

MINUTES
LAWTON CITY LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
JUNE 14TH, 2023, 4:00 PM
OWENS CENTER
1405 SW 11TH ST., LAWTON, OKLAHOMA
STANLEY HAYWOOD ROOM

Dwayne Burk, Deputy City Manager
Christine James, Parks and Recreation Director

Also Present:
Greg Gibson, City Attorney
James Bonnarens, Lake Supervisor
Misty Roberts, Lake Admin II

Mark Scott called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Notice of the meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mark Scott (Chair)
Donald Smith
Kade McClure
Tim Hushbeck

Absent: Austin Rabon
Dustin Hilliary

REPORTS: PARKS & RECREATION STAFF: Bonnarens reports that due to the rain staff is just trying to keep up with all the mowing due to all the rain that has been received. We are down another employee and now have 2 positions that are open.

Mark Scott asked who for an update on the School House Slough regarding questions that he had received as to what is going on with the slough, what is the long-term plan?

Dwayne Burk states that right now a lot of the details cannot be given due to meetings being held in executive session. There have not been any formal decisions on the direction yet. Burk states that if there is something that the Lakes and Land Commission wants City Council to consider as they are trying to make their decision it would be a good time to make that recommendation.

Christine James states that the fuel pump upgrades RFP was on the city council agenda 06/13/2023 and was tabled until date uncertain. James stated that the cost of the upgrades needed and getting them up to code may have been a sticker shock which was estimated at \$167,000.00.

Scott asked if council has directed staff to send out an RFP for the concessionaire for the entire slough area? James responded no. Council directed to **draft** an RFP, not send one out yet.

Smith asked when did Waller notify regarding not renewing the lease and why has it taken council so long to move on the issue of the slough.

Gibson stated that they were notified February 2022. Burk stated as to why it has taken so long for council to move on this is that was more complex than just being able to open the store.

Gibson states that there is a pending claim from Mr. Waller and that is what is forcing the executive sessions and by law what is discussed in executive session cannot be public information which is probably creating the mystery of the situation.

Scott asked about the appraisal or an evaluation of the fee's that the council asked for and if there was a time frame when that would happen.

James stated that this was the mayor's item and staff has not been given direction.

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Hushbeck states that he would like to see apply for fresh paint through the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful program. It is all free and you just come up with projects. The registration to apply for this is open now.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION: Travis Craig with the Medicine Park Planning and Preservation Commission asked regarding an RFP what will it all consist of? Will it cover the spots and the building? Craig states that the Town of Medicine Park would like to be considered for School House Slough.

Christine James stated that they would put their name on a list she has started and when the time comes will email the people that have shown interest regarding the RFP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss the future management and operation of Lakes Lawtonka and Ellsworth and if necessary, make a recommendation to the City Council.

Mark Scott states he would like to make a recommendation to City Council to establish a Lakes Trust Authority that would manage the assets of Lakes Lawtonka and Ellsworth.

Kade McClure asked how would that be funded?

Scott, not sure how it would be funded but assumes that the revenue collected from the Lakes would stay within the lakes and not the general fund.

Burk asked if the trust would be limited to recreational utilization for the facilities? We already have the Lawton Water Authority which oversees the water source and treatment.

Scott replied yes to the recreational utilization and not interfere with the LWA.

Mark Scott makes a recommendation to establish a Lakes Trust Authority to manage the assets of Lakes Lawtonka and Ellsworth. Don Smith makes the motion to accept the recommendation and Kade McClure seconds the motion. AYES: Scott, Smith, McClure, Hushbeck NAYES: NONE ABSENT FROM VOTE: Raybon, Hilliary

There were no other reports, correspondence, or discussion and the meeting adjourned by unanimous decision of the Commission at 4:48 pm

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE
LAKES AND LAND COMMISSION
CHAIRMAN, MARK SCOTT