



**ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes – October 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 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, Amy Vlastic, Kim Galbraith, Bob Wright, Greg Williams and Gary Swanson.

Council liaisons present: Chuck Sipple.

Council Liaison absent: Julie Cain.

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

Chair Karen Ward-Reimer called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Kim Galbraith made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting. JoLynn Hobbs seconded the motion. The corrected minutes were approved unanimously.

**I. Old Business**

**A. Update on Pool Project**

Brian stated that construction has stalled for a few days due to rain but they have all the foundations poured for the new buildings. The next scheduled meetings include a meeting with the locksmith for keys and keycards and meeting with the masonry team about the façade of the building including the colorful glass blocks.

**B. Update on Trail Project – City Hall to Tomahawk Creek Trail**

Brian stated that they moving along with the project and the bids will open on Tuesday, October 19. Four contractor's attended the pre-bid meeting. The engineer added an addendum to the bid information and made sure all contractors viewed it. Brian added they will know more after the bids are submitted and will hopefully break ground for the project this winter.

**C. Update on Restroom Project – North Lake**

Brian stated they have submitted initial plans to Planning for review. Brian added they are speaking with McCarthy about the details on being the General Contractor for the project. Staff is working on an agreement with them so they may begin prep and grading work as soon as possible.

Chris added they have just received the rendering of the restroom and it is very attractive. It is similar to the colors and overall look of the restroom at the Ironwoods Park playground. Chris added that the restroom rendering was included in the Planning application.

JoLynn added she thought it was very attractive.

Amy asked what the building timeline is.

Brian stated it takes around 8 months to construct and ship.

Amy asked how many stalls the restroom will have.

Chris responded two men's stalls, two women stalls and one family changing area. There will also be an area to store products for the restroom.

Council Liaison Sipple asked when the restroom will be up and running.

Chris responded she believed summer of 2022.

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

Brian stated they had their bid opening last week and bids came in higher than expected. The low bid was around \$14,732,000, which was \$2,000,000 more than they anticipated. Brian stated that the pre-engineered metal buildings are very price volatile right now and were approximately \$700,000 more than the architect budgeted. This must be used to comply with Leawood code requirements. Brian added that the doors and windows and the HVAC were also more than anticipated. He added that three bids were fairly close in cost but one was significantly higher at \$17 million. Brian added that the building cost will be discussed at the next City Council meeting.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if the lowest bidder offered any local references of work they have done.

Brian responded yes, they have built several buildings in Lenexa including their service center building and parks maintenance building. He added that Lenexa was very happy with the outcome.

JoLynn asked if there is an option to wait to build once prices come down.

Brian stated that there is not a timeline but the staff has been without a building for four years. The building would help the expensive equipment last longer and have staff work more efficiently instead of being spread out through the City.

#### **E. Continue Discussion of No Smoking Ordinance for Parks**

Chris stated that she received information from several other agencies throughout the metro. She added that several agencies have no smoking policies around city facilities. She stated that most of the agencies that have no smoking policies focus on statements about how smoking impacts the health of all citizens.

Amy stated she worried about how enforceable this policy would be. She stated she worried about the staff having to deal with confrontational people.

Chris stated if it was an ordinance it would be enforceable, but perhaps not heavily pursued. She added that they would likely kick off the policy with signage and information tactics before actually enforcing, if at all.

Council Liaison Sipple asked if we could gather information via survey on what citizens and customers believe regarding a no smoking policy.

Chris stated a smoking policy question can be added to our post activity surveys. This will be a good way to get input.

Kim stated she will add it to the activity surveys.

Kim Galbraith asked if any staff from Lee's Summit has any feedback on their no smoking policy, ordinance and signage rollout.

Chris stated she will get some detailed feedback from them on their experience.

JoLynn stated that not only is there a health issue but also a litter issue.

Chair Karen Ward Reimer asked if any of the cities who have enacted a policy or ordinance have had reduced smoking rates. She added she believed there should be a consequence for those who violate the policy.

## **II. New Business**

### **A. Discuss Ideas for City's 75th Anniversary Relating to Parks & Recreation**

Chris stated that she has met with the Leawood Foundation and has recommended they begin planning for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the city very soon. Chris stated that she and Camille had a Zoom call with O'Neill Events and Marketing to consider their help with the large scale events, sponsorships, marketing and volunteer management. O'Neill has great experience with events including, Taste of Leawood, Boulevardia, Irish Fest and many more events, large and small. She added that she will be meeting with O'Neill Events and Marketing again in the next few weeks with Alice Hawk, Leawood Foundation Chair and Mayor Peggy Dunn.

### **B. Staff Reports**

Holly

- "Little Rascals" had a great turnout with lots of families.
- Into the Night Fall Festival had a great turnout with about 600 participants. The event was "sold out".
- The selection panel for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary public art commission has been created and has begun discussions.
- Dierk Van Keppel has started on the glass public art project for new Aquatic Center Buildings
- Finished indoor photography for public art brochure.
- Puzzle Palooza will take place on November 14 at the Lodge at Ironwoods this year and will include a custom puzzle with another picture of a piece of public

art. Last year's puzzle was of the art piece "For the Goal" by Jorge Blanco at City Park.

- Publishing agreement for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book will go to City Council on Monday October 18.
- Attending a state wide Kansas Arts Council symposium with Chris and other Kansas cities on Friday, October 15.

#### Kim

- City Park(ed) took place on September 17 with a great turnout. Public Works did a great job with games and showing off their equipment. The event was a great success and will take place again next year
- Holiday Lighting will take place on November 15 at 6 pm at City Hall
- Breakfast with Santa will take place on Saturday, December 4th at the Lodge at Ironwoods, along with open houses at the Oxford School and the Nature Center.
- Working on end of year assessments and fee proposals for 2022.
- The Lodge has been extremely busy from a backlog of canceled weddings from last year.

#### Camille

- Developing social media plan for the fall.
- Working on Leawood "Recreator" Newsletter content.
- Working on designing and printing banners and marketing collateral for the remainder of 2021.
- Working on next year's marketing agreements.

#### Brian

- Working on the restroom at Ironwoods Park, there were some issues with wood rot.
- Working on over seeding some of the islands in Leawood.
- Completed the new fire pit at Ironwoods Park. The area includes a new, much improved fire pit and enhanced landscaping thanks to Dustin's crew.
- Working on potential locations for the community garden including Leawood Baptist Church at 83<sup>rd</sup> and Stateline. They also discussed the area across from the new JOCO Wastewater facility.

#### Chris

- There will be a Veterans Day celebration on November 11 at the Prairie Oak Nature Center.
- Ironhorse Golf Club remodel project has been bid out and they have selected a contractor. They are hoping to begin construction in November.

### **III. Miscellaneous**

Council Liaison Sipple asked when both art pieces will be installed.

Chris responded they should be installed by next spring.

Brian added there may be a delay in getting a large slab of granite for the base of “Praise” to be installed at Fire Station #3.

Chris replied they have reached out to a couple of monument companies to get a piece of granite faster. She hopes to still have both pieces in by May 2022.

Bob stated that George, the referee coordinator for soccer does a great job. He also asked if there had been any issues finding referees this fall season. He stated the referee job is becoming increasingly harder due to the competitive nature of the sport and the negative interaction from parents.

Kim replied she was not aware of any shortages. She seconded Bob’s statement of how wonderful of a job George does. She added she will check in with him about any shortages.

JoLynn added that it may be helpful to have everyone who registers for soccer or Tee-ball sign a code of conduct.

Council Liaison Sipple asked when the donated trees from AMC will be planted.

Brian stated it will likely be next spring and beyond. He is working with them on an agreement for the donation.

The next meeting will be held November 11<sup>th</sup>, at City Hall Council Chambers.

Amy Vlasic made a motion adjourn the meeting.

Bob Wright seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously via roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director – Parks, Recreation & Arts