



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – March 11, 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/](http://www.leawood.org/).*

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

Board members absent: Bob Wright and Gary Swanson.

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 January 14, 2021 meeting. Greg Williams 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 met with the architects and have received material samples for the interior spaces and restrooms. Chris stated they are looking at keeping the multipurpose rooms very neutral to allow guest to use their own colored decorations without clashing. She added that the restrooms will be very colorful and possible incorporate a mural aspect. The restrooms will include a color palette of turquoise, orange, navy, and white. Chris stated they will have a 3-D model by next week that she will share with the board at the April meeting. Chris added that the project has been approved to be bonded by the City Council.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer stated she was a fan of the colorful palette being used, and added it is very fitting for a pool building.

Chris stated that she has discussed with staff and would like to end the pool season slightly earlier than previous years. This will allow the pool building project to be completed in time for the next pool season. She added that the end of the season not only has limited hours but typically less patrons attending. The last day the pool would be open would be August 15, which would give the contractor three more weeks to complete the project. The Doggie Dunk will be held on Monday, August 16 and the pool will be drained the following day.

Amy Vlasic asked if the cost of a pool pass would be reduced

Chris responded no, the high usage season of the pool is from June until late July and the limited number of hours we are usually open in August would not greatly affect the value of the pool pass. She added that she believed patrons would prefer an early close to the season versus a delayed opening next season

Council Liaison Cain stated that she would like for season pass members to be made aware as soon as possible.

Chris responded that season passes have not yet been sold and staff will let patrons know we will be offering a reduced season before they purchase a pass. She added staff will also let the patron's know the reasoning for ending the season several days early.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer states she spoke with several families in her neighborhood and they agreed with closing the season early versus a delayed opening next year.

Kim added that the difference in closing early would only be about 6 days and attendance is typically very light as school has resumed.

Amy Vlasic made a motion to end the 2021 pool season on August 15, 2021 in order to start construction on the new pool house facility, Greg Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Update on Design of New Parks Maintenance Facility**

Brian stated that the architects will be presenting their plan for preliminary and final approval to the Planning department on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Planning staff will then make comments and send back to the architects before the Planning Commission meeting presentation on April 27. Brian stated that there have been some issues of finding exterior materials within their budget that meet city requirements.

Council Liaison Sipple asked how many truck bays the building will have.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer asked what the timeline is for construction of the building.

Brian responded construction is scheduled to begin in September of this year.

Council Liaison Cain asked if the building will be environmentally friendly and sustainable in any way.

Brian replied that they are exploring using solar panels. He stated that the solar panels would be an 18 year payback on energy consumption. Brian added that he has also asked if there is a solar option that would charge a power bank which would require a smaller generator for the building. He stated that the panels would need to be hidden based on Leawood design ordinances. Brian stated the panels may put the project over the budget but if it is a council goal to be more sustainable, it may be a good investment.

Council Liaison Cain stated she thought there would be a good reception from the council because the city should stand as an example of sustainability.

## **C. Update on Trail Project- City Hall to Tomahawk Creek Trail**

Brian stated he presented the department's proposal to the state of Kansas in late February via ZOOM. The design for the project is completed.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer asked when the state would make a decision.

Brian stated he believed they would notify recipients in March.

#### **D. Update on Pond Renovation- Ironwoods Park**

Brian stated the project will now be bonded. The project will remove a low water pedestrian crossing and replace it with a bridge. The pond will also be dredged to its original depth or potentially deeper. They will also be doing some work to the creek to have better flow. The project will be designed this spring and summer, bid in the fall, then work will begin in the winter. Brian added that unfortunately the pond cannot be enlarged due to a sanitary main line. The project cost is estimated to be \$400-\$500,000.

### **II. New Business**

#### **A. RFP Masterplan**

Chris stated that the RFP for the masterplan would include a strategic plan and a parks master plan. The plan would help the department plan for the future and identify areas that need improvement along with a proposed strategy for implementation. These plans would also help develop a timeline and priority list for CIP projects. The new masterplan will be a more comprehensive masterplan than the previous masterplan that was conducted several years ago, which only included an inventory of current facility assets and ADA improvements.

Kim Galbraith asked about the status of an activity center. She asked if that would be included in the masterplan.

Chris responded that yes, it will be part of the masterplan and discussion and this project is still on the unfunded list at \$40 million. Chris asked for any suggestions for the RFP be emailed to her before the next meeting.

Council Liaison Cain commented that one item she would like to see explored during the process is the addition of another off-leash dog park in Ironwoods Park.

Chris stated that she will make note of this to make sure it is included in the discussion.

#### **B. Annual Park Impact Fee Review**

Chris stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is required by ordinance to review the park impact fee annually. The current fee is \$.15 cents per square foot.

Kim Galbraith moved to keep the annual park impact fee at \$.15 cents for 2021. Amy Vlastic seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **C. Staff Reports**

Holly

- Working with Plaid Collaborative design team on finishing the Public Art Master Plan.
- Public Art Trivia will be posted on Facebook every Wednesday for 7 weeks.
- Meeting with Artist Selection Panel on artwork for the new pool building.
- RFP out for the new historic book project. This book will encompass the time period from 1997 up to the present.
- “Women of The World” art dedication will take place at the Justice Center courtyard on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.
- New programs including “Cinema in the City” will take place on June 1 and July 30 featuring, *The Little Rascals* and *Babe*.

Kim

- Spring soccer has over 1,600 kids enrolled, with the season starting March 27.
- Staff conducting Zoom interviews for seasonal employees.
- New programming including an Intro to Disc Golf class, E-sports League, and Shark Week festivities at the pool.
- Working with the Johnson County Library on a walk and read program to take place at Gezer Park at the end of June.

Camille

- Developing social media plans and social media contests to keep users engaged virtually.
- Working on new brochure with Outdoor Education Supervisor, Scott Gamerl and Cultural Arts Supervisor, Holly York that will feature all amenities in Ironwoods Park.
- Working with Vista 154 on new marketing materials.
- Working on Leawood "Recreator" Newsletter content.
- Working on designing and printing banners and marketing collateral for 2021.

Brian

- New dog park playground equipment donated by the Leawood Foundation has been installed.
- Met with EPA on pond monitoring. They have been monitoring our ponds for harmful algae and bacteria for several years. Several of our ponds have been on a watch list for the past few years. The EPA will be providing advice on maintaining urban ponds to reduce bacteria and algae.
- The staff has been working on a fish stocking program for the ponds. The State of Kansas used to stock the ponds, but only with channel catfish. The staff will stock the ponds twice a year with a better variety of fish species.

Chris

- Chris stated she attended the Leawood Foundation meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. They discussed fundraising for the new permanent, flush restroom on the trail along Tomahawk. The city has contributed \$100,000. They are planning on asking several large corporation for contributions this spring. The Leawood Foundation's fundraising goal is \$175,000.
- The golf course parking lot project is going well. The new gate has been installed and the neighbors are very appreciative.
- New spring and summer program guide should arrive in mailboxes soon.

**III. Miscellaneous**

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer thanked the Leawood Foundation for their help in fundraising for the new permanent restroom on Tomahawk.

JoLynn asked if the tennis court resurfacing is still holding up well.

Brian replied that yes, the courts have held up well thus far.

JoLynn stated her family would be willing to cover the cost of installing new benches at Brook Beatty Park.

Council Liaison Cain stated that she was very thankful for the Hobbs family work on Brooke Beatty Park.

The next meeting will be held April 13<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom format.

JoLynn Hobbs made a motion adjourn the meeting. Kim Galbraith 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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