

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
2nd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
MARCH 14, 2018

Mary Ann Hankins, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Coody, Joshua; Dismuke, Bob; Hampton, Allan; Hankins, Mary Ann; Morford, Robert (entered late); Smith, Addie; Sweeney, Kerry; Tennis, Michael; Walters, Lynda.

ABSENT: Burk, Jay; Ezerski, Barry.

OTHER PRESENT: Richard Rogalski, Planning; Jack Hanna and Keith Neitzke, Parks and Recreation; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Hankins stated we are going to here from Parks and Recreation and Item C of business first.

2. New Business

C. Discuss giving a Grant to the Mountain Metro Ambucs and take action if necessary.

Hanna stated we will be giving 2 presentations today. First will be from the Southwest Mountain Metro Ambucs on their proposal for the Miracle League Field. Second will be on a grant that Neitzke would like to apply for. We have Aimee Carter and Pam from Ambucs to tell you about the Miracle Field. The Miracle Filed has been an ongoing project for the last 10 years. There has been a lull in finishing the project. A new group has gotten involved and are trying to finish the field. They are here to ask LETA for a grant to help complete the project. You have a hard copy of the slide show in front of you.

Carter stated Mountain Metro Ambucs members went to Edmond to watch some special needs children play baseball. During the game a rock got under a little girls walker and she fell. Everyone was horrified because they were worried she was hurt. Our members came back to the club and decided we needed a field of this kind in Lawton. It took many years of fund raising to get everything needed for the project. This was a huge project. Here are some photos of the process we went through to get the field. The circle you see here is what we will be talking about. We went through different phases where we needed a scoreboard, turf, fencing and now the circle. This is collaboration between the Mountain Metro Ambucs, City of Lawton and YMCA. The YMCA oversees the league and is responsible for game day. I'm going to show you a marketing video. This will help you to understand what the fields are about and it shows you the big picture. (Video Played) This is some of the schools that I personally bring to the field. You see Tri-County is composed of 15 different schools. As a physical therapist we have

field trips through the week and you see there are some of the surrounding towns involved. Some kids ride a bus for 2 hours to come play baseball. In this picture you can see the scoreboard in the background. Here is an example of kids with needs that come to the field. They are in wheelchairs and walkers. These pictures are of our actual field. Once we are done playing a game we go to the concession and work on life skills. The students have to ask for their food and drinks and then carry them to the pavilion. After lunch we go over to the playground to get some socializing time. This picture shows you what usually happens when they have to leave. The circle you see in this pictures shows it is still empty. Our vision is to have a bronze statue in this circle. The person who was overseeing the project is no longer involved so we have picked up where she left off and trying to get the field completed. Here are some statues we would like to use. Our preference is the girl in the wheelchair with the helmet. We feel it symbolizes the whole purpose of the field. You see the purchase price is \$11,000.

Hanna stated since LETA has purchased from this company before I reached out to them and they are willing to sell us the wheelchair statue for \$9800.

Cheatwood asked is it bronze or brass composite and who would own it.

Rogalski stated since the field is located on city property the City of Lawton would own it. Would the Ambucs be donating the statue to the City of Lawton?

Carter stated yes.

Pam stated another issue is the playground is not handicapped accessible. We take these children to the playground and they can't play because of accessibility. That doesn't seem right. We don't have \$13,000 to spend on a bronze statue. There was discussion about using one of the statues that LETA already owns but they didn't represent what the field stands for.

Hankins stated it sounds like you still have some issue to work out. Do you have a board that you work with?

Carter stated there is a committee made from the 3 organizations and we meet monthly. Our focus is the league, scheduling teams and buying uniforms. Mountain Metro has stayed involved because we have that ability. We have more flexibility than the YMCA and Parks and Recreation. If we need to have a fund raiser we are here to do so.

Dismuke asked how much do you have to place against the purchase.

Carter stated I don't know what we have in the account. Best case scenario would be you giving us the \$9800.

Vrska asked is that amount installed.

Carter stated no. We have been using volunteers and we hope we can get someone to volunteer the labor, installation and concrete. We have been trying to keep our cost down. Time is of the essence because we would like to do a big grand opening in the fall.

Hanna stated several of us went out last summer and volunteered as buddies. You saw they felt as if they were participating in whatever is normal. They had so much fun. If you haven't been a buddy you need to try it. It was just a lot of fun.

Carter stated we haven't been able to push and market the league because the field isn't 100% complete. We have been using it since 2011 and would like to market it so we could get some foot traffic. Finishing is the big push. We would like to get the money for the statue so we could use our money to make the playground handicapped accessible and this will be a big ticket item.

Dismuke stated I believe most of us would love to do something. Have we already promised or spent all out funds for this fiscal year. I'm not certain we have \$9800.

Hankins stated could you come back next month with a dollar about you are asking for.

Carter stated yes.

Hanna stated I visited with Burk about this project and he felt that it goes along with some of your themes.

Dismuke stated I would still like to see what they can raise and bring it back next month. We need to know where we are with our budget.

Rogalski asked what do you need to feel the project is complete.

Carter stated the statue and installation.

Rogalski stated once the statue is delivered you need to have it installed in short order. The statues are of good quality and this is a very good company.

Cheatwood stated through the National Endowment for the Arts there are grants that you can apply for.

Rogalski stated looking at your budget you still have \$20,000 in grants and awards. I don't believe you have anything committed from this account.

Hankins stated we just want more information.

Motion by Dismuke, Second by Tennis, to table this item until next month. **Aye:** Coody; Dismuke; Hampton; Hankins; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Hankins stated thank you both.

Carter stated on September 8th we are having our Challenge Trail Event. We challenge people to come out and walk. We will bring in adult group homes and kids from all over. This is a great event. We hope this will help to promote more foot traffic.

Hankins stated thank you for your awareness information.

1. Reports

E. Receive report from Parks and Recreation, and take action if necessary.

Hanna stated you have a handout in regards to a monarch butterfly grant. The pre-proposal is due by 11:00 p.m. tonight. This is a \$100,000 grant and expands over 3 budget cycles. We have to commit the \$100,000 and once we start fulfilling our obligations they will reimburse us 50% of what we have spent. You will be reimbursed immediately.

Neitzke stated I entitled the grant LETA Perfect Project. This is through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. With most grants you have to complete the project before being reimbursed but not with this one. If we purchased a tractor and planter we could plant wildflowers wherever we wanted. I proposed 4 sites for wildflower plantings.

Hanna stated instead of having 1 large garden we decided to designate different areas throughout the city.

Neitzke stated this is a rough draft of the pre-proposal. We suggested 2 sites surrounding the existing butterfly garden in Elmer Thomas. These would be 2.6 acre sites. Rogalski will be the point of contact.

Hanna stated the reason for coming to LETA is because Parks and Recreation doesn't have the funds they can commit up front.

Neitzke stated if our pre-proposal is selected the full proposal is due in May. The grant also allows for partners from another entity to pledge money or in-kind donations.

Rogalski stated so part of the yearly \$33,333 could be in labor. This means we wouldn't have to write a check and the city would be paying for the labor.

Neitzke stated there will be proposal from all over the United States, Mexico and Canada. From the pre-proposals they will selected a group to submit the full proposal.

Rogalski stated what you would be doing is allowing Neitzke to start the process. If we were awarded the grant we would have to commit the funding.

Dismuke asked can we count our existing project.

Neitzke stated no. Nothing before August of 2018.

Morford asked do we have to commit the full amount or can we third it.

Neitzke stated the full amount. They will reimburse \$50,000 and you can spread it out over 3 fiscal years.

Hanna stated you can spend \$100,000 the first year or split it into 3 years.

Neitzke stated the tractor and no till planter will cost approximately \$63,000 and they would reimburse you \$31,500.

Hanna stated if we purchase this equipment we could plant our own wildflowers. LETA would have control of the equipment so you could loan it to the city to beautify some of their properties.

Hankins asked will LETA own the equipment.

Rogalski stated yes. You could donate it to the City of Lawton.

Hankins asked have we ever owned equipment.

Ezell stated yes. Greenhill should have some mowers and Fresh Paint Days equipment.

Hanna stated the grant has not been awarded to anyone this far south or in Oklahoma. We are hoping this pushes us a little higher on the ladder.

Neitzke stated and we hope the ODOT project helps.

Morford stated since we are on the main flyway that should help us.

Neitzke stated most of their grants have been given for monarchs and this year they have extended it to pollinators. We are proposing to plant 15 acres at the lake of native grasses, restoring prairie plants and flowers.

Hampton asked are there any requirement of us having to maintain what we do.

Neitzke stated I didn't read anything about maintaining but you would want a management plan.

Rogalski stated the city will have to maintain it forever. Planting wildflowers where we have to mow will reduce the amount of maintenance. You could do a till partner with ODOT next year and they could plant on state right-of-way and we could plant on city right-of-way.

Hankins stated this is an educational component because we increase the awareness of the butterfly garden.

Rogalski stated it is also beautification. Quanah Parker would look great in wildflowers.

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Hampton, to make application for the Monarch Butterfly Conservation Grant. **Aye:** Dismuke; Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Coody. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

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

Totte isn't with us today.

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

Cheatwood stated the committee has been working on the administrative infrastructure goals. We are learning about the City of Lawton resources and state code. One of the city engineers stated for historical buildings there should be a facility use policy. We looked at how the State of Oklahoma manages their historic facilities and the covenant. We met with Hanna to see how our current system works versus how the state works. The City of Lawton currently doesn't have a city facility use rules and policies. We will be looking as to how we can best implement that. At the next meeting we will review the City of Lawton Administrative Policy on how to write a policy. We are proceeding ahead.

C. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Hankins stated Huntley isn't with us today but she has provided the following: Municipal fines income is all of November and 3 days in December; repairs, maintenance and replanting for the Butterfly Garden and splash pad is \$350; tree Ring repair on Lee Blvd is \$656.86; sprinkler repair at Sheridan Walmart is \$102; sprinkler repair at Lee Blvd is \$314.50; and sprinkler repair at Carnegie Hall is \$156.20. Freedom Festival income was a sponsorship from Great Plains Ambucs and a vendor application fee. No changes to the last 2 pages.

Rogalski stated most of your information is on the last page. Budget wise you are doing very well with your income versus expenses. Your expenditures have kept in line with the budget. You have spent about \$67,000, committed another \$11,000 and you have \$102,000 uncommitted. It is time to start working on the budget for next year. Generally we start with the categories you have here. You will have a new funding source from the landfill so that will be added in.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Morford, to accept the treasurer's report. **Aye:** Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Coody; Dismuke. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Dismuke stated I would like to consider item D next.

Hankins stated okay.

D. Discuss the condition and disposition of the right-of-way fences along Rogers Lane and Interstate 44 and take action if necessary.

Dismuke stated here are some photo that I took on this item. This is one of the first things you see when you come into Lawton. On Indian Trail Road you see a 5' chain link fence on the ground and this means you can't mow under it. There is Johnson grass that stands about 3' tall and trees that have grown up through the fence that are 4' tall. It looks really bad. I counted about 6 areas of fence that was down and another 4 areas where the fence is bent over. It catches all kind of trash and debris. I'm not certain who owns the right-of-way but I recommend the fence be removed.

Rogalski stated Hanna, Burk and I drove this area along with Rogers Lane and took pictures. There are a number of issues there. Aesthetically Indian Trail is the worst. Here is a map that is colored coded. The blue line is ODOT fence and the red and green is City of Lawton. Indian Trail right-of-way belongs to ODOT. Towards 82nd Street the fence isn't bad but grass is growing in it. As you head east on Rogers Lane it gets worse and in areas the fence has no purpose. In some of these pictures you will see you have both a wooden fence and then a chain link fence. It is impossible to maintain the area between the 2 fences. In areas like this you can probably remove the fence but you will have to put in a handrail due to the drop off. You need a barrier that allows you to mow under it. Moving towards Sheridan Road there are areas the fence has been torn town. In this picture the City of Lawton maintains the area behind the fence along with the right-of-way. In this doubled fenced area you see ton of trees between the 2 fences. The fence along Rogers Lane there is a good chance it will be removed. We will be meeting with Jay Earp who is the Division VII engineer for ODOT about the fence on Indian Trail. We will take him out to look at the area. Earp believes there needs to be some kind of access control on I-44. He should be compelled to remove the grass and trees that are in the fence. ODOT believe it is a traffic safety issue.

Morford asked are guard rails expense.

Rogalski stated I will say we asked 3 contractors for quotes to remove the fence. We got 2 no quotes and the other was \$3.00 a foot. There are several miles of fence so it would be very expensive. Fence is expensive especially when ODOT builds it. We will start the conservation with them tomorrow.

Dismuke stated you might also mention to them the concrete barrier on Rogers Lanes needs to be painted.

Rogalski stated I spoke with ODOT maintenance on this issue. There are some underpasses that need painting also. ODOT is dealing with budget issues just like everyone else. If we are to understanding then you are not the squeaky wheel that gets greased. We have to balance our understandings with our desires. We are the largest community in Division VII.

Dismuke stated I'm glad you are on top of it.

Coody stated we will at least begin the conversation on understanding what can be removed and maintained from both a city and ODOT standpoint.

Rogalski stated that is right.

Coody asked I know there are budget issues but is there a reason it can't be taken down.

Rogalski stated ODOT feels it is a traffic/safety issue and it can't be changes. Sometimes politics can change it.

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

Rogalski stated these were projects that LETA has already approved.

Hankins stated we have a check to TE Concrete for \$500 and Sign Dynamic for \$644.50 both for the butterfly garden.

Motion by Hampton, Second by Tennis, to approve invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment. **Aye:** Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Coody. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Receive report from Public Relations Committee and take action if necessary.

Ezell stated Ezerski is in Washington DC this week.

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

Hampton stated the stadium is still on the radar in Ward 5. We are still looking at the Lawton Bloom and trying to get cost for C Avenue.

Rogalski stated I was giving a presentation to the Chamber Executive Committee and I mentioned LETA and the Lawton Bloom project. They were all over it. They want to create a Downtown Committee to oversee the downtown area. Moine spoke to the mall and they would like to tear down the wrought iron fence and place pots there. The mall agreed to maintain them if the community put them in.

Hampton stated Open Streets will be downtown on April 21st.

Rogalski stated the kids activity will be a coloring projected based on cleaning up Lawton. The following week is Trash Off so we tie the two together.

H. Receive report from Website and Facebook Committee and take action if necessary.

Hampton stated we had about 5000 interactions and 400 shares. Our page rocks. I would encourage everybody to share and post.

I. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Greenhill stated Trash Off is the week after Open Streets. Griffith and I have been working on getting vendors. We have the Sheriff's Department, File 13, and have reached out to a couple of recycling contractors. Worst case scenario we accept cardboard and aluminum and take it to the landfill. It's not ideal but it would end up there anyway since we don't have a recycling program. We are meeting with Goodyear next week in regards to the hazardous waste. This is important because we don't want this to go to the landfill. We will be doing some radio interviews to promote the event. If we can we will be at Open Streets.

Hampton asked are you willing to set up a booth and do you accept oil and computer parts.

Greenhill stated we could probably set up a booth. Gill's Waste will be there and I'm not certain on the computer parts.

Rogalski stated in the past we have had more emphasis on cleaning up Lawton. I'm not certain why that fell off.

Greenhill stated I have an idea based on communication with volunteer coordinators. I have reached out to the schools and their Key Clubs to see if we can get some of it back.

Rogalski stated it's too late for this year but maybe next year. Trash was another thing the Executive Committee was big on.

Hankins stated we will be out to support you.

J. Receive report from Eye Candy Event committee, discuss Eye Candy Awards and nominees, and take action if necessary.

Sweeney stated the event will be held on Friday April 20th at the Great Plains Museum. It will be more of a casual event this year and we are trying to fine tune everything. Invitations are ready to be sent out. The Farmers Market, Master Gardeners, Iris Club and Nitty Gritty Gardeners, and Bedrock Nursery will be setup in a tent outside with free informational advice. We are trying to draw the event into more of what we stand for. The museum has offered to allow our guest to walk through the museum. I'm really pleased with how well it is all coming together. This is a new direction for us. We want all the board member to attend because we are the ambassadors for what we do.

Hankins stated this will also draw awareness to what a great thing the museum is.

Sweeney stated they are working very closely with us to make certain everything is good.

Hampton stated it has more of a community feel than a business feel.

Hankins stated we want you to host as if this event was being held in your home.

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

Rogalski stated as you know we are holding the workshop tonight for the skate park design. It will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the banquet hall. This is your consultant Vince from Spohn Ranch.

Vince stated this is a small preview of what we will show tonight. For a quick introduction of myself I grew up in Iowa and started skating when I was 10. I fell in love and still skate to this day. In 2005 I moved to California to go to school and a professor connected me with the owners of this company. For the past 10 years I've been designing skate parks all over the country. I got lucky and won the job lottery. Spohn Ranch started with Erin Spohn in 1980. At that time he built ramps. He started to get noticed by skilled ramp builders and they approached him. In 1995 ESPN developed the X Games and asked him to design and build them. He designed and built the X Games, then skate boarding and bike riding, and then all the action sports. Soon cities all over the country realized they needed a place for skaters, bikers, and boarders to go where they could safely do their thing. We had a natural transition into the world of municipal skate parks. We have done this for 25 years and have built hundreds of design all over the country. Ninety percent of our construction crews are skateboarders and take pride in what they do. I don't believe we have done anything significant in Oklahoma so we are excited.

Morford stated this will be significant.

Vince stated absolutely. Here are some examples of what we have done. We do some special events for Mountain Dew, Red Bull, and Vans but 90% of our work is municipal work. We are known for well balanced skate parks. Our parks accommodate the full spectrum skill levels from beginners to advance. No matter what your skill level is you can feel comfortable riding in one of our skate parks. It is also well balanced in terms of terrain. There are 2 main types of terrain. You have a bowl which is basically a radius vertical wall kind of like the empty backyard swimming pool. The other is called street. Basically we recreate a downtown plaza of stairs, handrails, curbs and planters. We have a little bit of everything for everyone. We are also known for creating sculptural skate parks. All our parks are constructed with concrete and we like to create aesthetically pleasing environments. We also try to incorporate a little cultural inheritance. I have been out to the site at Elmer Thomas Park. Your site is a wide open blank canvas and I love that. We did talk about whether we would have to create additional parking. The goal tonight is to find out what the local skateboarders and bikers want. They are the ones who will be riding it every day so I want it to reflect their preferences. We will take a survey and rank some of the features. I'll take this information back to the office to help with my design. After the conceptual design we will get a cost estimate and prepare all the technical construction documents.

Hankins asked where did you get the audience.

Rogalski stated we have put in on social media, the paper and on the news. We hope we have reached enough that they will reach out to the skate world.

Walters asked how long does it take to get a design.

Vince stated the conceptual design will take about a month and construction documents will take about 8 weeks.

Walters asked so is everything in house.

Vince stated yes.

Rogalski stated we have 1 public meeting planned and that is tonight.

Vince stated the second meeting we can do by video call or post the design to your Facebook and get comments that way.

Rogalski stated they will bring a couple of concepts back to us. Then we will want input on which is the best design. Once it is narrowed to a single concept they will start the construction documents.

Walters asked is that something that will be available for Open Streets.

Rogalski stated we can post whatever we have. That is a good idea. There will be thousands of people out there. I'm excited to see what they come up with. We will need to start raising the money before long.

Hankins stated thank you.

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of February 14, 2018.

Motion by Hampton, **Second** by Morford, to approve the minutes of February 14, 2018.
Aye: Hankins; Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Walters; Coody; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. Old Business

A. Discuss a possible project presented by Griffith to assist low income homeowners by making needed repairs to their home and take action if necessary.

Griffith was not available.

4. Announcements

Cheatwood stated we have looked at the buffalo out front and all indicators show it is not bronze. You can see fractures and delaminating within the layers. The welding instructor from Great Plains Vo-Tech believes he can fix the fractures and the tail. Will you need an agreement between LETA and the Vo-Tech? Who does the buffalo belong to?

Rogalski stated I believe it belongs to LETA. It was never officially donated to the city. We would need an MOU between the City of Lawton/LETA/Great Plains Vo-tech. I have spoke with the City Manager and he has approved using city personal to take it to the Vo-Tech.

Walters asked so the buffalo was supposed to be bronze and do we have any recourse as far as a warranty.

Rogalski stated we do not. We thought we were purchasing fine art and it was not. We do with the statues we purchase from Randle Rose. They are very high end. We would like for you to approve allowing the Vo-Tech to do the repairs and the City to transport.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Hampton, to allow the City of Lawton to transport the buffalo from the southwest lawn of city hall to Great Plains Area Vo-Tech and to allow Great Plains Area Vo-Tech to repair the buffalo. **Aye:** Morford; Smith; Sweeney; Walters; Coody; Hampton; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Motion by Hampton, **Second** by Morford, to adjourn. **Aye:** Smith; Sweeney; Walters; Coody; Hampton; Hankins; Morford. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed**