

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Special Call Meeting at City Hall, 4800 Town Center Drive, at 6:00 P.M., on Monday, April 9, 2012. Mayor Peggy Dunn presided.

Councilmembers present: Debra Filla, Gary Bussing, Lou Rasmussen, Jim Rawlings, Julie Cain, Carrie Rezac, James Azeltine and Andrew Osman

Councilmembers absent: None

Staff present: Scott Lambers, City Administrator	Kim Curran, Recreation Superintendent
Joe Johnson, PW Director	Deb Harper, City Clerk
Chris Claxton, P&R Director	Pam Gregory, Assistant City Clerk
Brian Anderson, P&R Superintendent	

Others Present: Karen Reimer, Chair Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Lorrie Hamilton, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Doug Stevens, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Amy Vlastic, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Mary Tearney, Chair Arts Council Committee
Carolyn Long, Leawood resident
Leann Wiggins, Leawood resident
Chris White, Leawood resident
Kerry Phillips, Leawood resident
Peter Van Ophem, Leawood resident

Discuss utilization of existing Ironwoods Park and recently acquired park land, located adjacent to and east of Ironwoods Park, approximately 148th & Kenneth Road

Mayor Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. Introductions were made by those present.

Opening Remarks – Mayor Dunn

The discussion process will include multiple opportunities for input from the Governing Body, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, other affinity groups within the City, as well as the citizenry.

Parks and Recreation Director Chris Claxton defined an active park as having organized athletic events and an inactive park as non-organized athletic events.

City Administrator Scott Lambers stated tonight's discussion will identify potential park uses to possibly be incorporated into a future "DRAFT" Master Plan. A second work session will be held on April 23rd, subsequent to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting on April 10th. A public forum will be held at the Lodge thereafter.

POTENTIAL USES

ORGANIZED ATHLETIC	NON-ORGANIZED ATHLETIC	STRUCTURES	OTHER
Sand Volleyball	Disc Golf Course	Expand Challenge Course to include zip line	Off-Leash Dog Park (3-4 acres)
Skateboard Park	Horseshoe Pits	Restrooms @ Amphitheatre Site	Maintain treed areas
Lacrosse Fields	Bocce Ball Courts	Large Shelter w/Restrooms	Buffer perimeter of park (Berm & Trees)
Kiddie Football Fields		Additional Cabins (@ or near current location)	Walking Botanical Garden
Grass Volleyball		Kiddie Train	Road connection between Mission & Kenneth
Multi-use practice fields		Additional Restrooms	Updated Master Plan for all parks
		Additional Lodge	Biking/Hiking Trails
		Investigate relocation of Amphitheatre to area east of existing site	Additional parking for Lodge
		Petting Farm	Re-orient existing creek to create pond areas
		Additional Shelters w/o Restrooms	Day Scouting Facility
		Adventure Fitness Course	Community Garden
		Kiddie Spray/Splash Park	Improve Park Entrance

Mr. Lambers stated after the public forum, an outside consultant can be brought in to review and narrow down this list of potential uses. Another public forum would be held thereafter.

Councilmember Rasmussen suggested that the public complete a survey to give their input of what they think the City's deficiencies are.

Councilmember Cain asked how the amphitheatre plan fits into the course of these discussions. Mr. Lambers replied this would be a part of the scenarios from the outside consultant that would include the following options:

- Amphitheatre remains as is with no change at the existing site
- Amphitheatre expansion plan at the existing site (\$7 Million)
- Relocate amphitheatre to the east of the site (current scale)
- Relocate amphitheatre to the east of the site (expansion)

Councilmember Cain asked if this timeframe would fit in with the September, 2012, continuance they had established for the restrooms. Mr. Lambers replied if the Council agrees to relocate the amphitheatre to the alternative site, that September date would not be met. If they agree not to build the amphitheatre to its proposed magnitude, they may want to redesign the restrooms to a smaller scale. Councilmember Rasmussen recognized certain areas that were in the floodway and floodplain. Ms. Claxton stated even if they relocate the amphitheatre, they would more than likely keep the existing stage in its current location for other uses, such as weddings, camp activities, etc.

Ms. Claxton stated some of the items discussed by City staff included additional shelters, sand and grass volleyball courts, an adventure fitness course, off-leash dog park, trail extension to Kenneth Road, additional cabins and multi-use practice fields. Their first priority was to expand some of the items that are over utilized. Shelters are rented by the hour or by the day. It is not unusual to rent some of them more than once on the same day. The Lodge is reserved well in advance for most weekends.

Public Works Director Joe Johnson stated they have been working with the Parks Department to identify park improvements and utility costs; totaling an estimated \$596,800. Depending upon the layout and location of the proposed amphitheatre, there could be additional costs for a road and bridge to cross the creek. Estimated bridge costs could be \$250,000-\$300,000. Parking would be located on the north side of the creek.

Councilmember Cain wanted to ensure they view this park within the context of the City's entire park system and its sidewalks and trails, and not focus on just this one park. Councilmember Rasmussen suggested the outside consultant consider their other park needs as well. Councilmember Rezac understood this to be more of a planning process and even though they are concentrating on this park, it does not mean this would be their priority for funding. Mayor Dunn agreed and confirmed there would need to be a funding source for all of these things and they would be analyzed against all needs of the City.

Mr. Lambers stated with the exception of the petting farm, the items listed should not have structural operational maintenance costs associated with them. He recommended if they decide to move forward on any of these items, that they proceed on a PAYG basis.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Pam Gregory, Recording Assistant City Clerk