

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
212 SW 9th STREET
MARCH 20, 2013

Jay Burk, Chairman, 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; Godlove, Jane; Hankins, Mary Ann; Harbison, Jean; Hushbeck, Tim (entered late); Smith, Addie; Smith, Marilyn.
ABSENT: Bellino, Rose Mary; Dismuke, Bob; Safi, Anika; Sweeny, Kerry.
OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

Burk stated Kerry Sweeny has been appointed to replace Carol Carter and Dr. Bellino has been appointed to replace Michael Tennis.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from 4-D Landscaping

Elkouri stated I have the estimates for color with me today. The high estimate is \$2631.97 and the low is \$1848.00. Last year we did the higher quantity.

Burk stated the dilemma is do we plant when we are in a water rationing.

Godlove stated I'm not planting color this year.

Burk stated I'm concerned about wasting our money on color if we can't water them.

Harbison stated I think we have to adhere to what reality presents us.

Smith A stated even with the rain we have received it isn't sufficient.

Burk stated I'm hearing the consensus is not to plant color. I'm afraid we are going to go into the next stage of watering restrictions within the next 30 to 40 days.

Elkouri stated since we present color every year I wanted to bring it to you. In regards to landscaping most everything is cleaned up. Within the next 4 weeks we will be mulching the beds. L & L is here today to present some problems he would like to discuss.

Burk stated at the last meeting we decided we didn't want to make sprinkler repairs. After thinking about that I have some concerns. At some point we will have to make those

repairs. My thoughts are even if we can only water once a week that is better than nothing. The estimates presented last month weren't expense unless there is something new.

L & L stated at 11th and Bishop the City has dug up the west side. It is 30 to 40' long. I don't have an estimate yet as to what it will cost to repair it. Nothing from south of Bishop to the airport works.

Burk asked have we talked to Shahan about that. Shahan needs to be our first contact. He needs to find out who tore it up. Everyone knows there is a sprinkler there.

L & L stated it was a City of Lawton truck and I did take pictures.

Burk stated Shahan can speak to Ihler to find out how we get it repaired. It is in the right-of-way and we may be responsible for fixing it. What is the estimate?

L & L stated I haven't walked it off yet.

Smith asked what about the plants.

Elkouri stated I don't know but one whole section of grass is gone.

Burk stated when you see something like that call me immediately so I can get in touch with someone. Hopefully they moved the plants to the City yard.

Elkouri stated I don't believe there are more than 11 heads so you will have the main line, wiring and the heads.

Burk stated we need an estimate.

L & L stated the control clock on the east side of 11th doesn't work, the west side had been dug up and 52nd and Rogers lane doesn't work. I know your investment at the airport is bigger than the investment at Rogers Lane.

Burk asked what is wrong with 52nd again.

L & L stated PSO drove a utility truck over them and crushed a bunch. That estimate was around \$500 to \$600. I believe the estimate for the east side of Bishop was \$1100 or \$1200.

Burk asked what kind of controller is it.

L & L stated solar powered. It won't turn on. It says it is charging but nothing comes on.

Smith A asked is this our fault for putting the line in the easement.

Burk stated we know the City owns the right-of-way and that the utilities have first priority. If they dig it up it is on us.

L & L stated I don't know if Rogers Lanes is as important as the airport. Your investment is bigger by the airport.

Burk stated our investment is big on Rogers Lane also. I don't want to just let them die. I would propose we fix Rogers Lane and get an estimate for Bishop.

L & L stated all City projects are watering on Sundays at 1:00 a.m.

Godlove asked are the plants on Rogers Lane worth saving.

Burk stated there are some nice ones. The further west you go the worse they get.

Hushbeck stated I'm with Godlove. I can't see saving what may not be worth saving. It doesn't impress me to drive down Rogers Lane. I want to make certain we fix Bishop because those are starting to look really nice. If it means spending the money at either Bishop or Rogers Lane that is a no brainer for me.

Burk stated so you are telling me the east end of Rogers Lane is good and we are still watering there.

L & L stated at Sheridan and Rogers Lane yes. West from 46th to 52nd waters off that clock. The last 6 zones is where it is the deepest. If I cap off the last 3 valves the rest of the system would work. That would cost around \$80.

Burk stated sounds like that is what we need to do. I say spend the \$80 to cap off Rogers Lane and then do what we need to at the airport. Email Shahan, Ezell and myself the estimate so we can get the information out to the rest of the Authority and get a consensus on whether we want to fix it or not.

Elkouri stated we did an estimate on replacing the dead plants on Rogers Lane with elaeagnus. We believe this is a better option so if it comes to the table again we would suggest using elaeagnus.

Burk stated we also need to invest in big stuff for an instant impact.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Smith M., to spend the \$80 to cap off Rogers Lane, to table the discussion about the sprinkler on 11th Street, and to repair the controller on the east side of 11th Street. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Harbison; Smith A; Smith M; Burk; Hushbeck. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

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

Burk stated Shahan is not able to be here today.

C. Treasurer Report

Burk stated are there any questions on the report. Our balance is \$69,077.12. I'm concerned that our hotel/motel money will be slashed to nothing this next budget year. Hotel/motel expenditures are low compared to last year. I believe Ft. Sill is killing us. They are having their people tell visitors to stay at Ft. Sill instead of in town. When I flew back from DC I sat next to a couple that was coming to Lawton to attend their daughters graduation. She stated the Commander told them Lawton was too dangerous. We can't have Ft. Sill talking about us that way. Losing hotel/motel money hurts a lot of people to include the museum. I met a lady in DC that stated they had a convention of 300 women and they all stayed on Ft. Sill for \$55 a night and no tax.

Smith A stated they have done that before. They made the south side housing off limits.

Burk stated I would suggest you talk with your Counselor and the Mayor. We need to have a frank discussion with the Commander. We can't be fighting each other. I want us to be very close with our money because I'm afraid there isn't going to be a whole lot to work with.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Smith A., to accept the Treasurer's report. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Harbison; Hushbeck Smith A; Smith M; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. LETA YA Report

Burk stated due to Spring Break they cancelled their meeting this month.

E. Banquet After Action Report.

Burk stated again I've been gone and we need to table this until our next meeting.

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of November 14, 2012, December 12, 2012 and February 13, 2013.

Motion by Smith M, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the minutes of November 14, 2012, December 12, 2012 and February 13, 2013 as written. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Harbison; Hushbeck; Smith A; Smith M; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Discuss becoming a member of the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and take action if necessary.

Hushbeck stated the cost of the membership is \$380.

Burk stated I believe we need to do this. It is important we get those connections and stay in contact with them about how important hotel/motel money is not just for them but for us also.

Motion by Burk, **Second** by Hushbeck, to pay the membership fees and become a member of the Lawton Ft. Sill Chamber. **Aye:** Hankins; Harbison; Hushbeck; Smith A; Smith M; Burk; Godlove. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Discuss and approve the changes to the By-Laws and take action if necessary.

Motion by Harbison, **Second** by Hankins, to pay the membership fees and become a member of the Lawton Ft. Sill Chamber. **Aye:** Hushbeck; Smith M; Burk; Godlove; Harbison; Hankins; Smith A. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Review and discuss a new logo and take action if necessary.

Burk stated Safi sent it to me but I guess she didn't get it out to the rest of you. Let's table this until the next meeting.

E. Review and Discuss involvement and funding for Trash Off and take action if necessary.

Griffith stated my name is Tony Griffith and I'm the supervisor of Neighborhood Services and the coordinator of Trash-Off. This is the 25th anniversary for Trash-Off and it is a state wide event. It is the biggest single cleanup event in the city and state. We have about 2000 volunteers take part. In the past you have been very supportive in funding t-shirts, signs, putting the word out and encouraging people to participate. This year I'm asking you to fund 600 t-shirts and 6 new signs. I'm asking for \$4500. The cost of the t-shirts are the same as last year at \$4000. The cost to re-date the signs is \$2.50 per sign and \$75 for a new sign. My goal is to eventually have 40 signs to blanket the city with. For 6 new signs and re-dating the cost is \$500.

Burk stated we allocated \$5000 in our budget for Trash-Off. This year Ft. Sill is going to be more involved than they have in past. I spoke with Mark Bay the head of Urban Forestry about Re-Tree Lawton. He was so excited that we had taken the lead to remove the dead trees. He would like to see Lawton become a Tree City USA. We qualify with all the stuff we have done. He suggested we use Shantung Maple for Re-Tree Lawton due to the drought. I told him we probably would not do Re-Tree Lawton this year. He says the trees that we removed did not die due to drought it was due to their lifecycle. He believes we will lose a lot more because these trees were planted in the 40's and 50's. They have run their lifecycle. If we don't re-plant and have a plan for urban forestry we will have a community with no trees. He said we need a plan. He doesn't believe you can quit planting trees because of the drought. He wants to come and do an evaluation of Lawton where they canvas the city and count the trees, check their condition, check the age, and decide the need for trees in certain areas. This is exciting even during a drought. We can't give up. Since he has suggested a tree do we want to still do Re-Tree Lawton.

Godlove stated I'm in favor of planting trees but I don't believe May is the time to do so.

Burk asked at what other event could we do something like this.

Griffith stated Fishing for Food is at the right time of the year. Bay might be able to get the trees at no cost for us.

Burk stated he wanted to know the replanting schedule for those we were removing. He thinks we need to have a plan to replant for everything we removed. He swears the dead trees have nothing to do with the drought that it is due to their lifecycle.

Hankins stated it sounds a little to human.

Smith M stated in North Carolina when they did a project that required them to remove a tree they had to replant 3 for every 1. They knew it kept the community cooler and was a potential of more rain. It just beautifies the area.

Burk stated with the drought we will have to be diligent in seeing that the landscaping ordinance is enforced. We will not allow new construction without landscaping. We may need to change to a zero scape but we are not going to go back to nothing. I know we allocated \$5000 for Trash-Off so I have no problem spending \$4500. It is a great event and you do a great job coordinating the event. There are open slots for all of us to work. I have volunteered us to do the t-shirts again this year. I would like to see the LETA members running this booth.

Griffith stated the date is Saturday April 27th from 8:00 to 3:00.

Burk stated with the trustees picking up the major arterials our focus is waterways around the parks and lakes. We are talking about doing things at Lake Ellsworth. I would like to see all of us there around 7:45 a.m to help register and keep a count on how many volunteers we have. This event is sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and a big event for Keep Oklahoma Beautiful.

Hushbeck stated since we have allocated \$5000 would we want to go ahead and get a few more signs.

Burk asked more signs or more t-shirts what would be the biggest help Griffith.

Griffith stated signs are more of a long term investment. My goal is 40 signs at \$75 a sign. I would really appreciate the signs.

Motion by Godlove, Second by Hankins, to purchase 600 t-shirts and 12 signs for Trash-Off. **Aye:** Smith, A.; Smith M; Burk; Godlove; Harbison; Hankins; Hushbeck. **Nay:** None.
Motion Passed.

3. Old Business

A. Review and Discuss Website and take action if necessary.

Burk stated we will table this item.

B. Review and Discuss Municipal Building and take action if necessary.

Burk stated we will table this item. I had a discussion with Bart Hadley and they are remodeling the interior. I want them to be a player in this project. I would like for Hadley and Judge Johnson to come give us a presentation on what they are doing.

4. Announcements

Burk stated there is a shortfall in vehicle maintenance and they are proposing to take the money allocated for the ballpark. This means no pavilions or bathrooms. The \$300,000 allocated would be used for vehicle maintenance. I'm not going to stand there and just take it but I know we have to keep the fleet moving. It still angers me. I hope Council figures out another way to do something. We are about to fall on hard times because there is going to be a shortfall in the budget.

Smith A stated if nothing is growing and everything is dead in April how are we suppose to do Yard of the Month.

Burk stated we will have to get creative.

Godlove stated last Friday on KCCU Community Focus Jerry Ihler was talking about the water situation. The second part of the interview will be this Friday. I was pleased with the newspaper coverage of the issue. I think it is important we stay behind people and not let them stop talking about this. People tend to forget pretty quickly.

Burk stated thanks to all that attended the symposium. It was great. I believe if we go into the next stage of restriction we need to have another symposium.

5. Adjournment

Motion by Hankins, **Second** by Harbison, to adjourn. **Aye:** Smith M; Burk; Godlove; Harbison; Hankins; Hushbeck; Smith A. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**