

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL MAYORS CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
MARCH 12, 2014

Mary Ann Hankins, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the New City Hall Mayors Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Rosemary Bellino Hall; Jay Burk (entered late); Jane Godlove; Mary Ann Hankins; Jean Harbison; Anika Safi; Maria Shahan; Addie Smith; Kerry Sweeney.

ABSENT: Bob Dismuke; Barry Ezerski.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Richard Rogalski, Planning Director; Tony Griffith, Neighborhood Services.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Burk stated I would like to welcome everyone and introduce our new member Maria Shahan.

1. Reports

A. Receive report from Dennis Totte.

Totte stated everyone met in regards to 2nd Street and I believe we are now all on the same page. I have submitted bids for the replacement of trees and sprinklers. There is one zone that still does not work on the east side. L & L finished the pots and the electricity is up and running. The first median on Lee Boulevard is done. We are working on the second one today and the third one will be finished by Friday or Monday.

Burk stated the developer has agreed he is responsible for the replacement of everything that died on 2nd Street. I told him we wanted it to be completed by March 29th. I have asked while they are making the repairs to put electrical in for up lighting. I would like to up light all the trees. Some of the grates will have to be adapted to make it work but this shouldn't be a big issue. We will be receiving bids from the developer's landscaper and Totte and then we will compare apples to apples. We have asked that 2nd Street become a no truck traffic street and we have received some opposition. Dan Mullins had concerns but after speaking with them we have come up with a solution. Jim Eason with Coors has concerns about servicing his customers. This shouldn't be an issue because the hotel doesn't allow deliveries at the front of the complex. We would like for 2nd Street to be a pedestrian friendly zone. We have spent a lot of money to make 2nd Street beautiful and we need to keep it that way. Lawton doesn't have truck routes and we need to fight for them. I would think that Rogers Lane, Lee Boulevard, I44 and 82nd Street would be routes for trucks.

Rogalski stated our code is very liberal in regards to truck routes. We allow trucks to park in the middle of the road while making a delivery because most parking lots are not designed for trucks. We need to start by tightening up our regulations. We need signage stating no through trucks...local deliveries only.

Burk stated we need to develop a policy now. We need to talk with those who have concerns on how we can help them but divert traffic and attention away from that road. We need Rogalski's help to focus on this. Ezerski did a great job trying to explain the beautification but they didn't get it.

Rogalski asked has anyone presented that request to the Chamber of Commerce.

Burk stated I don't know.

Rogalski stated if the Chamber was behind it then the businesses would be behind it.

Burk stated we don't want to hurt any business or the ability for them to do their job. Also on the corner of 2nd and Ferris there is a water well owned by the city. We need to see the liability of the well to see if it can produce water. This could be used for water features or pumping it into Lake Helen. Shahan has come up with some great ideas. It could be use to enhance downtown. We need to run a test to see what condition the casing is in and if the water is usable. We believe the cost will be around \$10,000. This is the only group that has the ability to find out if the well is liable.

Hankins asked how deep is the well.

Griffith stated 850'.

Burk stated I was hoping to come today to see if you were willing to do the test. The money would be paid back to us on the backend through the development of the lines that will go across the road to connect into Elmer Thomas Park. If we wait for the city to do this we will be waiting a while.

Godlove asked the test isn't \$10,000 is it.

Burk stated \$10,000 is for everything.

Rogalski stated the test will tell you the quality of the water and how deep it can produce.

Burk stated I would like a motion to allow up to \$10,000 for the study. I believe for enhancement this is the best \$10,000 we could spend. As you know Bricktown would be nothing without water.

Hankins stated my son is the past president of the Water Resources Board and he has a water well drilling service. If there would be any way he could help with a free opinion I'm sure he would.

Bellino stated before spending \$10,000 ask your son if he will at least look at this.

Hankins stated I can ask some questions and he has the resources to look things up.

Burk stated we are in a crunch because we have some development ideas for right there and we need to know if we are going to keep the well. I would like to give Rogalski the authority to run the test and if that doesn't work out we can contact your son. We need to get moving because we are in a very critical time in finding out if the water is usable.

Bellino stated so \$10,000 is to test the water and to drop pipe in the well.

Rogalski stated I believe that is the situation. I'll look at the quote and get back with Burk.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Safi, to allow up to \$10,000 to test and refurbish the water well located and 2nd and Ferris. **Aye:** Burk; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Shahan; Smith; Sweeney; Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

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

Shahan stated here is a handout that references some of the concept Burk has been referring to. There is a federal grant that could be implemented called Innovated Storm Water Plan. I believe there is potential there to use natural water resources which would tie into the well if it is a viable option. This is not for discuss today but something for you to look at. This is a huge project and will take a lot of people and different involvement to make it happen. Next there are 79 locations for trees and 19 ballard lighting. We will be planting lacy bark elm and red oaks.

Burk stated we will have to pay for mulch but Rogalski got the funding for the trees.

Shahan stated we will be planting around the 17th of March.

Rogalski stated this will probably be the last time for this funding.

Burk stated we are thankful to get it while we could.

C. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Safi stated I've been trying to keep in touch with Griffith in regards to Trash Off.

Burk stated Griffith has done an exceptional job. We will be painting about 30 homes.

Griffith stated we have over 500 volunteers. I have a weekly meeting with the Deputy Commander of Ft. Sill who is providing 500 of the volunteers. Mike Sports Grille and Walmart on Sheridan have volunteered to provide the supplies and paint to do 4 homes. Mike's will do 1 home and Walmart will be doing 3. Our cash commitments are a little over \$10,000. Both Walmart's have donated \$1000 and Sam's donated \$500. We will feed all the volunteers. Burger King, McDonalds, Mike Sports Grille, Pizza Hut and Billy Sims have all donated food. I have met with Bill Havern from Great Plains and he has given me a class on painting. We have run into a speed bump with lead base paint but I think we can work past it. Havern is seeing how many he can pull together to help identify whether the paint is lead base or not. If we are unable to clean up the lead base paint you will have two choices. We can paint the housing without scraping and if we can't paint them we will take it off the list. The Housing Division for the City of Lawton will be taking their budget back to Council to have it adjusted so they can give us \$5,000. If we do not spend all the funds received we will roll it over until we do this again. We would like to do this twice a year. One at the beginning of summer and one at the end. I believe once we get through the first time everything will flow smoothly thereafter.

Rogalski stated we need to understand with private funds we can do as we choose but it is different with federal funds. Housing will be proposing a change to their One Year Plan to allow \$5000 to go to this program.

Bellino asked so this means the money can only be spent on X Y and Z.

Rogalski stated yes.

Burk stated Housing can help implement whatever rules need to be met.

Burk asked what about caulking.

Griffith stated Havern is going to do all the preparation. We will have 2 power washers to scrape and wash siding. Once the structures are selected we will do an assessment. I have 25 applications at this time.

Burk stated we need to run the article in the paper again.

Griffith stated it will run on Sunday.

Burk stated KSWO will do a follow up story 2 weeks before the event. It may need to be done earlier to get more applications.

Griffith stated if we need more homes I will send my guys out to find them.

Burk stated there are older homes in every Ward and I believe everyone should be considered. The home we selected to use in our campaign was wonderful. She is 84 and she did a fantastic job. She works hard at keeping her home and this is a way for the community to give back to her.

Griffith stated KCCU will run a clip on Friday. Walmart met with me and they want to adopt the creek on the backside of the building. They want to invest some money and would like for us to come up with ideas of what could be done to the creek. We need to come up with some ideas.

Burk stated that creek is terrible. It is great they want to do this. We need to sit down with them and come up with a plan.

Griffith stated they are very anxious to get involved. They have invited the neighbors to come help. They are paying their staff and will be serving hot dogs and drinks to the volunteers.

Godlove stated I would like for us to think about discouraging the use of plastic bags and replace them with recyclable bags. The vacant lot at 67th and Gore is covered with these bags. Some communities are banning the use of plastic bags and we need to move in that direction.

Burk stated Walmart doesn't want to purchase those bags because it is a big expense. They would love to find another option. This is something we need to look into to see what other communities across Oklahoma are doing.

D. Monthly Ward Update

Burk asked does anyone have anything to report. I would like to ask before the next meeting that everyone drive through your Ward and come up with some good ideas for spring.

E. Treasurer Report

Burk stated starting the first of July the City of Lawton will be doing our financials and our audit. It appears LETA has had only 1 audit since the beginning and we should have had one yearly. There was a time we felt it wasn't necessary due to our income. So we may have to go back and have an audit done from 2007 to present.

Bellino asked do we have to pay for that.

Burk stated yes.

Bellino stated no. Give it to the City and they can do it.

Burk stated they can't go back but they will start from this point forward.

Hankins stated they want a clean audit to start with.

Burk stated yes.

Bellino asked what kind of cost are we talking about.

Burk stated we don't know but it will be substantial. It could run around \$10,000. We need to get it right and move on.

Bellino stated I believe the audit protects us. Audits are costly but CPA have a huge financial liability in their malpractice insurance.

Hankins stated you are lucky to find someone who will do a nonprofit. We had this same problem at Great Plains and Robert Turner was the one who did ours. He did a very nice job.

Burk stated we have talked with him. We hope to get this done soon and move on. We received our hotel/motel money in the amount of \$32,836. That was from July to present time. From here on that payment will be paid monthly. We received court funds for the months of December and January. December was \$2979 and January was \$4464. Our balance is \$153,385.70. Are there any questions.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Godlove, to accept the treasurer's report. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Shahan; Smith; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Receive report from Website Committee

Burk stated I'm the reason this task hasn't been completed. Would someone like to volunteer to take my place?

Sweeney stated I don't know anything about websites but I'm willing to help.

Burk stated we have hired a professional and almost everything has been lined out we just need to finish. If you are willing to help Godlove and Safi I would appreciate it.

2. New Business

A. Discuss Setting a Date for an Eye Candy Banquet Meeting to Make Suggestions as to What Needs to be Different in the Coming Year and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I would like for us to meet on this outside our regular meeting. Is Wednesday the 26th at 3:00 p.m. good for everyone? (Majority agreed) Next year we will turn the banquet over to Maria Shahan. She will be spearheading the event. The event needs a facelift. People are becoming tired of the same thing. This is the biggest event we have all year long and I don't want us to lose our passion for it. We can give our ideas to Shahan and she can take it from there.

Safi stated we need new energy.

Godlove stated lots of people got up and left so we might need a new format.

Burk stated I heard comments we needed to hold it on Friday instead of Thursday.

Godlove stated instead of a sit down dinner may just do hors d'oeuvres.

Hankins stated it is disturbing when people get up and leave.

Bellino stated I have a thank you from Bill and Georgia Williams. They were overwhelmed.

Burk stated okay we will meet on the 26th to come up with new ideas. If you can't be there please email me your comments and concerns.

B. Discuss the amount and level of donation for medians and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I would like to get the entire community involved. Any donation under the allotted amount would receive a thank you.

Bellino asked in the other medians didn't they have to donate \$5000 for signage.

Burk stated yes.

Bellino stated so if I talk to people I need to tell them a minimum of \$5000.

Burk stated if you have 5 to donate a \$1000 then the median would be sponsored by those 5.

Rogalski stated you can also place the donors on your website.

Burk stated exactly.

C. Discuss Fresh Paint Days and take action if necessary.

Burk stated this was discussed earlier.

3. Old Business

A. Maintenance and Repairs and take action if necessary.

Bellino asked what have we decided to do to the municipal building.

Burk stated the foundation repair will be going before Council. Once the repairs are made we will paint, seal, do the lettering and fix the lighting.

Bellino asked do we have to do the foundation first.

Burks stated we are going to wait until it is done and you can't paint the brick until it reaches a certain temperature. Shahan will also fix the awning. This will give it a good face lift.

Bellino asked what about 11th Street by the airport.

Burk stated all we are doing there is regular maintenance.

Safi asked what about Rogers Lane.

Burk stated same thing. The medians on Lee changed the whole area.

Sweeney stated it looks awesome.

Burk stated I'm glad we decided to do everything. For the medians with sight issues we need to plant coloratus. This is a ground cover that turns red and green all year long. It gets about a foot tall and is beautiful. We need to remove all the grass and fill the whole median with it.

Godlove stated I call it monster weed. If it is not contained it will take over everything.

Burk stated all you need is a couple of boulders, a sprinkler system and maybe a small shrub. They are doing this in Oklahoma City and it is beautiful. You will have to keep it trimmed off the curb but it is beautiful year round.

Godlove stated it does take overtake everything and it takes a while to get started.

Safi asked what about Jack In The Box.

Rogalski stated they are going to replace the dead. They are waiting to see what comes back. They have met the required code so they are in compliance except for the dead plants. We need to change the code.

Burk stated I have a list of the businesses that have opened since the code has gone into effect. I'll email it to everyone so we can all keep an eye out. We can make them maintain it but we can't require them to do more. It is better than it was before.

B. Discuss a Five Year Plan and take action if necessary.

No discussion.

C. Discuss the proposed park improvement on the property located at NW corner of SE 2nd Street and SE C Avenue and take action if necessary.

Bellino asked does the city own this property.

Rogalski stated LURA owns it and they have issued a demo permit. LURA has agreed to remove the structure. They want to see plans for redevelopment before they will deed it to the city.

Bellino asked do we have a plan for it.

Burk stated not really. We wanted to get the structure remove and then start a project with the Chamber and Fit Kids.

Rogalski stated we would like to get the community to submit ideas for the park.

Burks stated we like the idea of green space with a water feature and a directional sign.

Bellino stated Rogalski suggested having a design charrette.

Rogalski stated with a charrette you take the best parts of many design and put them together to make one.

Burk asked are you going to oversee all this.

Rogalski stated I can facilitate the charrette.

Burk stated get them there so we can start talking and getting some ideas together.

4. Announcements

Burk stated we will have to have a special meeting to choose our homes for Fresh Paint Days. We will let you know when we have that date.

Rogalski stated Council approved the advertizing policy that gets the city one step closer to a healthy community. If we can reach this status we will be awarded \$160,000 to be used in Elmer Thomas Park. Also there is a group of people that want to redo the Fairmont Creamery. At some point this will merge with what LETA is trying to do.

Bellino stated to receive the \$160,000 we have to be certified as a no tobacco city.

Rogalski stated correct. What was passed last night gets us to the silver level. Bronze is no smoking on city owned property and gold is a no tobacco city.

Bellino stated don't we already have that.

Rogalski stated no. They are working on that ordinance right now. If we make the bronze we will receive \$60,000.

Bellino asked when does it come to Council.

Rogalski stated I'm not certain.

Bellino stated don't we have an ordinance that doesn't allow smoking.

Rogalski stated you can't smoke inside a city building or within 25' of a door. With gold you would not be allowed to smoke on or in any city owned property to include the parks.

Safi stated I thought the state said you couldn't smoke on government property.

Burk stated that decision was overturned. We received an invitation from the city of Broken Arrow to attend their Rose Show Festival on Saturday May 17th. They will host a gala and wine reception. This is sponsored by Keep Broken Arrow Beautiful. I'm going to pass this around to look at their logo.

Bellino asked do we have a logo.

Burk stated yes and we are working on one for Keep Lawton Beautiful.

Bellino asked do you have it so we could have t-shirts made.

Burk stated yes.

Bellino asked bring it to the next meeting so we can look at it.

Burk stated thanks for being here.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.