



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2021 - 5:30 p.m.

To reduce the likelihood of the spread of COVID-19 and to comply with social distancing recommendations, this meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was conducted remotely using the Zoom media format. The meeting was livestreamed on [YouTube] and the public could access the livestream by going to www.leawood.org/.

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

Board members absent: Bob Wright.

Council liaisons present: Chuck Sipple and Julie Cain.

Staff members present: Holly York, 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 minutes from November 14, 2020 meeting. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Pool Project Design and Cost Estimate

Chris stated that they have received the construction estimate for the pool building from SFS architecture for a total of \$3.6 million dollars. The current budget for the project is 1.6 million dollars, and the project has been in the City's CIP for 5 years. Chris added that there is a degree in difficulty in working around the current pump and filter rooms as well as the relocation of the exterior restrooms. Staff is asking the bike hub project next to the pool to be combined with this project to optimize construction efficiency. Chris stated that Scott Lambers has suggested that the additional amount of \$3 million be bonded with the city putting \$1 million in cash towards the project. The total amount, including bonded debt would be \$4 million. Chris stated she hopes to gain the City Council's support for the projects at the January 19th City Council meeting.

Amy asked if the price and limited availability of lumber due to Covid-19 delays has added to the increase in estimated costs.

Chris added that SFS architecture used a professional estimator and she will ask for clarification specific to this.

Council Liaison Cain asked if council will be asked to approve the total amount of \$4 million dollars on the Tuesday, January 19 City Council meeting.

Chris responded yes.

Council Liaison Cain asked if bonding the funds will delay the project.

Council Liaison Sipple asked for more information on the specifics of the project before voting. He requested specific such as cost recovery, demolition costs, construction costs, timeline and the costs of other comparable projects. He stated he did not feel comfortable voting without the additional information.

Chris replied that the comparable project information they have obtained is on the City of Fairway pool building, which was built in 2015. She added that she will send the additional information requested. However; it will not include a cost recovery formula as it is not typical, especially since there is already some subsidy to the operations of the pool.

Brian added that the new pool building will increase service and functionality with more family changing rooms, more efficient admission area, and safer concession area.

Kim G. suggested that city staff may want to see if the estimator used current or forward pricing. Current pricing would include inflation costs due to Covid-19 shortages.

Julie added that she would like more information on the project to be sent before the City Council meeting so she can make an informed decision.

B. Update on Installation of Art Pieces

Holly stated that both *Inspiration* and *Women of The World* have been installed. They have received great feedback on both pieces and are looking forward to finishing landscaping and scheduling art dedication events in the spring.

C. Update on Design of New Parks Maintenance Facility

Brian stated the project is slated to the planning commission at the last meeting in March. Brian added that he will likely have plans and building material samples to share in February or March. Staff will have ample meetings to discuss and provide feedback for the building plans in order to optimize the building's efficiency.

D. Update on Trail Renovation (City Park to College Pedestrian Bridge)

Brian informed the committee that the project is finished and it looks great. City staff has added a center stripe to the trail to help cyclist and walkers hare the trail. They have also added and replaced several sections of split rail fence along the trail and added new sod to the side of the trail.

II. New Business

A. Pond Renovation at Ironwoods Park

Chris stated that they have inspected the pond at Ironwoods and determined that in addition to the dredging at an estimated \$175,000 it would be best to include the work to the switchback including the addition of a bridge to eliminate the last low-water crossing in the park system. In fiscal year 2023 there is a budget of \$400,000

to fix the switchback. Chris stated that staff is recommending doing both projects at once to optimize the effect of both. If they dredge the pond first, it will most likely silt back faster without fixing the switchback. In order to fix the switchback, they will fill in the weirs which will allow the creek to flow independently of the pond which will greatly reduce silting. They will also clean out the creek so it will flow to the east as intended. She added that City Administrator Scott Lambers has suggested bonding the funds for both projects at a total of \$500,000.

B. Staff Reports

Holly

- Puzzle Palooza was well received and sold out with 20 teams.
- Working with Plaid Collaborative on Public Art Masterplan. Currently also working on landscape plans for several art pieces.
- RFP for art pieces for the new aquatic center has been sent out.
- Banner re-prints are taking longer than expected due to Covid-19. They should be in by the end of January.
- Working on spring and summer programming including children's concerts, art camps and special events.

Kim

- "Sidewalk Santa" went great with 180 children participating. Parents were very appreciative and the kids loved meeting and greeting Santa and Mrs. Claus. The recreation staff sent all participants letters from Santa the following week.
- Looking into alternatives to the traditional Eggstravaganza to accommodate better social distancing
- Working on programming for spring and summer including camps, classes, special events and the pool.
- Working on hiring summer aquatic and seasonal positions.

Camille

- Working on our first Digital Camp Guide which will be released on January 19th.
- Working on our Program Guide mailing which will be in home late February/ early March.
- Working on social media content for spring and summer.
- Placing ads in local digital and print publications for summer camps.

Brian

- New dog park playground equipment donated by the Leawood Foundation has been installed. They will also be looking into fixing the drainage issues at the dog park.
- Working with Leawood Foundation on the new trail restroom. The Leawood Foundation is still working on raising funds.
- Ordered tree tags for the Rotary Grove at Ironwoods Park.
- Working on grant proposal trail behind City Hall crossing Roe. They will likely accept presentations in February.

III. Miscellaneous

Council Liaison Cain suggested adding a dog park to Ironwoods Park. She added that there are more dogs in Leawood than there are children. She stated she believed an additional dog park would be beneficial to many Leawood residents.

Council Liaison Sipple stated that he would like to work with city staff and the Heartland Tree Alliance on planting trees in the surrounding area. He stated that he was approached by the Heartland Tree Alliance who stated they have some teenagers who would like to fundraise to plant trees in the area. He suggested the Tree Committee of Sustainability Advisory Board may issue a grant to the Heartland Tree Alliance.

The next meeting will be held February 9th, via Zoom format.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director