



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – July 15, 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 and in person at Leawood City Hall. 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, Gary Swanson, Amy Vlastic, Kim Galbraith, and Greg Williams

Board members absent: Bob Wright

Council liaisons present: Chuck Sipple and Julie Cain.

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

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

Kim Galbraith made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

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

Brian stated that they are planning on putting the project out to bid in September. Prior to the project being put out to bid they will have a pre-bid meeting where contractors can ask questions about the project. Brian added that they are hopeful the contract will go to City Council in September or October for approval. City staff has incorporated new terminology into their contracts which the state requires for its grant funded projects.

Council Liaison Cain stated she was thrilled that the city received \$937,500.00. She added that staff did an excellent job putting the grant proposal together.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the state requires anything that would make the project more expensive.

Brian responded that the only thing he could anticipate would be minimal addition of staff or engineering work.

Kim Galbraith asked how the project is recognized in the budget. She asked if there is a line item for grants in the budget or if it's recognized in the CIP. She asked if

there would show an offset in the budget for this project. She asked when we will receive the funds.

Chris responded we do not have a line item for grants in the budget. Projects are listed under the CIP. We will receive the funds in 2022, as was stated in the agreement with KDOT. Chris stated she was very appreciate of the citizens and businesses that took the time to submit written support of this project for the grant application.

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

Brian stated that they have worked out design issues that were impacting the floodplain in the project area. They have a meeting scheduled on August 3<sup>rd</sup> to find out how McCarthy Construction plans to help with the project.

Council Liaison Sipple asked how high the restroom will be above the floodplain.

Brian responded it will be raised one foot above the 100 year floodplain.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the restroom will be open all year round

Brian responded that yes, it will be open all year round and will lock automatically when the trails and parks close each evening.

Council Liaison Sipple asked how much money has been donated towards the project.

Chris stated she inquired with the foundation about the amount but they did not have a firm amount at the time of the last Foundation meeting. She stated she will inquire at the next meeting and report back.

#### **C. Update on Parks Maintenance Facility**

Brian stated they have run into some issues with the easement Everygy is requesting. Everygy has rejected the plan because they believe they have a 160 foot easement.

Brian stated they met with Everygy in February and the city believed there was a 120 foot easement. After the meeting Everygy stated it is actually a blanket 160 foot easement. This blanket easement has been in place since 1947. Because of this easement, they will need to reduce the size of their greenhouse. Staff is working with Everygy to narrow down the blanket easement for the future. Everygy has agreed to lessen the easement slightly for the greenhouse, but the greenhouse may still need to be reduced in size. Another option may be to move the greenhouse but they will need to check and see how much that would affect the budget of the project.

JoLynn asked if Brian would share how they plan to use the greenhouse.

Brian stated they buy plants from seeds and grow them over the winter. Buying plants from seeds not only saves money but also ensures availability. They can also store seasonal plants from the pool and other areas. They would also grow seedlings of trees in the greenhouse.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the easement with Everygy is the same width at Ironwoods Park and Ironhorse Golf Club.

Brian stated that yes, they appear to be 160 foot easements.

Chris stated that the overhead power lines in Ironwoods Park run over the parking lots from the southwest to the northeast.

#### **D. Update on Ironwoods Pond Project**

Brian stated they are working internally with public works on the project plans and the project is still set out to bid this fall.

Council Liaison Cain added that she is very excited about this project. She added that she sees quite a few fishers there at the pond and they will be very excited too.

#### **E. Recap of July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Chris stated that the event had a very large turnout. She added she believed the event was busier than usual this year due to the fact that Overland Park did not have any activities other than fireworks. She stated they will likely add a food truck or two because the lines were long this year. She stated they paid for a 23 minute fireworks show and received a 42 minute show. She stated they have contacted the fireworks company to work out the timing issues. Staff has also contacted the owners of the show wagon (KCMO), which is the stage the band plays on, to let them know there were issues with it.

Julie stated she would like to see two Kona ice trucks at next year's event if possible. The lines for that treat were exceptionally long.

JoLynn stated she was very appreciate of all the staff work. She stated she knows how hard the event is to plan and execute.

Karen stated she had issues with food vendors leaving in the middle of the fireworks show and parking in front of guests trying to view the show.

Chris added she will make note of these issues and communicate with staff to discuss with vendors for next year.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. No Smoking Ordinance for Parks**

Chris stated that there has been an uptick in smoking in the parks. Parks staff have found an increase in cigarette and cigar litter. She added that there is currently no ordinance on smoking in the parks. She stated she has had several complaints of people smoking on the trails. She stated the American Heart Association has a program that works with Parks and Recreation departments on helping them become smoke free communities. She asked for the committee's input on the issue. Chris stated she believes personally and professionally that smoking is disruptive on the parks and trails.

Amy Vlastic stated there may be issues with banning smoking and especially banning vaping. She stated the company she works for does consulting for human resources and they have had many issues with employees and vaping. She added that vaping supposedly does not harm others around you and therefore may be hard to ban.

Kim Galbraith asked if KRPA or NRPA have put forth any recommendations on this issue. She also asked if there would be a penalty for breaking the ordinance.

Chris stated she would need to work with the legal team and police to determine if a penalty is necessary and enforceable. She added KRPA has not made an official recommendation or blanket policies for all agencies. The same goes for NRPA. These agencies do not regulate these and leave them up the respective jurisdictions.

Kim Galbraith asked what the policies of Olathe and Shawnee Mission are.

Chris stated that she was not sure at the time, but would reach out and find out more information from them.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer stated she would like to see this on the agenda at the next meeting.

## **B. Staff Reports**

### Holly

- The Leawood Stage Company will be presenting the last performances of “Seussical” at the Ironwoods Amphitheatre July 16-17 at 8pm. They have had a good turnout thus far but had two of the six shows cancelled due to weather.
- Grinnin’ and Groovin’ kids’ concert series went well with an average of 200-400 per show.
- Fox 4 News covered art camps and Grinnin’ and Groovin’ concert series.
- Art camps are going well, there are two more sessions left.
- Cinema in the City will continue with *Babe* on July 30<sup>th</sup> at the Amphitheatre behind Leawood City Hall. The movie starts at Dusk. *Little Rascals* has been moved to September 24<sup>th</sup>, same time and location.
- Summer Sounds August concert series will take place at the Amphitheatre behind Leawood City Hall on August 13<sup>th</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The final Arts Masterplan will be on the City Council agenda on July 19. There will also be an art donation on the same agenda.
- Working on selecting glass for the new Aquatic Center art piece.
- Working on a contract with E.G Schempf for photographing the public art collection.
- Working on installing the original school house bell at the Oxford School House.
- Working on a publishing contract for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book. The author has begun reaching out to interviewees.
- Working on starting the selection process for an art piece for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Working on finding a location for “Skywriting 1”
- Working with APPI to determine location for donated piece.

### Kim

- Third sessions of camps, First Tee golf, tennis lessons and swim lessons have begun. All sessions are very, if not completely full.

- “Splish Splash Bash” will conclude Shark week on Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. Shark week will run August 9-14 and include games, crafts, contests, photo ops, and concession specials.
- Outdoor education has a number of new classes, be sure to check them out in our upcoming program guide.
- Deadline for fall soccer is next Wednesday. Currently have 900 kids enrolled.

#### Camille

- Fall/Winter 21-22 guide is complete and will be arriving in mailboxes soon.
- Developing social media plan.
- Working on Leawood “Recreator” Newsletter content.
- Working on designing and printing banners and marketing collateral for the remainder of 2021.
- Working on invite for “Inspiration” art dedication.

#### Brian

- Installed lights that will hopefully deter geese at the south lakes on Tomahawk Creek Parkway. The lights are solar powered and start blinking at dusk. Should not cause any disturbance to neighbors.
- Working with JoCo Wastewater on developing the trail from City Park to Mission Road. JoCo Wastewater will begin roadwork on Lee Boulevard to City Park.

#### Chris

- Stated they have been in talks with JoCo Wastewater on the potential to allow the city to constructing pickleball courts in the area that used to be soccer fields just to the west of City Park.
- Thank you to the Leawood Foundation for providing lunch for Police, Fire, Public Works and Parks.
- July is National Parks and Recreation Professionals month and tomorrow is Parks and Recreation Professionals Day. We will be celebrating by having a staff lunch tomorrow.

### **III. Miscellaneous**

Council Liaison Cain asked if the author of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book will be meeting with City Council members individually to discuss additional subject matter for the book.

Holly responded that the author would welcome any feedback on subject matter. She added the author would be glad to meet with City Council members individually.

Chair Karen Ward- Reimer asked when swim and dive championships are.

Chris responded that they are taking place today, Leawood is not hosting this year.

Council Liaison Sipple asked when the forestry team will be planting trees along the trail on the development to the south of Ironwoods Park.

Brian stated that they have already begun but will continue to plant through the fall. He added the developer will also plant trees in that area. He stated there have been issues with silt from the development washing onto our trail and they are working with the builders to remedy that situation. In the meantime, staff has had to clean the thick silt off the trail twice.

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer stated she is very pleased with the department name change from Leawood Parks and Recreation to Leawood Parks, Recreation and Arts.

The next meeting will be held August 12<sup>th</sup>, at City Hall Council Chambers.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Parks and Recreation Director