



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2020 - 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, Greg Williams, Gary Swanson, Bob Wright, JoLynn Hobbs, and Amy Vlasic.

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.

Bob Wright made a motion to approve the minutes from July 14th, 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 2020 Pool Season

Kim stated that the pool season went very well. There were about 15,600 visitors throughout the season. In recent, normal years it is about 50,000 visitors. Revenue was down considerably for a total of \$65,000.

JoLynn Hobbs asked what revenue is like in a typical year.

Kim responded that it is typically around \$340,000. That figure includes swim team, swim lessons, season passes and daily visits.

B. Update on Footings for Art Pieces

Chris stated that the bid went out for the footings, and they received a good price from Mega KC. There will be a pre-construction meeting on Thursday, September 17th. They will begin work the following week and the work should be completed in three weeks. She added they are awaiting the return of “Women of The World”, which should be arriving in the next week or so.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if they company who constructs the footings will be installing the pieces on to the footings.

Brian responded that Cox Air will be assisting in the setting of the pieces.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the pieces will be in before Thanksgiving

Brian responded that he believed they would be in before Thanksgiving.

C. Update on Trail Design from City Hall to Parkway

Brian stated that per the request at the last Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, he has been working to find security cameras for the tunnel under Roe. He is working with the City's IT Director to find cameras that integrate in to our system. Brian stated he submitted a federal recreational trails grant for the trail extension.

Council Liaison Sipple asked how much money is at stake in the grant application.

Brian replied that it is a reimbursement grant for up to 80% of the total cost of the project. Brian stated he put the full amount of the project, \$800,000, however; he believes that they will likely receive less than 80% of the total. Brian added that he informed the grant facilitator that we would be grateful for any amount.

Council Liaison Cain asked when we will find out if we received any funds.

Brian replied that we will be notified in February 2021.

D. Update on Design of Pool House Replacement

Brian stated that Leawood staff and SFS Architecture have had several meetings regarding the pool house design. SFS has presented several material panels and an estimate of the floor plan. The preliminary design would incorporate three smaller buildings with two connected by a breezeway. This design would incorporate natural light and feel open. One of the buildings would have an external public restroom that would be great for trail users, park users, and bike loop users.

Chris added that the design includes additional rooms that can be used for swim team meets, party rooms for birthdays, recreational classes, or general use like HOA meetings. The room would have an external lock with a code, so staff would not be needed in order for patrons to use it.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the new building will have any impact on the amount of parking available.

Chris responded that it will not affect parking.

JoLynn added that she liked the idea of multi-use rooms and exterior restroom access. JoLynn asked what the timeline is for the project to be completed.

Chris responded that they would like to have the building completed by the end of the 2021 season. They would like to have the construction bid out in Mid-April of 2021. Chris added that they are looking into including some kind of glass artwork into the building. They will include the Art in Public Place Committee on selecting the artwork.

E. Update on Design of New Parks Maintenance Facility

Brian stated that the architecture agreement with PGAV was approved at the last city council meeting. They have two kick-off meetings scheduled next week with the architects and members of the parks maintenance staff. The architects will be

interviewing members of the Parks Maintenance crews and the Public Works employees for input on the design process.

F. Discuss on Park at 89th and Sagamore

Chris stated the City Administrator expressed concerns about using the name “Old Leawood Crossing” as it further divides the city into north and south. City Council decided to change the name to “Leawood Crossing” from “Old Leawood Crossing”.

Brian stated that they have cleared quite a bit of brush from the area. After they cleaned the brush, it created a clear space down to the creek. They have added “No Trespassing” signs to property lines of the homeowners. Brian added that they have received positive comments from the area homeowners.

Chris stated they will be adding some donated concrete benches to the area for people to sit and enjoy the peaceful and quiet area. Chris added she would eventually like to pursue the possibility of an easement to continue the trail to Lee Boulevard. More people would likely use the trail/park who at this point may not know it is there.

JoLynn asked if a patron can donate or purchase a bench.

Chris stated that someone can memorialize one of the concrete benches for a separate fee. Chris added she will send photos of the benches to the Advisory Board.

II. New Business

A. Discuss Options for Possible MLK Walk Trail

Chris stated that the Mayor was approached by a Leawood resident who is involved with the NAACP who would like to see the city do something to honor Dr. Martin Luther King. Chris added that she was speaking with the Public Works Director, David Ley who shared a MLK walk in San Diego, which might be appropriate along the trail behind City Hall.

Chris stated perhaps we could create something similar that might include lighted plaques along the trail with quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King’s various speeches. Chris added that she is open to ideas from the Parks Advisory Board Committee Members for the MLK memorial. Chris added that she will be reaching out to Plaid Collaborative, who is may be working with the City soon on a Public Art Masterplan. They may have some interesting concepts.

Kim Galbraith suggested incorporating the bridge on the trail behind City Hall because Dr. King was known for building bridges and it would be great symbolism.

Brian added that the trail would need to be ADA compliant if we add a feature that people will need to get to.

B. Discuss Trail Replacement – College Blvd. to City Park

Brian stated that he is still gathering proposals for the trail replacement. The project would include milling the asphalt and then pouring a larger concrete trail over it.

Council Liaison Sipple asked about the progress of installing a solar powered light under the underpass at College Boulevard.

Brian responded that he will look into procuring a light for the area.

C. Discuss Trail Realignment – TC Trail

Brian stated that they have about 40 yards of erosion near the creek. The trail will need to be moved for safety. They are under contract with George Butler and Associates (GBA) to develop the plan to move the trail. When the move is complete, the trail will now be 6 inch concrete, which will be more resistant to tree roots.

D. Staff Reports

Holly

- We are partnering with the Kansas City Symphony and Kansas City Chamber Orchestra for several free, outdoor concerts at various Leawood locations. Concert dates are September 20th, 30th and October 7th.
- “Into The Night” fall festival will take place on October 9th at Ironwoods Park from 5:30-8:30 pm. Advance registration required with a limit of 400.
- Hoping to work with Plaid Collaborative design team on creating a Public Art Master Plan.

Kim

- Soccer was supposed to begin this weekend but was rained out. There are 1,300 enrolled for this season. Typically there are about 1,600 participants.
- Breakfast with Santa is now “Sidewalk Santa” where kids can write a letter to Santa and greet Santa and Mrs. Claus from their cars here at City Hall. Staff will be responding to letters from Santa. Participants will receive a goodie bag with crafts and a sweet treat.
- Ironwoods Amphitheatre rentals have been steady because it is beautiful, outdoors, and affordable.
- Working on virtual programming including paid virtual yoga and virtual kid’s classes including coding and chess club.

Camille

- New and improved email newsletter will be going out on September 18th.
- Designing banners for city events.
- Working on implementing email marketing for our fall events.
- Working on social media, especially contests to boost engagement.
- Working on a new Camp guide to be released in January.

Brian

- New dog park playground equipment donated by the Leawood Foundation will be arriving soon.
- Tennis and Pickle ball courts have been repaired and repainted.
- Oxford Schoolhouse front porch has been refinished.
- Planting trees in the Leawood Rotary Grove at Ironwoods Park.

III. Miscellaneous

The next meeting will be held October 13, via Zoom format.

Kim Galbraith made a motion adjourn the meeting. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director

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