MINUTES

LAWTON YOUTH SPORTS TRUST AUTHORITY

LAWTON CITY HALL- 212 SW 9th Street, Lawton, Oklahoma

3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023 2:00 P.M.

Chairman Henry called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. in the Third Floor Conference Room in City Hall. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

I. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Brian Henry, Albert Johnson Jr, Hossein Moini, Carey Monroe, Krista Ratliff

ABSENT: Sean Fortenbaugh, Clint Powell, Randy Warren, Steve Coleman

ALSO PRESENT: Christine James, COL Parks & Rec Director; Greg Gibson, COL Legal; JLyn Jorgenson, COL Legal; Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, COL Sr. Deputy Clerk; Matt Elliott, Eastern Sports Management; Dani Blackburn, Hatch, Croke, and Associates; Scott Hatch, Hatch, Croke, and Associates; Kim McConnell, Lawton Constitution. Via Phone: John Wack, Eastern Sports Management; Kristina Finigan, Eastern Sports Management.

REPORTS:

1. **Programs Committee-** Receive a report from Moini regarding the activities of the Programs Committee.

   No report given.

2. **Facilities Committee-** Receive a report from Chairman Henry regarding the activities of the Facilities Committee.

   Chairman Henry stated about a year ago there were some landscape companies that were interested in helping with field maintenance. We are now reengaged in that conversation to see if that's something they would be interest in. We're looking at some free mowing and the cost to do some sprucing up.

3. **Parks & Recreation-** Receive a report from the City of Lawton Parks & Rec Division.

   No report given.

4. **Eastern Sports Management**- Receive a report from Eastern Sports Management.

   No report given.

5. **Finance Report-** Consider approving the Treasurer Report from Hatch, Croke, and Associates.

   Hatch presented the compiled financial report through December 2022. Report is available in the City Clerk's Office.

Motion by Moini, **Second** by Monroe, to approve the Treasurer Report through December 2022 as presented. **AYE:** Henry, Johnson, Moini, Monroe, Ratliff **NAY:** None. ***MOTION PASSED.***

BUSINESS ITEMS:

6. **Consider approving the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting.**

Motion by Moini, **Second** by Ratliff, to approve the minutes of December 8, 2022. **AYE:** Johnson, Moini, Monroe, Ratliff, Henry **NAY:** None. ***MOTION PASSED.***

7. **Receive a report from John Wack, Eastern Sports Management President, regarding updates on Eastern Sports Management's Study Period and take appropriate action as necessary.**

   Wack, Finigan, and Elliott presented ESM's Lawton Sports Study & Management Transition Report. This report is available in the City Clerk's Office.

   Chairman Henry asked if the wages was figured assuming all positions were filled.

   Elliott clarified that the wages are only for ESM staff or league marshals. He stated the scorekeepers, referees, etc were included under cost of goods. The number reflects a partial add of positions.

   Chairman Henry stated he would like to point out that there is no maintenance in this report. The goal is to take that over as of July 1, so that number will grow.

   Moini stated there were talks about creating a relationship with the folks at Fort Sill. He asked how that relationship was going and if the committee could help with that in anyway.

   Elliott stated he would say there is a relationship there. We do see some level of involvement from families on Fort Sill but aren't necessarily on a Fort Sill team. As we continue to grow, we want to continue that relationship. As for the what the committee can do, Elliott stated the members can steer people towards the website and towards him.

   Chairman Henry stated it may be helpful to make a more direct connection and go see them.

   Ratliff stated we are happy to do that.

Moini stated the first meeting was more geared towards the facility, but now that ESM is involved, we need to introduce them.

Johnson Jr stated as he asks around, people still don't know about Play Lawton, so whatever we can do to elevate that, we will help.

Ms. Jay of the Lawton Hawks introduced herself and stated she had a meeting with Colonel Peay because of the link between the Hawks and CYS. She has a lot of the teams on Fort Sill who aren't necessarily comfortable going through the CYS program. She has been steering the director of that program towards Elliott, and he should be hearing from them soon.

Chairman Henry stated one question he has started asking when people say they don't hear stuff is where do they hear their stuff. They are on the news station, in newspaper, and on social media. How do we connect that?

Ratliff asked if they are in the schools yet. She stated she knows we don't have boosters, but what about flyers in kids' backpacks and things like that.

Elliott stated the ones we have access to, yes.

Ratliff stated the ones you don't have access to, let us know. I have three kids in three different schools, and I have not received a flyer.

Monroe asked when we evaluate increasing the price of registration.

Elliott stated we've already done that for Spring registration. It's minimal; we are moving it from $28.75 to $32.00 a player. We won't see a big jump until we feel like we have the infrastructure to do so. We're going to take it season by season.

Ms. Jay stated when you talk about increasing pricing, she is concerned because there are teams that are charging to be a part of the team and charging to fall under Play Lawton on top of that.

Monroe stated she just signs her kids up and they are put on a Play Lawton team instead of going through a league. She only pays the registration fee. Equity of access is very important, and there will always be an opportunity to play directly through Play Lawton.

Moini stated it may be important to some day create a committee that creates dollars for kids that can't afford to play.

Chairman Henry stated he will speak with President Wack in more depth about that type of foundation.

Moini asked if LYSA could park their money in ESM's foundation and designate it for the kids in Lawton.

Wack stated yes.

Finigan stated that could be put on the website right now and the funds would be dedicated to the Lawton market.

Chairman Henry asked how does that work.

Finigan stated we generally run scholarship windows and establish parameters. We have been able to accommodate all the applications thus far.

Monroe asked if the grant would cover the cost for teams that want to spend extra money on matching jerseys and shorts and such.

Finigan stated we try to give access to the most people possible, but it's very flexible.

Chairman Henry stated this report will be given to Council on Tuesday, and it will count as our semi-annual report. The feasibility study for the facility is targeted for February 28th to be presented to Council, but that is a huge tentative. We need to determine if we want to present before a site is selected, or should we wait until we have all the data and a site selected.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ratliff, **Second** by Monroe, to adjourn the meeting of February 9, 2023. **AYE:** Moini, Monroe, Ratliff, Henry, Johnson **NAY:** None. ***MOTION PASSED.***

There be no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:23 PM.