



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – May 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, JoLynn Hobbs, Greg Williams, and Bob Wright.

Board members absent: Gary Swanson, Kim Galbraith, and Amy Vlasic.

Council liaisons present: Chuck Sipple and Julie Cain.

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

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

JoLynn Hobbs made a motion to approve the minutes from April 15, 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 Trail Project- City Hall to Tomahawk Creek Trail**

Brian stated that they did not receive grant funding from the State of Kansas for the project. There is still possible funding from a Kansas Department of Transportation grant. The project will have a pre-bid meeting in June for any contractors to ask questions about the project.

**B. Update on Restroom Project- North Lake**

Brian stated that the site design for the project was approved at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> City Council meeting. The area for the restroom will need to be elevated out of the floodplain. The area will also need paths to the restroom that are ADA compliant.

Brian added that he had a meeting with McCarthy Contracting and they may be of assistance in this project. They would likely do some work free of charge as goodwill towards the City. Brian stated they will be invited to the pre-bid meeting to get a better scope of the project.

Council Liaison Sipple asked how high the area would need to be raised to be out of the floodplain

Brian responded he believed it would need to be raised around 3-4 feet higher at the max.

Chris added that 4 feet would be the max height the area would need to be raised.

Council Liaison Sipple asked what the status of fundraising is.

Chris stated that they have received several donations and she will report back at the next meeting with the total amount received.

### **C. Update on July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Displays**

Kim stated that City Council has approved a July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks display. The display will be \$35,000.00 and last 22 minutes. This year, they will be using a new vendor called Rainbow Fireworks. We were under contract with them last year and they agreed to carry-over our deposit to this year.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Discuss July 4<sup>th</sup> Activities/ Recommendations**

Kim stated that they are working on a variety of modifications for the event due to Covid-19 precautions. They are working on acquiring low-touch/low-contact inflatables, and social distancing signage for the band area and food truck lines. Kim added they are considering painting circles that are 6 feet apart on the oval green space in front of the pool, near the band, to encourage social distancing. They will likely have more busses to accommodate social distancing as well.

Julie asked is they planned on painting circles in the fields as well as the band area.

Chris responded they would probably not paint circles on the fields because there is more room to spread out. She stated they will also have portable hand sanitation stations.

Julie asked if it is really necessary to paint circles in the grass area. People need to take responsibility for themselves.

Chris stated that this can be discussed further when it goes to the Governing Body on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chris stated she would reach out to Overland Park and find out what their plan is for their 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

Council Liaison Sipple asked what the state and county guidelines are for events like this.

Chris stated she has checked and as far as she knows, they are in-line with the recommendations.

JoLynn asked if the staff has considered simplifying the event and eliminating food vendors.

Chris stated the staff has considered the food plan and believes it is a low risk plan because it will be all outdoor dining from food trucks.

JoLynn added that the families of Leawood will be very thankful for whatever the event turns out to be.

Greg Williams moved to support the fireworks display for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and to move ahead responsibly with all other activities that the Covid-19 current climate allows. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **B. Staff Reports**

### Holly

- Kansas City Symphony Mobile Music box will be performing at the field at 119<sup>th</sup> and Tomahawk Parkway on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Katherine Bontrager Houlehan has been selected to author the new History of Leawood book. This book will encompass the time period from 1997 up to 2022.
- Art dedication for “Inspiration” has been moved to September 10<sup>th</sup> to allow the artist to attend.
- The Art in Public Place Initiative have recommended Dierk Van Keppel for the artist selection for the new Leawood Aquatic Center pool house and event space. The Leawood Arts Council will meet next week to discuss the recommendation.
- The Leawood Stage Company will be presenting “Seussical” in mid-July at the Ironwoods Amphitheatre.
- New programs including “Cinema in the City” will take place on June 1 and July 30 featuring, *The Little Rascals* and *Babe*.
- Art Camps are going very well and all camps are almost full.

### Kim

- Looking to hire part time, seasonal positions for a variety of positions.
- New programming will include an Intro to Disc Golf class, E-sports League, and Shark Week festivities at the pool.
- Summer camps are very full and many have waiting lists.
- First Tee programs have begun at Ironhorse.
- The Lodge at Ironwoods is open for events following safety guidelines.
- Pool passes are being sold to Leawood residents.
- Swim Team and Dive Team registration is open.
- The Aquatic Center is in need front desk employees.

### Camille

- Developing social media plans and social media contests to keep users engaged virtually.
- Working with Vista 154 on new marketing materials.
- Working on Leawood “Recreator” Newsletter content.
- Working on designing and printing banners and marketing collateral for the remainder of 2021.

### Brian

- The design for the new Parks Maintenance facility plan has been approved by planning and will be on the City Council Agenda for approval on May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Working on hiring seasonal employees.
- Renovating the fire pit area at Ironwoods Park near the cabins.

- Planning for the pond dredging and new bridge installation at Ironwoods Park that will begin in late fall.
- Dustin Branick, Leawood Tree Committee members and staff worked with local high school students on planting donated trees in Tomahawk Park for the International Day of Service.
- Ironhorse Golf Club parking lot has been renovated and includes new lights, landscaping and irrigation.
- Celebrated Arbor Day by planting a dogwood tree at Brook Beatty Park.
- Added an additional full time employee to the Horticulture and Forestry team. The new position would begin in 2022.

Chris

- New AED Heart Save Station has been installed at the Ironwoods Park restroom thanks to a donation by a Leawood resident who lives near the park. She was a survivor of a heart attack due to the availability of an AED at the time. We plan to place more of these in other parks where feasible.

**III. Miscellaneous**

Council Liaison Cain asked if camps and classes are limited to Leawood residents only this summer, like the Leawood Aquatic Center.

Holly responded that they are not limiting camps to Leawood residents only. Numbers are controlled by maximum participants, which allows social distancing. Also, indoor art camp participants/kids will be asked to wear masks.

Council Liaison Cain asked if they were able to get solar panels for the new Parks Maintenance Facility.

Brian replied that the solar panels are in the project plan as an add/alternate option at this time. If the building construction costs come in favorably they will be able to add them. Brian added that they would like to add an electric charging station for vehicles as well.

Council Liaison Cain stated she is in favor of adding the solar panels and in favor of adding an electric charging station for vehicles.

JoLynn asked why the middle pond on Tomahawk Creek Parkway is very low.

Brian stated that there is an area that the soil becomes saturated and leaks back into the creek.

Chris added that the only contributing water to that lake is rainfall. She stated they have engaged an engineer on estimating cost for a solution and then adding that project back into the CIP.

Council Liaison Sipple stated that he has received several complaints about the Leawood resident only policy for the Leawood Aquatic Center.

Chris stated she understood patron's frustrations. She added that swim team and swim lessons are open to non-residents. She added that most area pools have admission restrictions whether it be capacity limits, resident limits or opening a limited number of pools.

The next meeting will be held June 10<sup>th</sup>, at Vista 154.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director

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