

**MEETING OF THE
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
MARCH 9, 2022**

Vice Chair Hankins called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of City Hall. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jay Burk; Barry Ezerski; Mary Ann Hankins; Lou McConnell; Addie Smith; Kerry Sweeney; Ted Symuleski; Dwight Tanner; Annette Wiseman-Vaughan

ABSENT: Katy Jackson-Seeley

OTHER PRESENT: Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery; Susan Schlecht, Financial Services; Keith Neitzke, Parks and Rec; Christine James, Parks and Rec; Kaley Patterson, Communications and Marketing; Corey Bowen, Neighborhood Services; Charlotte Brown, License and Permits; Greg Gibson, City Attorney's Office; Richard Rogalski, City Manager's Office; Donalynn Blazek-Scherler, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from Dennis Totte and take action if necessary.

Totte stated they have finished the tree work on the Gore median and at McMahon Auditorium, mulched all the beds, cut down the ornamental grasses, and trimmed back the rose bushes.

Symuleski asked if the bulbs were in.

Totte stated yes, all the bulbs are in. It has been a rough year for the pansies. He stated any time it is warm in the fall and then gets cold really fast with no transition it is hard on the pansies.

Sweeney asked if we lost a lot over the winter or if it is possible to tell anything yet. She said everything looks so dead and dry.

Totte stated it is too early to tell anything yet. The deciduous plants won't start to regain foliage and leaves until the end of March or beginning of April.

Symuleski stated he hopes the freezing February weather didn't affect anything.

Totte stated he doesn't suspect anything major because it didn't get as cold as last year.

Hankins stated we are all excited to see the tulips.

Totte stated they are peeking out right now, so you should be able to see them over the next few weeks.

Totte stated he is working on some pricing to bring back next month. There are a couple of solar timers on 11th Street closer to the airport that need to be replaced. He stated for sure there is one bad timer, and they are checking on a second one.

B. Receive report from Neighborhood Services and take action if necessary.

Bowen stated Neighborhood Services is up to 1,563 correspondences for the year through the end of February. January was a big month for D&D and there are more coming up on March 15th. He stated there are some very big properties on this one; there are less structures, but they are much more expensive if the City has to tear them down, so he tried to keep the numbers down. Bowen stated the focus right now is on wind-blown trash and litter. The planning for Trash Off is going great. Kaley and he were on the radio this morning, and they have a few more media stops planned. He said several people have already signed up to volunteer and all the regular vendors are ready to go. They have Gill's, the Sheriff's Department, and Goodwill. Goodwill will take their regular donations, but this year they will also be taking the e-recycling as well.

Wiseman-Vaughan asked what e-recycling is.

Bowen replied that they take all the old electronics that don't work and recycle the parts off of them instead of just throwing them in the landfill. He stated they are really pushing for volunteers this year and really wants to see Trash Off be citywide. The finalist position is eating him up, and he wants to win. He said the Boy Scouts are already on board, and it's looking to be a very big event.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated she has been pushing it in her neighborhood watch meeting.

Symuleski asked what day it is.

Bowen replied April 30th.

Symuleski stated he has seen a lot of Walmart carts left around town on the side of the road. Who should he call?

Bowen stated to call him so Neighborhood Services can either get it or have someone pick it up.

C. Consider approving invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment.

Schlecht stated she will present invoices for January and February. The invoices were broken down as follows:

“Repairs and Maintenance” (All from Bedrock):

\$8,000.00 for tulip bulbs

\$192.20 for Playground in the Park

\$307.00 and \$273.95 for 2nd Street.

“Grants”

\$160.31 for the library’s bicycle repair station signs

\$3,780.00 for the library’s bicycle repair stations

\$49,956.81 for the Farmer’s Market Landscaping

\$14,000.00 for irrigation at the Farmer’s Market

“LETA Sidewalk Project”

\$2,080.00, \$2,350.00, and \$1,300.00 for the CEC contract

Schlecht stated she was doing some research and found where LETA gave the Farmer’s Market \$10,000.00 in June of 2018. Since this money was intended for landscaping and LETA already paid for all the landscaping, the Farmer’s Market returned those funds.

Motion by Ezerski, **Second** by Symuleski, to approve the invoices for January and February 2022.
AYE: Ezerski, Hankins, McConnell, Smith, Sweeney, Symuleski, Tanner, Wiseman-Vaughan, Burk **NAY:** None. ***MOTION PASSED.***

D. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary

Schlecht reviewed the Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Statement, Income & Expense Tracker, and LETA Projects Pending for January and February. (Report on file in the City Clerk’s Office)

Schlecht stated the medical marijuana receivable listed on the January Balance Sheet are for May, June, October, and November. Those are lagging behind because the July check didn’t print for some reason. That issue has now been corrected.

Tanner stated that Airbnb takes out a usage tax and asked Schlecht if she has found those yet.

Schlecht stated she hasn’t noticed them but needs to do a little research to look specifically for those.

Tanner stated that he texted Rogalski pictures of this tax being taken out.

Rogalski stated it is inexplicable to him that they are taking that tax out and not remitting it to the City.

Symuleski asked if the money could be going to the state to be given to the City.

Rogalski stated no, they can't do it that way unless they are doing it by mistake.

Schlecht stated she thinks the state would let us know.

Rogalski stated we are working on hiring a company to help us collect hotel/motel funds. That will be brought before Council later in the month to try to get that started. He stated it is a software and a service. Basically, they set up a website and somehow track down people that are advertising to make sure they are paying their hotel/motel tax.

Chairman Burk stated this company does this service across the nation; this is not something new. The City hasn't had the manpower or the knowledge to stay after this like we should. He believes this new company will collect a large amount of money because there are hundreds of Airbnbs in the city.

Tanner stated he has an Airbnb and sees a usage tax just like the hotel/motel tax but wants to know where it's going.

Chairman Burk stated Airbnb may have to back pay us for funds they have collected, but the company that the City is hiring will figure that all out. He stated the City has been working on this for years, but the process of collecting Airbnb funds is not as simple as it seemed at first. That's why they found this company and decided to go that route.

Tanner stated he is going to call Airbnb since they are taking that money out from him personally.

Moving back to the February Balance Sheet, Schlecht stated there was an increase in the court fines, so the Beautification Fund has gone up. The Accounts Receivable has gone down significantly: the only two things left are the sidewalk project expenses and the bicycle repair stations.

Chairman Burk stated they have hired a contractor for the medical marijuana sidewalks.

Rogalski stated the contractor for the Sheridan Road sidewalks are scheduled to begin work on Monday, March 21st. CEC, the design firm, is already working on the Gore project from Cameron to 52nd. They are also working on the projects that were recently added to the Master Plan. He stated there was some discussion at the Shepler Park design meeting about connecting downtown to Elmer Thomas Park. That will be a question brought back to LETA by the designer. He stated the option would probably be on either 4th Street or 6th Street.

Chairman Burk stated there is a committee that was put together for the redesign of Shepler Park. After Arts for All is done, they will have numbers put together, but it's looking to be about a \$1 million project. He stated there will be some areas that are bermed, some new walk ways, and some areas for benches. He believes it is going to be beautiful. He stated the committee is made up of representatives of people who use Shepler Park frequently, like Arts for All, and they have met with the designer to discuss what they want in the park. The designer came back with a plan, the committee sent it back with a few modifications, and once the designer brings it back and the committee approves it, the recommended design will be brought before LETA. If LETA is okay with the design, then it will be recommended to City Council. After that, fundraising can begin. He believes if the City can come up with half, McMahon will match the other half.

Going back to the sidewalks, Chairman Burk stated there are a lot of people that jog/run/walk from the YMCA and there are no sidewalks or pedestrian crossings to get across Gore safely. He would like to use some ADA funds for these sidewalks, if possible. He wants to do both sides of the street and thinks 6th Street is the best bet. It goes right next to 35th Division Park, which is going to be partially redone per Council. He stated you would be able to come out of Elmer Thomas Park using pedestrian crosswalks at 6th Street, then come straight down all the way, across, and then back up to tie everything together. This will create a lot of connectivity and could make this a major thoroughfare. It is already planned to extend the walking path in Elmer Thomas Park up around the flagpole, so this will make a nice long path for walkers and joggers to use.

Rogalski stated this is a good time to discuss a letter of recommendation. The City of Lawton is applying for a TSET grant to build new trails in Elmer Thomas Park, McMahon Park, Greer Park, and Lee West. He stated LETA may want to send a letter of support for this project.

Neitzke stated he has visuals for the intended project.

Sweeney asked if any of the parades use 6th Street.

Chairman Burk replied not right now, but it could be a real possibility once this is done.

Schlecht finished the review of the Treasurer's Report. She stated "Municipal Fines Income" on the Profit & Loss Statement includes everything from July 2021 to January 2022. On the Income & Expense Tracker, the percentage collected should go up to 50% once the medical marijuana funds are received, and she stated that will be about right where it should be.

Chairman Burk asked why Holiday in the Park is budgeted for \$65,000.00, but only showing \$22,102.00.

Schlecht replied that she is still working on getting the Hotel/Motel money up to date. The Hotel/Motel money for Holiday in the Park wasn't actually there when it was given

to the Chamber, so she could only list what was actually given out of the Hotel/Motel fund (\$22,102.00). Once the hotel/motel fund is updated, LETA will receive the approximate \$45,000.00 that is not shown.

Chairman Burk asked if the \$4,000.00 budgeted for the Trash Off Event is for shirts and if shirts had been ordered yet.

Brown stated, yes, that is the money for shirts. Bowen hasn't said if he has ordered the shirts yet, but the company that makes them has a very quick turn around time.

Schlecht stated she would like to speak about the budget. Because LETA is so far over budget on the Grant Awards, it is going to be difficult for the board to make up that money over the next few months. She stated that she wants to caution the board that they will have to go back to the City with a budget amendment. If we get any extra revenues, they will have to be budgeted as well.

Chairman Burk stated he believes some of the grant awards is part of the \$40,000.00 we ended up giving to Holiday in the Park. Once we get that back, we will be in pretty good shape. He also stated that Holiday in the Park was loaned \$6,000.00 for a display, and that money was supposed to be paid back. He asked Schlecht if that repayment had happened yet.

Schlecht state no, it had not. She has written to them and Rogalski has spoken with them, but we haven't received the check yet.

Chairman Burk stated he will reach out to Krista about the payment. He said the \$6,000.00 from the Chamber and \$40,000.00 from hotel/motel make the budget look off. Once those funds are received back, it'll be fixed.

Schlecht stated when the money is received back, it'll be cash, but the grant funds are all line items that are budgeted and that's what she's concerned about. The cash is available to pay for it, but it isn't budgeted that way.

Chairman Burk stated we will just have to do a budget amendment.

Schlecht said she was just a little concerned about that.

Chairman Burk stated LETA has more projects going now than they ever have. It's a little hard to keep up with so many projects and so much money. He said once the medical marijuana money and sidewalks start moving, we'll see a big difference. There's \$928,000.00 in that account as of February. He asked if that's all the money that's in there or if there are still outstanding receivables. There was \$100,000.00 that he doesn't see there.

Schlecht stated the December payment is still outstanding, but the \$100,000.00 receivable showing in January was received, so it is showing as cash in February. She

thinks that fund will be fine, but next year she plans to separate out those funds on the budget so we can see just LETA's money.

Chairman Burk stated the medical marijuana money has been collected over a few years, but they are just starting to spend that money. CEC was hired as the designer and the on-call contract for the work has been signed. He said we also have the Shepler Park Redesign in this year's budget. This is March, so there are only 3 ½ months to go before the new fiscal year starts. Once hotel/motel is figured out and we get the municipal fines at a steady flow, things should look good.

Ezerski asked if hotel/motel was up this year.

Chairman Burk stated last time he talked to Krista it was. We should be able to apply for that overage.

Schlecht stated yes, we do have that overage coming in. She doesn't know if the City has done a budget amendment for that yet.

Chairman Burk said he hasn't seen where the City did an amendment yet.

Schlecht stated the C Ware funds were also borrowed and haven't been put back in yet. That will be another thing to keep in mind.

Chairman Burk stated that may be another project once the other projects start going through in the downtown area. It also may never happen depending on what goes in on C Avenue. Then we could put that back in our regular fund since we wouldn't be doing that project.

Brown stated we already bought lights for down there, and they are stored at the company.

Chairman Burk stated we need to do something about that.

Symuleski asked who is paying for the shipping of the anchor for the memorial in Elmer Thomas Park for the Aguilars.

Chairman Burk stated they were supposed to get numbers together and come back to LETA to ask for assistance.

Symuleski said the anchor is being shipped to the City of Lawton, so the City has to take responsibility for the anchor.

Chairman Burk stated it's fine that it's being shipped to the City since that's the way the government wants to do it, but LETA will take control of where it goes. The plan is to store it in a warehouse that Parks and Rec has.

Symuleski asked who is paying the bill for it.

Chairman Burk stated that he asked the Aguilar's to come back with information, but we still have not received anything. He thinks it's a great project, he just wishes they would get that information to LETA. He said there may be a snag because shipping right now is tough; finding a private hauler may be difficult.

James stated that Puget Sound will be ready to get rid of it very soon. They may have to store the anchor up there until we can find a way to get it here.

Chairman Burk stated this project may be much bigger than anyone realized and that's why he is asking for solid numbers and a design before LETA commits to anything.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Symuleski, to approve the Treasurer Reports for January and February. **AYE:** Hankins, McConnell, Smith, Sweeney, Symuleski, Tanner, Burk, Wiseman-Vaughan, Ezerski **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

E. Receive report from Cultural Preservation Committee and take action if necessary.

James stated that Poudrier was not available, but he asked that she give an update on the cemetery arch. There was a proposal from Preservation Design Studio, but the owner passed away and they will not be filling that contract. Cultural Preservation is now looking for other companies to give proposals. She stated once they get a proposal, she will take it back to Council.

F. Receive report from Children's United and take action if necessary.

Ezerski stated the big issue right now is that the dancers are dropping like flies. They started with nine couples, and they are down to five right now.

Chairman Burk stated he knows it is a very hard job for the dancers. He played football and had a difficult time keeping up with the dance practices. He stated it is also very important to have well known people in the community participating.

Ezerski stated they have learned a lot through this process. It may be something that they need to rethink the whole format of it.

Chairman Burk stated he has seen a lot of karaoke type competitions that might be easier than having to practice for four months for a dance off. They make a really big deal out of the dance, and it is fun to be paraded through the crowd, but it is a lot of work to get there. He stated it is a really great project and Children's United is so close to being able to get a match from McMahon. He wishes them the best and hopes everything works out.

G. Receive report from Parks and Recreation and take action if necessary.

James stated the benches have been installed at the Lacy Center.

Chairman Burk stated they look great and thanked Patterson for taking pictures of them.

James stated the Parks Master Plan, including the dedication to Ross Hankins, was approved at yesterday's Council Meeting.

Hankins stated that was very nice. Thank you.

James stated they finally got the third quote for the fountain lights at Lake Helen, and they got a PO issued, but when they went to order them, she was told the lights had been discontinued. She stated the company is going to do some calling around and call us back.

James stated Keith Neitzke is with us today to talk about a TSET Grant we will be applying for. They have earmarked some of the projects they want to do if the grant is received, and Council has already approved the application.

Chairman Burk asked Neitzke to explain what TSET is, for anyone who doesn't know.

Neitzke stated it stands for Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust.

Chairman Burk asked which City has received the largest TSET grant ever.

Neitzke stated CITY OF LAWTON!

Neitzke handed out a packet to the trustees and stated the cover page is for the community buy-in group, and it is a requirement of the grant. He believes the group will meet tentatively every other month as an agenda item through Fit Kids. He stated they would provide an update and get in-put, so the community knows what's going on with the grant. Neitzke stated the first-year project is the completion of the Lake Helen Memorial Trail. The grant proposal is titled "City of Lawton Trail System Initiative" because it includes the four parks. He is proposing in the second year to add a fitness trail at Greer Park. A picture of possible fitness equipment was included in the packet. Neitzke state this is a one-to-one matching grant for \$350,000.00 per year. The total project cost is approximately \$1,700,000.00 for both years. There is more detail on the City Council Agenda that is posted online. Neitzke said in the first year, they want to finish the loop around Lake Helen. This would include a ten-foot-wide trail along with a five-foot extension that goes down along the lake. He is proposing 10 sunshades with picnic tables underneath. Both trails and 3 of the picnic tables would be ADA compliant. The proposal also includes \$60,000.00 worth of crushed granite to put in the existing gravel trails inside Elmer Thomas Park. He stated that crushed granite tends to lock in place when it is compacted so it doesn't erode or wear out as quickly as regular chat or gravel.

Chairman Burk stated this is what we always wanted at Lake Helen.

Neitzke stated he is going into his tenth year with the City and this project was one of the first things he was instructed to work on, so he knows the City has been working

on this for a very long time. He stated he is looking for a letter of support from LETA. He knows LETA wants the walking trails, and he has also included the purchase of solar-powered bollards in his grant application.

Chairman Burk asked Brown to put a letter of support together for him to sign.

Neitzke asked Ezerski if Children's United would be one of the buy-in groups. He would need the name of the organization, the person's title, the number of years the organization has been associated with the City, etc.

Chairman Burk asked when the deadline was to have everything completed.

Neitzke stated the deadline is next Tuesday, March 15th at 4:00 pm. This is the last piece of the application that he needs to complete. He stated he will be attending the Fit Kids meeting on Friday. He said this group won't meet that often at first, but it may be more involved by the time they hit the second year.

Chairman Burke stated this can be added to the monthly LETA agenda as a report if needed.

Neitzke stated he came across an old map where there was a concrete trail at McMahon Park that went everywhere on the west side, but it was never completed. He doesn't believe concrete can be put on the east side due to flooding. He thinks the loops will increase the dog park usage and said it is very unique that the trail will run along Wolf Creek. He stated there aren't many trails in this region that run through a wooded area. Neitzke stated the other part of his narrative explains that these trails are all part of a connecting plan that was put together in 2008. The section next to Wolf Creek will connect the parks to Cameron University.

Chairman Burk stated the good thing about this is that the Cameron Cross Country team runs straight down 38th Street to that park and they need a place to go through. He advised Neitzke to contact Albert Johnson Jr with Cameron University to obtain another letter of support. He stated Eisenhower High School could also cross the street and use this as well. A lot of the dirt has been filled in down there in hopes of keeping more of the water in Wolf Creek. They have also redone McMahon fields, and this is the next step. He stated this makes our City more of a walkable City and that makes it easier to apply for grants.

Neitzke said the master plan states that a city with our population should have approximately 20.3 miles of trails, and we currently have 3.7 miles. This plan would add an additional 3.3 miles of paved trails and 2.2 miles of soft paved trails.

Chairman Burk stated you have LETA, Children's United, and possibly Cameron University on board.

Neitzke stated he also has Fit Kids.

Chairman Burk asked if the group could think of anyone else.

Chairman Burk stated maybe LPS.

Ezerski stated the Youth Sports Authority, and he could probably get a letter from the Board of Realtors.

Chairman Burk said he will get to work on trying to contact some of these organizations, but he thinks they should be part of the buy-in group. He thinks it would be best to have a letter of support from LETA and then have everyone else be part of the buy-in option.

Brown stated the local TSET office has provided a letter of support as well.

H. Receive report from Public Relations, Website and Facebook Committees, and take action if necessary

Patterson passed out a draft Flyer for Yard-of-the-Month. She stated it has the same information that was on the flyer last year and asked if any edits or revisions needed to be made.

Sweeney asked if this was going on the website.

Patterson stated yes, it will go on the website. Last year LETA also authorized \$100 for printing so flyers could be hung up in local businesses.

Chairman Burk stated they look wonderful.

Symuleski asked who the gift card is from.

Patterson stated Bedrock.

Chairman Burk stated we have money in the budget for the gift cards and asked Blazek-Scherler to get some ordered.

Patterson asked if she should also work with Blazek-Scherler to get the flyers printed.

Chairman Burk replied whatever you need to do to get it done. He is very thankful that public affairs is helping with this.

Hankins stated the LETA logo looks really great on the flyers and the colors match very well.

Patterson stated she took the colors directly from the logo. She said if the color looks a little off it's only because of the printer. Everything will really pop once she gets them professionally printed.

Chairman Burk stated the LETA logo looks really great on the benches that were done as well. He would love to buy more benches to put around town.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated maybe on 6th Street if that plan goes through.

Patterson stated she still has the yard-of-the-month yard signs. She stated every time she took one out to someone, they were very excited. They look really nice.

Sweeney stated that Brown pulled up a picture of the benches for her, and they look wonderful.

Chairman Burk stated other businesses have reached out to find out how they can get a LETA bench installed. He stated he couldn't remember where the benches were purchased from.

Neitzke stated they are from Oklahoma Correctional Industries. He said they are very reasonably priced compared to a parks & rec supplier.

Chairman Burk asked what the cost was.

Neitzke stated the last time he checked they were about \$465.00 a piece, but the prices are going up now.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated when they looked at them for the Children's Memorial Garden, and they also had large chairs.

Chairman Burk stated there will be areas for benches along the walking path in Shepler Park, and that might be a good place to put some of these benches. He said he was also speaking with Ed at the Farmer's Market, and they want to do something like a bench or a plaque for LETA since LETA paid for the landscaping. He asked the board's opinion on what they should request. He stated they could do a bench or a couple of benches since there is a lot of area outside where there are no benches. He stated they are also working on a plaque wall, and we could have a plaque with the board members' names on that. He said it's really up to the board to decide and asked for suggestions.

Sweeney stated a bench would be more useful. She asked if the Farmer's Market is funding it.

Chairman Burk said he assumes that the Farmer's Market would be paying for them, but LETA will design the bench. He thinks black benches since the doors on the Farmer's Market are black.

Sweeney said she thinks a plaque with everyone's name would be too big, but since the Farmer's Market is doing a plaque wall anyway, LETA should have a plaque as well. She stated we should have both.

Chairman Burk stated he will let the Farmer's Market know that LETA wants to do two benches and the board's name on the plaque.

Sweeney stated she doesn't want to ask for too much. She asked if the Farmer's Market can afford to do the benches.

Chairman Burk said he thinks they do.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated she saw where it was also being marketed as a venue for different classes and wedding receptions. She thought that was genius.

Patterson stated the post about the Farmer's Market was LETA's most popular post this year. It only had 4 shares, but it reached over 2,000 people. She asked that the board members share LETA posts when they see them because it makes a big difference on how many people a post can reach. She also stated that the Trash Off Event page is up, and they have had 72 people respond as either "going" or "interested". She said they have created an online sign-up form for volunteers.

Patterson stated they have had a lot of positive sidewalk stories in the newspaper this month. She said she believes the newspaper ran an article every Sunday last month.

I. Receive Monthly Ward Update and take action if necessary.

Chairman Burk stated if you see junk or debris anywhere, please make sure to turn it in to Neighborhood Services. He said they really try to stay on top of those types of things. He went on to say that he is working with Brown to keep up with new businesses that have let their landscaping die. It is part of code that they have to keep their landscaping up to standard.

Hankins stated there is a young man at Murphy's on the corner of Sheridan and Gore who has been picking up debris, so she took him some materials to work on that.

Chairman Burk stated Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and ODOT both give the city trash bags and things to help clean up. If anyone ever needs something, they just need to reach out to Corey Bowen to get some of those materials.

Chairman Burk stated there is a group out on the East side that does a really great job of picking stuff up. They line up all the trash bags on the side of the road and then they must call to have someone come pick it all up. He said he wishes he could see that going on in other areas of town too. He stated he also spoke with Michael about Rogers Lane, and they are working on it. He thanked Christine for getting it mowed and stated they just need to work on getting the trash picked up now. It's a big issue because all the trash blows into the fence since there is nothing else out there.

Ezerski stated he sees a lot of pickup trucks that have trash blowing out of the bed.

Chairman Burk stated they are working to educate citizens about having their loads covered. He asked that if anyone sees this, call in the tag number to the police department. They will then reach out to advise people that if they are hauling a load of trash, it has to be covered. They aren't giving out fines right now, but it will eventually get to that once people are educated about this policy.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated when she worked with Keep Our Land Grand, she found out that 70% of all debris on the roadways in Oklahoma is from the back of trucks.

Chairman Burk stated that 11th Street used to be the worst. LETA gave the money back to the City to keep this cleaned up and he hopes that helps.

J. Receive a report from the Planning Division regarding ongoing LETA projects and take action if necessary.

Brown stated she does not have any planning updates. She said she spoke with Corey, and they will do green for the Trash Off shirts, but they have not been ordered yet.

Chairman Burk stated to make sure the shirts are very bright to keep people for accidentally being hit.

Ezerski asked what the process is for ordering shirts. He stated their Frontier partner will be participating this year, and they are bringing 50 guys to help.

Chairman Burk stated they order between 600 and 800 shirts for the volunteers. He told Ezerski to get in contact with Bowen to give him a list of sizes.

James stated Neighborhood Services will make a bundle of shirts with the right sizes. That way, when they go to check in for the event that morning, their shirts are ready to go.

Patterson stated the online portal also has a portion that asks how many people you're bringing.

Chairman Burk said the focus last year was going out to certain areas and picking up trash. He wants that to be the focus again this year. He hopes that one day they won't need as many big trucks and City staff at this event. He wants to see different organizations take some of the bigger items, like furniture, to be reused. He also stated the number of individuals bringing stuff drastically decreased last year because of the monthly bulk trash pickup. He stated that started out with a lot of people throwing away things that have been stored for years, but it has settled down and gotten a lot better. He said it really cuts back on the mess that is made from people having to load up trash and take it to the dump themselves.

K. Receive a report on sidewalk and accessibility projects and take action if necessary.

Chairman Burk stated he would like to have as many trustees as possible to do a ground-breaking ceremony when the sidewalk project starts. He said someone needs to get with Rogalski to get a date for when the sidewalk on Sheridan will start so we can coordinate with the trustees and Channel 7 News.

Patterson stated she will take care of that.

McConnell asked where on Sheridan.

Brown stated it is North of Cache, around Smith Avenue.

Patterson asked if work was supposed to start on March 21st and if they would like to go out that day or a day prior to that.

Chairman Burk stated probably that day. It would be nice to have some pictures of work actually being done. Maybe they can get some pictures with some of the equipment being used.

Chairman Burk stated Mike Jones has been doing a lot of work on sidewalks. He said McMahon had reached out about the sidewalks around their building, and they were in really bad shape: there was no handicap access or ramps and the portions of sidewalk that did exist were cracked and falling apart. He stated ADA funds were used to install all the proper accesses and replace the sidewalk in front of the building and across the street. He stated anytime someone finds something where there are no ramps, call it in because Mike Jones can work with the ADA people to get the funding to fix it.

Chairman Burk stated it has really been bothering him to see bus stops that just have a pole next to the road with no shelter for people that are waiting. He said we can do better than that. The Apache tribe, Cameron, and the hospital have all put in their own bus stops that are really nice. He wants to see at least a concrete area and a bench, even if it's a LETA bench. He said he's seen some that sit up against the road, then they have a grass area behind, and then a sidewalk on the other side of the grass. That just doesn't work for accessibility.

Brown stated they are supposed to connect those to the sidewalk.

Chairman Burk said the ADA sidewalks that were put in on the East side have been great. He received a phone call from someone who was highly opposed to the sidewalks being installed at first. That person said it has been amazing. You can see the people in their wheelchairs using these sidewalks to get outside. He said the young people that are working in that area also use the sidewalk to get back to their apartments.

Wiseman-Vaughan showed a picture of someone using the previously mentioned sidewalk. She stated she sees people using that sidewalk all the time on the East side.

Chairman Burk said there are also soldiers from Fort Sill that go up and down those sidewalks to run or get where they are going to.

Symuleski asked if he is talking about the sidewalk on East Gore that runs from Flowermound up to the high school.

Chairman Burk stated yes and those need to be connected. He said he looks for areas where the ground has been worn down and looks like a cattle trail or ditch. Those are the areas that people are walking and there isn't a sidewalk. He stated that handicapped people can't ride through these areas. He is grateful for the medical marijuana money for sidewalks. He stated that is money that we have never had before, and we've already spent money out of that for the design phase.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated she sees a lot of complaints about the sidewalks on social media. She said she knows that medical marijuana money is dedicated to fix these sidewalks because she is in LETA meetings, but questions whether or not the community knows that. She said if they don't know, we really need to get this information out there, even if it means LETA getting out there with a shovel every time a new sidewalk is started to share on social media or to put in the news.

Chairman Burk stated he agrees. He said that Patterson tries to get our name out there, and the articles that were in the Lawton Constitution were amazing. He stated he spoke with Kim McConnell about all the different entities that are involved in these sidewalks, including LETA, the CIP, medical marijuana money, and ADA money. With so many pots of money, there are a ton of sidewalks that are going to be installed in the next one to two years.

Ezerski asked that if a weekly update can be done for the public once construction is started.

Chairman Burk said yes.

Wiseman-Vaughan stated that would be a good way to get it out there in the community that this is really happening.

Chairman Burk stated he has seen Mike Jones walking up and down Sheridan, so he knows he is very involved with this project, and the City Manager has made it a big push to really get these projects going.

Wiseman-Vaughan asked if Patterson was open to people sending in pictures of some of the positive things going on around town.

Patterson answered yes, she gets a lot of photos from staff, and she would be happy to include pictures from the board members as well. She stated she has a stash of photos right now because she is working on a story about flushable wipes. She asked if anyone sees Bedrock putting new things in around town, please email her pictures of that as well.

Brown stated Janet Smith met with KSWO yesterday and she advised them to reach out to her if they were looking for any positive stories.

Chairman Burk stated there is a lot going on. He received the plans for the new Mathis Brothers and that is going to be amazing. There are going to be restaurants along the front and there are some other lots along the sides.

Ezerski stated there is a new restaurant going into Central Plaza.

Chairman Burk said there is a potential second restaurant also looking at Central Plaza.

Hankins stated we really need to start using the restaurants that we already have as well. She recently ate at the Silver Spoon with her son who is a pilot and eats all over the place. He said the food was great and it was a reasonable price, but the restaurant wasn't crowded at all.

McConnell stated Bricktown Brewery stays pretty busy.

2. New Business

A. Consider approving the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion by Symuleski, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2022 meeting. **AYE:** McConnell, Smith, Sweeney, Symuleski, Tanner, Burk, Ezerski, Wiseman-Vaughan, Hankins **NAY:** None. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Discussion

Symuleski stated there was some discussion at the last meeting about how to get sidewalks on Gore from Sheridan up to the hospital.

Chairman Burk stated they are designing that now.

Symuleski said ok, so that's being worked on.

Chairman Burk affirmed and stated they are working on getting a price. It will have to be taken back to Council to be put on the master plan. He said he met with ADA, and they wanted to put side walks on both sides, but there isn't enough money for that right now unless they use ADA or CIP funds.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.