

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
JANUARY 8, 2014

Jay Burk, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the New City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Rose Mary Bellino-Hall; Jay Burk; Barry Ezerski; Jane Godlove; Mary Ann Hankins; Anika Safi.

ABSENT: Bob Dismuke; Jean Harbison; Addie Smith; Kerri Sweeney.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from Dennis Totte.

Burk stated Totte couldn't be with us today. He did say he got all the bulbs planted.

B. Receive report from Kim Shahan, Parks and Recreation Director

Shahan stated the police have a policy that a trustee cannot be out in weather 35° or below. Obviously with multiple days of this type of weather the labor isn't out there. We feel the policy needs to be modified so I'll be talking to Chief Smith to see if we can work something out.

Ezerski asked do they have something on the other end if it is 115°.

Shahan stated probably.

Burk asked on the weather days could we not utilize them doing other projects such as painting on a community building.

Shahan stated I believe that is putting too much responsibility on my supervisor. I'm talking about the safety of the citizens and my employee.

Burk stated one of your employees called me about the sprinklers on 2nd Street. The hotel is starting their landscaping and we need to find out what their plans are on helping us. If they aren't going to help we need to re-do the planting and go after them from the legal side.

Shahan stated that is a project that Mr. Rogalski needs to take care of.

C. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Burks stated we are doing the billboard and the PSA's are running at the radio stations.

D. Monthly Ward Update

Burk asked does anyone have anything to report. (There was none)

E. Treasurer Report

Burks stated she didn't receive the bank statement until today so the report isn't ready.

F. Receive report from Website Committee

Burk stated I made contact with them and they have sold out to another company. I told them within the next couple of weeks we would be getting back with them to get started.

G. Report from Banquet Committee

Burk stated the banquet is scheduled for January 23rd. Please call and reconfirm your attendance. We have made a couple of changes but overall it is ready to go.

Ezerski asked what time would you like for us to be here.

Burk stated around 5:00 p.m. We will greet at the front doors and move everyone upstairs. The appetizers, cash bar and auction items will all be located upstairs.

2. New Business

None

3. Old Business

None

4. Announcements

Safi asked could we ask Sosa if she would do PSA's for trash off.

Godlove stated sure. We need to figure out what we want to say.

Burk stated in the past Bellino, Griffith and I have been the ones to do the PSA's at the TV and radio stations. It would be great if someone different would do so this year.

Bellino stated I have gone through the minutes for the past year to see what loose ends we need to take care of. We need to talk about a couple of things. We have a couple of big projects coming up. We have a five (5) year and a one (1) year plan. I believe we need to be meeting twice a month just like Council if we are going to get this work done. We need city staff attending our meetings such as Rogalski, Griffith and the Assistant City Manager. If those

representing the Wards don't want to do the work they need to get off the committee. There is a lot of work ahead of us. We can make a difference. The one (1) year project is from 38th to 52nd Street on Lee Blvd. This would be the crape myrtles in the median. We need a chair for that committee to get this moving. Plans have been drawn for those medians. We need something visible to show the community that we are doing something. This is what I would like to do for a five (5) year plan. The Institute of Quality came to Lawton and stated the city doesn't have a soul. This five (5) year plan could be our soul. We would connect Elmer Thomas Park, 2nd Street, C Avenue, the mall, the Chamber and then back to Elmer Thomas. We have the pieces but they are not connected. Taking a little bit at a time we can connect them with bicycle and walking paths. We could also connect Cameron. We could work at tearing down old city hall as our green area for festivals with a water feature. I think we need to consider taking on this project. We will need the input of a lot of people such as the Chamber and all the service people. We can do this. Would you like me to ask Long to appoint the Assistant City Manager?

Burk stated sure.

Rogalski stated Griffith and I can attend the meetings.

Bellino stated I have everyone's email so we can remind each other of things that need to be done. In the minutes you talked about the eastside flee market. Has that project been taken care of?

Burk stated yes.

Bellino stated they also talk about Mark Bay head of the Urban Forestry. Do we want to do re-tree Lawton?

Burk stated Bay is big on re-treeing but you can't plant trees without water. He believes for every tree that is removed one should be replanted. He doesn't believe we lost the trees in Lawton due to the ice storm or drought. He believes we are going through a cycle. The ice and drought may have help but he believes it is due to age. He feels within the next 10 years all the huge trees will be dead. We need to have a plan and he is willing to help us. He re-canopied Bethany. Where there were hundreds of trees now there are thousands. You can see the canopy starting to build. I would love for him to come address us.

Ezerski asked how did they fund the Bethany project.

Burk stated he oversees a foundation in Stillwater who helps to furnish trees.

Bellino asked how do we get him to come address us.

Burk stated Shahan can make contact with him.

Ezerski asked when planting trees in an area like C Avenue does the concrete stunt the growth of the trees.

Shahan said depending on the type of tree. In some places it will.

Burk stated Rogalski I need you to work on stopping the semi traffic on 2nd Street. They are tearing up the bricks. They need to come down Gore and go into the back side of the mall. When the new shopping center opens it will be worse.

Bellino stated this is the reason we need city staff in these meetings.

Rogalski stated this is a Traffic Commission item and I'll pass your concerns on to them.

Ezerski stated I'm the Chairman of the Traffic Commission. I don't know if we will be able to get this on the January agenda but I'll check.

Burk stated that would be great. I'll be more than glad to attend if you need me.

Ezerski asked do you want to band semis or a weight limit.

Burk stated a weight limit.

Rogalski stated there is code for this so we simply need to mark the streets and enforce it.

Burk stated I believe it needs to go from Ferris to C Avenue. I'll take care of the enforcement issue.

Bellino stated we have a bunch of standing committees and I don't know if there is anyone who chairs those committees. We need a Light Up Lawton Committee for the next holiday season. We were such a dull city this year.

Burk stated when we left a Council meeting we both wondered why we had no lights. I would love to see 2nd Street lit up.

Godlove stated Elmer Thomas Park looked pretty.

Burk stated this is not to take away from the park. We just believe down 2nd Street, C Avenue and here at City Hall needs to be lit up.

Bellino stated we need the community to get involved in this but we need a chairman for the committee. This might be something the Chamber would like to do. Would you ask the Chamber if they would be willing to do this?

Ezerski stated yes.

Bellino stated we talked in the minutes about changing our name.

Burk stated we have changed our name to Keep Lawton Beautiful. It is b/d/a because we are a trust.

Bellino stated we should be calling ourselves Keep Lawton Beautiful. Have we designed a logo?

Burks stated yes. Since we changed our name we are working on something that will go with Keep Lawton Beautiful.

Bellino stated then we need t-shirts. Did we ever do anything in front to the municipal court building?

Burk stated no. That building has some issues that need to be addressed. Any remodeling efforts have to go before the Downtown Architectural Committee for approval because it sets within the TIF District.

Bellino stated we need to place this on the next LEDA meeting and tell them to pay the building. We will need a design to take to them.

Burk stated we have estimates on painting and sealing the building but we also believe the front glass needs to be replaced.

Bellino stated you get approval for funding from LEDA and we will design it.

Rogalski stated I need a design and an estimate then I'll go to LEDA.

Burk stated the landscaping, fixing the flowerbed and painting and sealing the building we have estimates on. The front awning is falling and they need a new light.

Rogalski stated you need to fix everything not just the painting.

Burk stated absolutely.

Shahan asked so you are saying we have a funding source.

Rogalski stated a possible source. There may be several possibilities but we need the numbers.

Bellino asked who is going to be responsible for doing this.

Shahan stated if it is a building I am. I will take care of it.

Rogalski stated I would like to introduce a park project at the corner of 2nd and C Avenue.

Burk stated the hold up on this project was the underground gas tanks. Those have been removed so we can move forward.

Rogalski stated Fit Kids and the Chamber want a downtown hub. This is a great opportunity for a coalition with these two (2) groups. When talking about the demolition it is

obvious the canopy has to go. There are no public restroom and I thought we could use this building for restrooms.

Burk stated the building has to go. It is in bad shape.

Ezerski stated this building is bad and it would cost more to fix than to rebuild.

Rogalski stated I have a design for public restrooms at Ahlschlager Park. We could use those.

Burk stated you get the bids and found out what it will cost to tear the building down. LETA can handle tearing it down and we can start from there.

Godlove stated remember we no longer have a representative for Ward 5. We need a committed volunteer. Some of us are not aware of our terms and before we are reappointed I believe we need to ask if they are willing to continue to serve.

Safi stated terms are in your handbook.

Burk stated we can do that. Maria Shahan lives in Ward 5 and she would be a good trustee. I will ask if she would be willing to serve.

Ezell stated Councilman Tanner likes to appoint his representatives so I would suggest talking to him before appointing her.

Bellino stated under Old Business there should be a reoccurring item for maintenance and repair. We are dropping the ball on a lot of this stuff.

Burk stated those are all great ideas. This is a new year and we need to get started. Due to the drought we have held off but it is time to restart. I was reminded we live in Oklahoma and that a drought doesn't last forever.

Safi stated the landscaping is terrible and un-kept at the Jack in a Box.

Burk stated Rogalski has to address this.

Godlove stated it does look bad.

Burk stated zero scape is okay but I prefer green. Just look at the Jack In The Box. It looks terrible. There is nothing but rocks, weeds and dead trees. The code is not strong enough when it comes to zero scape.

Bellino stated Dollar General on Lee Blvd. look terrible also.

Burk stated code states they have to maintain the landscaping.

Rogalski stated we went from no landscaping to landscaping. Now we have seen what doesn't work and we need to revise the code.

Burk stated the points for zero scape need to be lowered.

Rogalski stated we have one person who reviews landscaping but nobody looking at maintaining it. We will start to focus on maintenance.

Hankins stated the sad thing is Jack In The Box is the best thing on that block.

Rogalski stated this is a small site so it didn't demand a lot. That is part of the issue.

Burk stated we have made a difference with this ordinance but we need to do more. We need to strengthen our ordinance.

Rogalski stated we will start an enforcement mechanism.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.