



ADVISORY BOARD
Meeting Minutes – June 13, 2017 - 5:30 p.m.
Vista 154 at Ironhorse Golf Club, 15400 Mission Road

Board members in attendance: Lorrie Hamilton, Steve McGurren, Doug Stevens, Gary Swanson and Amy Vlastic

Board Members absent: Chair – Karen Ward Reimer, Bob Wright

Council Liaisons present: Julie Cain

Staff members present: Chris Claxton, Brian Anderson, April Bishop and Kim Curran

Guest present: Connor Kurth (Student, Kansas State)

Amy Vlastic called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

Amy called for approval of the May 9 minutes

Steve noted a correction on page 2 where he asked if the City Administrator was aware that the board was against placing the fence around the playground at City Park

Doug noted that he did not attend the May meeting as noted.

Lorrie made a motion to accept the corrected minutes

Steve seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Old Business

A. Update on Inclusive Playground Project

Amy inquired if all board members received an invitation to the playground dedication.

Brian gave an update on the progress of the construction. He stated that the sidewalks have been poured and the concrete work is being finished today. He gave a tentative schedule for the following week; the retaining wall by the 3-5 year old playground would be completed tomorrow and the ground would be prepped for sod to arrive on Monday. He also mentioned that the perimeter fence would be installed over the weekend.

Chris inquired if the sod will be placed inside the fence.

Brian stated that it would, but only in certain places. Mulch and ornamental grasses will be used.

Julie commented that 10:00am is an interesting time for a dedication.

Chris stated that it was because of the Royals schedule. VarietyKC was hopeful that members of the Royals front office, maybe a few past players and Slugger would attend.

Lorrie inquired if the media would be covering the event.

Chris stated that a videographer would be onsite and press releases have gone out to all major media outlets

Lorrie inquired if posts would be put on social media regarding the event.

Chris stated that information would be posted on social media in addition to the press releases, along with any marketing that would be done by Deborah Wiebrecht with VarietyKC.

Steve inquired if there was a naming rights issue and if VarietyKC purchased the naming rights to the playground.

Chris stated that VarietyKC donated \$125,000 and has the naming rights to the playground.

Julie stated that the Leawood Foundation raised \$400,000 in private donations.

Chris mentioned that the Wylie trust donated \$100,000, \$10,000 of which was used for the dog park.

Chris stated that VarietyKC seeks partners for fundraising when they get involved with a project. The Kansas City Royals Charities donated \$62,000, The Kansas City Royals Alumni donated \$5,000 and the remaining \$58,000 was from anonymous donors.

Chris stated that the Governing Body approved the contract with VarietyKC for the sponsorship and naming rights.

Steve inquired if Chris was upset by the media coverage in which VarietyKC referred to it as their playground.

Chris stated she was not. She was just concerned that media arrived unannounced, which put park staff in an awkward situation.

Amy stated that Variety Charities is a good organization.

Chris stated that members from the community would be present for the ribbon cutting with the Mayor. She also stated that snacks and drinks have been donated by local businesses through the efforts of Deborah Wiebrecht.

B. Update on Trail Project

Brian stated that the trail is closed and signs were posted a day after the contract was approved by the Governing Body.

Amy inquired why the trail was closed at 123rd Street.

Brian stated that the trail is closed at 123rd due to the trail in Tomahawk Park being used as the haul road for the project. The trail is being removed for replacement. He also stated that the shelter and playground are closed as well.

Brian stated that one shelter reservation is on the books for June 24 and it will be honored. The contractor will provide access for this rental and the remainder of the dates have been blocked out.

Brian stated that even though the trail is closed, people are still using it from 123rd to Tomahawk Park.

Brian stated that the trail section that is being repaired has been removed, the new base has been put down and the contractor is building up wing walls and pipe structures for the storm inlets to the west.

Brian also stated that the area where the trail is going to be relocated, away from the creek, has been cleared and prepared for the contractors. He also stated that most of the materials are available. He stated that if there are not any supply issues and the weather remains favorable, the project will be completed around the end of September.

Julie inquired about the total cost of the project.

Brian stated that the total cost of the project is \$362,000. The trail will be 10 feet wide and will be made of concrete in order to hold up to frequent flooding.

Steve inquired about the location of the project.

Brian stated that the project runs from Roe Avenue east to Tomahawk Park in front of the Ali Kemp Memorial.

Lorrie inquired if any of the trail on the north side of 119th will be repaired.

Brian stated that the asphalt on that part of the trail is in good shape and will not be affected by the current project.

C. Discuss Sign Frame Options at Entrance to Ironwoods Park

Chris stated that she was hopeful to have more information to present to the Park Board. She also stated that she has discussed the issue with David Ley, Interim Director of Public Works regarding possible options.

Chris stated that the best one she has seen so far is located by Town Center Plaza on the southwest corner of Roe Avenue and Town Center Drive. (*Chris passed around photos of the different options she has seen thus far.*)

Chris stated that the frame is a little different from the frame that is currently located across from the entrance to Ironwoods Park.

Chris stated that the location where the current frame is located on the west side of Mission Road; the city only has 20 feet of right-of-way. Dave Ley is looking to see if there is an easement in that vicinity. Richard Coleman, Director of Community Development, stated that any signage placed must be out of the sight triangle and at least 15 feet from the curb.

Chris stated that she is going to ask David Ley to look at the swale running under the current sign frame and ask about what can be done to divert water, if needed.

Chris stated that ideally, she would like something permanent built with stone similar to the Ironwoods Park sign but maybe just a couple of feet high.

April inquired what would happen to the signage when Mission Road is improved.

Chris stated that Mission Road is not going to be widened until 2022 but she did discuss this with David Ley.

Chris stated that she would like to have a permanent option in place by this fall.

Steve stated that something permanent would be a huge improvement over the current frame.

Steve stated that if possible, he would like to see us build up the earth on that spot and make it square and a nice visual.

Brian stated that if stone were added, it would be a permanent structure

Steve inquired about what changes would need to be made if it became a permanent structure.

Chris stated that the proposed structure would need to be approved by the Planning Commission

Chris stated that she would like to continue researching this item and set up a meeting with Richard Coleman and David Ley at the site.

Chris stated that David Ley inquired about moving the signage to the east side of Mission Road.

Steve stated he would like the signage to be an agenda item for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting next month and continue moving forward until a solution can be proposed.

Steve stated he would like to see staff designate one or two sizes of signage for the frame system.

Amy stated that if the staff attempted to put three banners in the frame, the print would be too small.

Chris stated she would seek guidance from Richard Coleman and David Ley.

II. New Business

A. 2018 Budget

Chris stated the 2018 Budget Meeting with the Governing Body was last night and the process went well.

Chris stated that the Parks and Recreation costs were steady and Parks and Recreation makes up 17% of the city's overall budget.

Chris stated the three Greenway Worker positions have been re-organized into two full time positions. She stated that Brian was unable to fill the Greenway Worker positions. She also stated that staff will continue to clean the areas around the trail and will get more value out of two full-time staff members as opposed to three part-time (9 month) staff.

Brian stated that on Monday and Friday, crews are assigned specific parts of the park system for at least one hour picking up trash. Park Attendants will collect trash along the trail in addition to their regular duties. In addition, the Outdoor Education staff hosts two volunteer trail clean up events.

Julie commented that the staff she encounters in the parks and on the trails is always very pleasant.

Chris commented that the staff takes a great amount of pride in their work.

Chris stated that Scott Lambers had planned to address the proposed increase of the Park Impact Fee at the budget meeting but decided against it due to time restraints. She will find out when the increase will be addressed by the Governing Body.

Steve inquired when the increased fee would take effect

Chris stated that she was unsure but suspects it would not be until January, 2018 at the earliest.

Julie inquired about the \$5,000 that was added to the Parks and Recreation budget for a bike event.

Brian stated that the Bike Committee wants to do a community event as opposed to a race event like the Kermis on the Parkway that we assisted with in 2016.

Julie inquired where the \$5,000 is coming from.

Chris stated it would be transferred to the Parks and Recreation Budget from the General Operations Budget, most likely.

Chris stated that a local promoter, not the city, hosted the Kermis on the Parkway.

Brian stated that the city was a sponsor for the event.

Brian stated that the race promoter paid the Police Department to close the roads for the event and the Fire Department and Paramedics for medical support with sponsorship money. LL Bean was a sponsor of the event and donated \$1,000, as well as provided activities for participants and spectators. Three food trucks attended.

Julie asked if the race promoter knew he would not be returning for 2017.

Chris responded that yes, he is talking with Kansas City, MO where it is a better fit. Most of the riders left Leawood immediately following their race.

Chris stated that when discussing a bike event, the Sustainability Advisory Board agreed that if a bike event were held, they would like to have an event that benefits the residents such as a bike rodeo, bike helmet fitting and/or family bike ride. We can add some food, face painting and other “family friendly” activities.

Brian stated that a large expense for the bike race promoter was Police and Fire.

Brian stated that he is unsure of a date for the new event. He is considering hosting the event in May since it is National Bike Month and Bike to Work Week is during the month of May. He is considering reaching out to Bike/Walk KC for a partnership.

Chris stated that she would like the event to include the Five E’s, which are the essential elements of a Bicycle Friendly America City, which are Engineering, Encouragement, Enforcement and Evaluation & Planning.

Brian stated that the City needs to incorporate the Five E’s to enhance its status as a bicycle friendly community.

Chris stated the event could be a walking and bicycling event and could stay within the budgeted amount of \$5,000.

Amy inquired if there were any other new items on the budget.

Chris stated that there are still \$5.2 million of unfunded projects including; 96th & Lee Boulevard, trail improvements behind City Hall to name a few.

Steve inquired when the 2018 budget would be approved

Chris stated that the budget would be approved in August. A public hearing will be held prior to approval of the budget.

B. Discussion on Residents' Concerns about Trail Project at 123rd & Mission

Julie stated that a neighbor has a concern regarding the sidewalk on the west side of Mission Road. These are ongoing concerns and issues that the resident shared.

Brian stated that this neighbor is located in a cul-de-sac on Alhambra whose backyard backs up to Mission Road.

Brian gave a brief history of the projects in the area of 123rd & Mission. Prior to the improvements of the intersection at 123rd & Mission Road, a small wing wall was at the trail entrance. During the improvements, the wing wall was removed at the recommendation of the Public Works Department. Cars had hit the wall on several occasions, requiring repairs. The resident claims that during the repair of the trail east of the intersection, trees behind his property were damaged and later died. Brian scheduled a meeting with the resident to address his concerns following the completion of the trail project but the resident did not attend. The resident did not attend the interact meeting for the sidewalk installation either. The resident's complaint is that the buffer of native timber that was previously between his property and Mission Road is no longer in place and the headlights on vehicles are shining into his home. This complaint arose when the Public Works Department approached the resident regarding the sidewalk on the west side of Mission Road.

Amy inquired if the sidewalk is on the resident's property

Brian replied that the sidewalk would be constructed in the right-of-way.

Chris stated that there is an easement in which the trailhead actually is on the property of the resident. The current resident did not own the home at the time when the permanent easement was granted.

Julie thanked Brian for agreeing to meet with the resident.

Brian stated the reason for the native buffer diminishing is due to native oak trees growing and shading out the existing Australian pine trees and eastern red cedar trees.

Julie stated that the trail repair was a large project in close proximity to the homeowner's property and she is happy that the residents' concerns are being addressed.

Brian stated the resident wants additional landscaping on his property

Chris inquired why the homeowner wants additional landscaping. She is unclear as to what the issue is.

Brian stated that he wants additional screening from Mission Road at the rear of his home to block the headlights from cars traveling west bound to Mission on 123rd street.

Julie inquired if the city typically provides landscaping on private property.

Brian replied that the city usually does not landscape private property.

Brian stated that the resident is also requesting landscaping where the trail sign and wing wall were previously located. He also stated that he does not want to landscape the area until the curb project and sidewalk installation are completed.

Chris stated the department would revisit the area after all of the projects are completed.

C. Staff Reports

April reported the following:

- The Grinnin' & Groovin' event series for kids has started. Funky Mama performed today and will be followed by a puppet show and a bird show.
- The Oxford School will be hosting the Book Club on Wednesday mornings. This year they are reading Little House on the Prairie books about Laura's education.
- She will be helping at the Duck Derby on Saturday as the Arts Council supplies the entertainment.
- The Pooch Paint was a successful event and she thanked all who attended. She also reported that during the past two years, she has never been growled at by a dog when grabbing their paws.
- Rehearsals for "Annie" are currently underway with lots of singing and dancing. The show opens on July 13 and runs for seven performances.
- Auditions for "The Mousetrap" (fall show) have been completed.
- The Sunday evening concert series begins in August

Brian reported the following:

- There has been recurring problems with one of the pumps at the pool. The crews have been working to correct the issue.
- All of the crews are staying busy with seasonal maintenance in all of the parks and trails.

Chris reported the following:

- Ryan Lowe is the new Turf Maintenance Supervisor, filling Steve Lamb's spot. Ryan was promoted from within and has been with the city for 10 years. Ten candidates were interviewed for the position.
- She has received approval from the City Administrator to post two full time openings in the Parks Maintenance division.

Kim reported the following:

- Most of the department's summer programs have started.
- The T-Ball/Coach Pitch Baseball League has 588 participants this year which is slightly lower than 2016
- The Duck Derby is on Saturday at Gezer Park.
- The Half-Day Camps will start on Monday
- Staff is preparing for the July 4 Celebration

D. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, July 11 at Leawood City Hall – Maple Room

III. Misc.

Julie inquired about the guest who was present at the meeting.

Connor Kurth introduced himself, stated he is taking a journalism class at K-State, and needed to attend a meeting and write a story for his assignment. Connor used to live in Leawood and is familiar with the city and the park system.

Chris inquired if anyone present had any questions regarding the new rental space.

Amy asked if groups are booking it.

Chris responded that it is.

Amy inquired if it is being booked for golf tournaments.

Chris stated that it is.

Amy inquired if Chris thinks it is going to take a while for bookings to increase

Chris stated that it is being booked frequently. It is booked December 29 and 30 of this year for weddings.

Steve inquired what the capacity of Vista 154 is versus capacity of the Lodge.

Chris replied that the Vista at 154 seats 225 with a dance floor vs. 300 at the Lodge

Chris stated that the space has been successful with golf events. The senior member - guest was hosted earlier in the day.

Chris stated that the Troon staff is working through a few minor operational bugs. They are also looking into promotional events, happy hours, etc. to maximize the use of the space.

Chris stated that the open house is next Tuesday for current and past Golf Committee members as well as members of the Governing Body.

Julie inquired if an event is booked in the Vista at 154, is the grill still operational?

Chris stated that the grill would still be open and that golfers can use the Vista at 154 if it is not booked.

Amy inquired if there is a bridal room

Chris stated yes, there is a small green room with an adjacent restroom.

Chris also stated the space could be used for golf classes and camps during inclement weather.

Chris stated Mission Electronics installed the Audio-Visual System.

Chris stated she and April are meeting with a couple of artists to get a proposal to provide a wall sculpture outside the entrance to the event space. APPI and the Arts Council will review this.

Julie and Steve both mentioned they would not want to book the space if golfers were present in the grill.

Chris stated that blinds are installed to separate the golfers and the wedding guests and the doors to the grill will be closed. The new space also has its own entrance and will be marked with a "Private Event in progress" sign at the entry doors.

Chris stated that the price point for rental of the Vista 154 is higher than the Lodge for several reasons; including it is a "turnkey" event space. Troon will provide more service than we do at the Lodge. Troon owns the liquor license so renters may not bring in their own alcohol.

Amy inquired if the renters can bring in food.

Chris responded they can but will be subject to a “carry in” fee.

Chris stated that Troon works with the clients to offer general menus and are flexible with caterers.

Julie inquired if the lights dim in the space.

Chris responded yes, they do.

Steve inquired about the pending art piece to be placed at College Boulevard and State Line Road

Chris stated that the APPI Committee has some reservation regarding placement of the piece.

April stated the piece is under discussion and the committee will meet again.

Chris stated that Corey Biggs, property manager with Hallbrook, requested additional information in regards to proposed placement at College and State Line Road.

Chris stated that she and April would be meeting with Ann Blessing, Chair of the APPI Committee in the near future.

Steve mentioned the new assisted living facility located at 143rd and Nall. He inquired if staff knew why the lawn is sodded from the building to about 40 feet out into the property and not sodded from the street to about 40 feet into the property.

Lorrie made motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59pm

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Claxton, Director

Parks and Recreation Department