

B. Update on New Restroom to be Constructed at North Lake

Brian informed the committee that Green Flush Technologies will be the company building the restroom that will be installed at the North Lake. The restroom will take

about 7-8 months to manufacture. He will keep us posted on any manufacturing or construction updates as they come in.

C. Update on Installation of Fence at Property Line – Ironwoods Park

Brian informed the committee that they had an issue with property owners whose property backs up to Ironwoods Park. The citizens removed several trees from park land and was fined for doing so. They have placed a new fence along the park property line to mitigate any future issue. The fence being installed by the same developer on the west side will match this. They have also cleared brush along several private fences surrounding the park.

D. Discuss Purchase of New Agility Equipment at Leawood Dog Park

Brian informed the committee that they will be purchasing new agility course pieces with the generous funds contributed from donors to the Leawood Foundation, who are providing matching funds. Several of the old pieces that were badly damaged have been removed. They are hoping to install the new pieces this year.

E. Discuss Potential Names for New Parkland (89th and Sagamore)

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer suggested that the committee members email Camille with name suggestions for the new parkland. We can then send out the names with the agenda and minutes for the February meeting. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board can then vote on the suggested names at the February meeting.

II. New Business

A. Citizens Request to Discuss Potential for Future Recreation Center

Several members of the community asked to speak to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board about the potential for a future Recreation Center in Leawood. The visiting member's names are: Jean Wise, Mary Tearney, Dennis Smith, and Brian Adams.

Jean Wise stated that she believed there is a lot of interest in the community for a real community center. She and other citizens would like to start a large citizen group to support the issue of creating a Leawood Community Center. Jean added that she was aware that the city conducted a needs assessment study in 2008 to establish the need for a community center. She added that she believed the 2008 study may have been skewed because it focused more on the fitness aspect of a community center and disregarded the community and social aspects, which are also important. She stated she would like to conduct another needs assessment study since it has been almost twelve years since the last one. Jean gave a brief history of her time as a council member (and later Mayor) as it related to her involvement in the City of Leawood's funding and building of City Park.

Mary Tearney stated that she believed that demographics in Leawood have changed since the 2008 needs assessment study. She believed that a variety of demographics would be interested in a community center, particularly in our Midwestern climate.

Residents need indoor space to walk and swim for exercise in the winter months. Mary added that she believes the Mayor has added the discussion of the possibility of a community center to the agenda for the April 6th City Council Meeting. Mary stated that the citizen group will present at the meeting. She suggested the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board communicate any thoughts on the new recreation center to them prior to the council meeting.

Chris stated that she will check with the Mayor to see if this is accurate information.

Council Liaison Sipple stated he would like a ballpark idea of the cost of the community center.

Jean stated that she spoke with the City of Lenexa and their new community center cost approximately 32 million. She added that we would likely not build as big of a community center as Lenexa. She added that having the support of a large amount of citizens is very important in this process.

Mary added that she has had quite a few residents speak to her about the issue of a community center. There are several Leawood groups such as the Leawood Stage Company and The Leawood Welcomers' that are frequently looking for meeting space and a community center would be a great place for them. There are also several bridge groups that used to eat breakfast and meet at the old Hy-Vee who now have no place to gather.

JoLynn asked about potential locations for the proposed community center.

Jean stated that the city owns a large lot just south of the Leawood Justice Center. This would be a safe location as it shares a parking lot with the Justice Center.

Chris added that we also own a portion of land at the northeast corner of Town Center Drive and Roe Boulevard, although the terrain is not flat.

Dennis Smith asked for a copy of the 2008 needs assessment study. He would like to see what it contained.

Brian Adams stated this his company have built several community center facilities around the metro area including one in Platte County.

Chris added that she can provide copies of the 2008 needs assessment to anyone who would like to review it. She also added that she has data from local cities that have built community centers as well.

Chris added that she would like to do a cost analysis along with a new needs assessment study. She added that our last bond issue that went to a public vote was in 1998. If this project were to be supported by the Governing Body, it would have to go to the vote of the people.

Amy asked if this facility would be membership based.

Chris stated yes, it would be and staff would need to explore membership costs when looking at the project overall.

Kim G. added that when she visits Blue Valley's community center it is full of every age range of member. She added that Blue Valley has debated on whether membership should encompass all classes or if classes should be an additional charge on top of membership. She added that Blue Valley rolled out construction of several of their locations in phases to make it more palatable for taxpayers.

Chris thanked the citizens for coming and expressing their thoughts.

Council Liaison Sipple suggested that the group obtain at least 200 signatures to support a feasibility study. The group can then bring the signatures to City Council.

JoLynn added that she believed the community should be located in Mid-City.

Mary added that staff members and Park and Recreation Board members should send their thoughts on the potential community center to Chris and she will forward them to her.

III. Staff Reports

Kim reported the following:

- Daddy-Daughter Date Night is on February 1st at the Lodge at Ironwoods.
- Soccer registration deadline is 2 weeks away - 650 registered to date.
- Staff is compiling and submitting information for the spring/summer program guide.
- Lodge has its very first two-day rental package booked for December 2020.
- Conducting interviews for a new Aquatics & Events Supervisor.
- Modifying Food Truck Festival to have food trucks combined with a Touch a Truck event on September 18th.
- Flashback will be the band for July 4th Celebration. We have used them before and they are very popular
- We are currently hiring seasonal employees.

Holly reported the following:

- Submitted information for program guide.
- "Civil War" musical will start rehearsals in mid-February. A military history lecture will likely be happening in conjunction with the show. More information to follow soon.
- Offering new art camps this summer. More info will be available in the spring/summer guide.

Brian reported the following:

- Removing bush honeysuckle and debris from Leawoof Dog Park perimeters. Will re-seed areas surrounding the dog park with native seed.
- Mid America Regional Council cities will likely adopt the same style of wayfinding signs on the trails.

IV. Miscellaneous

A. Mayors State of The City

Chris reminded the board members that the Mayor's State of The City is coming up on Thursday, January 30 at Vista 154 at Ironhorse Golf Club. The event begins at 11:30 am.

B. CIP

Chris informed the committee that several projects have been moved around to fit into the budget. She will send out the revised CIP list to the board members before the next meeting.

V. Next scheduled Meeting Date

The next meeting will be held February 18th at 5:30 p.m. in the Maple Room of the Community Center.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director