

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
212 SW 9TH STREET
JANUARY 11, 2012

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk, Jay; Dismuke, Bob; Godlove, Jane; Harbison, Jean; Hushbeck, Tim (entered late); Safi, Anika; Smith, Addie; Smith, Marilyn; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Carter, Carol; Munkacsy, Debbie.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerks Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Reports

A. Receive report from 4-D Landscaping

Elkouri stated all the sprinkler systems have been winterized. If you see a water problem you need to let me know. It will be off until March 10th or 15th unless we receive no rain between now and then. We are hitting each area every other week.

Burk asked where are we with the new plantings at McMahon and the 5 locations?

Elkouri stated everything has been planted. We should start to see Tulips around March 15th. We are spraying an emergent and weed control on all the locations. On your tree list I want you to keep in mind that if the Shumard Red Oak doesn't have good drainage it will not survive. It does not do well in clay soil. Cameron is forcing them in and they are dying. You have to have a soil that will perk.

Burk stated thank you.

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

Shahan stated the RFP went out on the Playground In The Park on the 9th of January and will close on the 23rd. It will be awarded on February 1st. The Company will be doing the installation and furnishing the equipment. Parks and Recreation will do the ground preparation and we have started that work. Also I want you to see a picture of what the Compassionate Friends program is putting in the park. They have been raising funds for the last 3 years. Compassionate Friends is a national organization that provides a bereavement service to the community for parents who lose their children. This will be located at the corner of 2nd and Ferris. It is a great little project. They are still raising funds for landscaping but the project is underway.

Tenis asked is the City putting in the irrigation?

Shahan stated no.

Burk asked anything else? Thanks

C. Treasurer Report

Burk stated the balance as of today is \$40,556.06.

Godlove asked do we know how much we spent on the banquet?

Burk stated I haven't totaled everything yet. By the next meeting I'll have a tabulation. I'm sorry.

Motion by Tennis, Second by Godlove, to approve the Treasurers Report. **Aye:** Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith, A.; Smith, M.; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Carried**

2. New Business

A. Discuss and review the draft concept for nomination guidelines for Eye Candy Awards and take action if necessary.

Burk stated Shahan has done a draft for us and you received a copy at the last meeting. Unless you have changes to be made we would like to use this guideline.

Tenis stated the summary is so specific even to the type of font that is to be used.

Burk stated KOB had that on their website. We can change it.

Safi asked are these the only awards that we are going to have? I believe we need to add more categories.

Burk stated we can add or delete if necessary. We don't always have to have the same awards. We can look at other categories. Little Rock has an application and they break it down further than we have done. I don't want to give an award just to be giving an award. Little Rock also gives a residential monthly award and then has a yard of the year. I think that is a great idea. Do we think this draft will work for us? We need to put this on our website so others can nominate.

Godlove stated that is a very good idea and it will encourage people to be a little more meticulous about keeping their yards.

Hushbeck asked for the first year do we want to rotate through every Ward to have representation from every Ward. You would hate to have them all from one Ward.

Burk stated I don't believe you want them all from one neighborhood. It doesn't have to be a lot of landscaping as long as the yard is taken care of. Please bring a photo of the yard of your choice.

Tenis asked what about nominating the yard of board members?

Burk stated we need to stay away from doing that. I would like to ask Tennis to look for an award to use in the yard. We need to contact McConnell and have her publish an article.

Hushbeck stated once a quarter you might have Council recognize the yards for that quarter.

Burk stated I will talk to the Mayor about giving a quarterly certificate.

Shahan stated we talked about giving an award for maintaining your property even though it is vacant. When you maintain a vacant property is a true step towards beautification.

Smith M stated City Code requires you to maintain your property even if vacant.

Burk stated he is right we need to award them for doing so.

Motion by Tennis, **Second** by Safi, to approve the nomination guidelines for the Eye Candy Awards and to have a Yard of the Month. Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith, A.; Smith, M.; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Carried**

3. Old Business

A. Discuss affiliation with Keep America Beautiful and take action if necessary.

Burk stated here is some paperwork for the Committee to review. I would like to meet with the Committee immediately following the meeting.

B. Discuss Playground In The Park and take action if necessary.

Burk stated the RFP went out on the 9th and are due back on the 23rd. This playground will be bigger than the one at 38th Street.

Givens asked where is this in relationship to the arbor?

Burk stated west of the new restrooms and the amphitheater. We hope to put in new restrooms that will service those walking as well as those at the playground. There will be 2 entrances. We have talked about doing some kind of art work at the entrances. There is an Arbor Day boy and girl that I like. We want an arch that says Playground In The Park with

lighting that goes back into the playground area. We want a 40 x 40 pad with benches and landscaping. Phoenix has a piece called “Dance With Me”. It was kids dancing and I would like something like it. It was kids from all walks of life playing ring around the rosy and holding hands. At one section a child was missing with the hands open. I stood there and watched a number of kids come up and grab the hands to play with the statute. We don’t want something that is high maintenance. This was really unique and what a statement it would make going in to the park. The Board of Realtors hope to have \$30 or \$40,000 to do an entryway. I think we need to start the funding raising so we could buy a piece along these lines. This is something to think about. We hope to have the park operational by May 1st. We are going to need volunteers to help get the work done.

Shahan stated we have to have the ground work done then the company will come in and install the equipment. If you know of groups that are willing to help let us know.

Godlove asked would you prefer adults?

Shahan stated yes.

Burk stated this is going to be quite a job. I think we need to look at coming up with a landscape plan we can be a part of.

Godlove asked we want to invite different civic groups to contribute once we have chosen the designs for the sculptures. This might be a way to help pay for those.

Burk stated absolutely. There are a whole lot of things we can look at. This is a start. I told Sasseeen I would call and get some prices on sculptures and we would work with that committee. We don’t want a playground in the middle of the park without beautification and appeal for families. In Phoenix every time they built a park they made certain it had a surface what wasn’t hot. It is important in Oklahoma to have the right surface.

C. Review and Discuss the Landscape Ordinance and What Trees are Acceptable and take action if necessary.

Rogalski stated as you are all aware the City passed a landscape ordinance in November and it is now in effect. Jack In The Box submitted a plan for review by our office. This was the first landscape plan for review and it was perfect. They put in more than what the Code requires. The Code has acceptable and unacceptable trees and the list of unacceptable is to be made by LETA. The acceptable list is Oklahoma proven trees. Bennett came up with the list so I’ll let him tell you about it.

Bennett stated I referenced several sources but the main sources were Oklahoma City, Ft. Worth, Dallas and San Antonio. Oklahoma City has a book called “Putting Down Roots”. I crossed referenced all those sources and then focused on the plants that do well in our soil. We have clay soil and even some of the Oklahoma proven do poorly in clay soil. I was looking for places with a climate close to ours.

Rogalski stated Code is written where you only get points/credit for trees on the approved list. At this time there are only a few trees. We want to make certain we use trees that work.

Tenis stated the Eastern Red Cedar is prolific. It is terrible.

Givens stated they can be in a box or a yard.

Bennett stated I included it because there is a really short list of evergreen for Oklahoma.

Rogalski stated Code requires a lot of screening and so we need a variety and want them to be hardy. The screen is a buffer for a residential area. Code has a 25% minimum of evergreen. This list is a shot we took and certainly you are the one that will approve the list. If there is anything that needs to be added or deleted that is great.

Smith M asked why is Eastern Red Cedar on the approved and the prohibited list?

Bennett stated that is an oversight.

Smith M asked which list does it belong to?

Bennett stated well that depends on where it is used.

Smith M stated Live Oak is on both list.

Rogalski stated you can't have the same tree on both list. The Code is written where you only receive credits for trees on the approved list. You are allowed to plant the others, unless they are on the unapproved list, but you will not receive credit for them. You are not allowed to plant from the prohibited list any time or anywhere. The prohibited list is very critical.

Smith M stated we need to change some of those.

Godlove stated I would like to see the Eastern Red Cedar investigated a little more. It is possible that is one that proliferates pretty readily. Even if it is in a pot it seems like it might have seedlings that would be growing up around it.

Bennett stated I will double check the list. There were plus and minuses to some of these trees.

Burks stated some trees we want on the prohibited list because you don't want the mess and the birds on commercial property. I don't believe Live Oak is a good tree to use. It can be on the list but not to receive points/credits for.

Godlove stated Elkouri mentioned the Shumard Red Oak was not a good tree to plant.

Burk stated Cameron has them dying one after another. They are so vested in them they have to continue. I don't want Cottonwood because they are a huge mess.

Givens stated Shumard used to be the tree to plant.

Rogalski stated the soil in Lawton is not all the same. It is mostly clay and it doesn't drain well.

Burk stated I would like for us to approve a list. We can make changes if necessary. They need something for guidelines.

Godlove asked is our mission to look at the lists and come back to say what we object to and what we approve.

Rogalski stated the Oklahoma proven are on the approved listed so it is not critical we get the approved list today. The prohibited list isn't critical either because if they don't get points for them they are not generally going to plant it. We can do this next month.

Smith M stated now is the time to plant trees so we need to decide what we are going to do about Live Oak and Red Cedar.

Godlove stated I would suggest Mimosa be on the prohibited list. They are messy and smell bad.

Rogalski stated sounds like we need to look at this list and approve it at the next meeting. There are a number of trees that can be planted. I don't expect to get a lot more for approval.

Burk stated why don't we bring it back at the next meeting. Email me your changes and I will forward them to Rogalski. Maybe we can do more research so we will know why they are on or off the list.

Smith M asked what does it mean to get credit?

Rogalski stated when you build there is a number of landscaping point accessed to the project. Every tree, shrub, grasses, sculptures, water falls, rocks, cactus and groundcover has a value. You have to landscape from the approved list to meet your required number.

Smith M asked do we give credits for Nadine's?

Rogalski stated yes. We give credit for existing trees. We are trying to promote saving the trees.

Shahan stated at the last meeting there was a question about a landscaping requirement for the parks. There is no ordinance that requires and I think the goal here is to make sure there is. I don't know if within the landscape ordinance there could be language that would state if an organization/family desires to put a project in the park they would be required to landscape or not.

Givens asked does the Council pass an agreement when somebody does this type project?

Shahan stated yes.

Givens stated the agreement needs to reference it rather than putting it in the ordinance.

Burk asked if you are building a memorial garden what point would be attached to that?

Rogalski stated it would be the required 2.3 area. I don't know if it is necessary. Once they submit their application for approval if there is no landscaping the application would not be approved.

Hushbeck stated I was the one who raised that question. I would rather there be something in Code. Let's face it if it comes before Council and they have a good sob story it would be waived. If it is in Code they will be less likely to go against it. That takes the heat of Council.

Burk stated I think you are right. We will not always be here and the next person may not care about landscaping. If it is in Code it won't be quite as easy to go back and change it. I agree with Hushbeck it needs to be in Code.

Rogalski stated that is very easy. We will have them meet the site point requirements. Do you want to count turf? In terms of a park turf is already there. I would think you would not want to count it. I would think you would want live plantings.

Shahan stated most of the time they are tearing up the turf so replanting it should be a requirement.

Rogalski stated I just don't believe they should receive point value for it. If we focus on live plantings we are requiring them to do something.

Burk stated the key is we will not always be here and it isn't hard to change the Code. If we set the guidelines maybe they will stick.

4. Announcements

Burk stated I want us to be involved with Art in Public Places. We have 16 pieces we have received releases from and most of those we will be able to use in our tour.

Smith M asked did you get the ones at the hospital?

Burks stated I don't know.

Smith M stated they are supposed to be getting the information for me.

Burk stated the Chamber is involved and is helping with a brochure and the cost. There are 2 professors at Cameron on the committee and they have been great. Billie Whipp and Sharon Cheatwood have been unbelievable with their help.

Givens stated this group needs to get behind going to 1 day a week trash pickup and with the money saved use it towards curbside recycling. This needs to be brought to the City Manager now because they are starting the budget process. Council is going to be very controversial about going to 1 day a week.

Tenis stated we need to do a pilot program.

Burk stated this should be one of our main steps to get recycling in place. As a group we also need to make our Councilmember understand that our maintenance needs to come from the general fund. The City needs to assist us in paying for the maintenance contract. We should be out there promoting other things. We need to ask for their support during budget.

Tenis stated eventually we are going to have to go up on the price of the utility bill. I'm a bachelor and put my trash can out once a month. Next to me there are 3 families with 7 kids. If it goes up \$5 a month that is the same price you can rent an extra trash can for. Why should I subsidize your trash pickup?

Givens stated I don't think we need more than once a week pickup.

Tenis stated initially we will have to get everyone use to once a week pickup. We need to do a pilot program to see what problems we are going to have. Change isn't always bad. We are spending upwards of \$800,000 a year to dig holes in the ground.

Smith M asked is there recycling in Lawton?

Burk stated we have 3 sites and the goal is to have 7. There is one located at the Eastside Park, 17th and G and Eisenhower.

Givens stated you can do paper at the Lawton Constitution.

Burk stated we would like to thank Givens for all he has done. You are the reason LETA was started and we appreciate it. You have always been a friend with great ideas for moving Lawton forward. We will miss you and want to wish you all the best of luck.

Rogalski stated the City receives \$150,000 in federal funding and the only thing we can do with that funding is purchase trees. We have done a little each year but never a conservative effort. We are always trying to find a place to put them. We can pay for as many trees as you can plant.

Givens asked is a Crape Myrtle considered a tree?

Rogalski stated probably.

Givens stated our next project is to do the medians on east Gore and do to them like the one in front of Liberty National Bank.

Rogalski stated I'll see if it qualifies as a tree or not.

Burk stated my suggestion is we buy large enough trees that we don't wait 20 years to see them grow.

Givens stated we didn't plant that many trees on the entry way from the airport.

Rogalski stated with this grant we can purchase the trees but not plant them.

Tenis asked is this a one time grant?

Rogalski stated we get it every year. There is some concern this may be the last year. It has to do with places being in non-attainment. The EPA has lowered their standards and more and more places have become non-attainment. Oklahoma City and Tulsa will go non-attainment and they will receive the money to fix their problem.

Burk stated my suggestion is we come up with the locations and go for it.

Givens stated we need to let the Eagle Scouts know this could be a project for them.

Burk stated we can find people to plant them.

Rogalski stated at the CPC meeting tomorrow we will discuss this and get a feeling for the amount they want to put forth. Ledford stated he wanted to put the whole \$150,000. We will propose that and see if it gets approved.

Burk stated what an impact that would make.

5. Adjournment