

**MINUTES**  
**LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY**  
**NEW CITY HALL AUDITORIUM**  
**212 SW 9<sup>th</sup> STREET**  
**APRIL 10, 2013**

Jay Burk, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:20 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:** Bellino, Rose Mary; Burk, Jay; Godlove, Jane; Hankins, Mary Ann; Hushbeck, Tim (entered late); Safi, Anika; Smith, Addie; Sweeney, Kerry.

**ABSENT:** Dismuke, Bob (was present but left before meeting called to order); Harbison, Jean; Smith, Marilyn.

**OTHER PRESENT:** Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

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**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

1. Reports

A. Receive report from 4-D Landscaping

Elkouri stated thanks for the needed rain. The 11<sup>th</sup> and Bishop project the grass looks great but the yaupons are suffering from lack of water. We will be mulching the flowerbeds within the next couple of weeks.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at a mic)

Elkouri stated we do in the initial contract.

Bellino asked is this what you do every month.

Elkouri stated it changes every month.

Bellino stated exactly what do you do for the \$7205. Can you give us that each month.

Elkouri stated yes.

L & L Sprinkler stated I have estimates FOR SW Bishop at \$1,482.78; McMahon entry the clock has been vandalized and the estimate is \$397; Prairie Park the timer valves are out and the estimate is \$325; up against the McMahon building a 2" valve isn't working and the estimate is \$422.74.

Burk stated what is the total.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at a mic)

L & L Sprinkler stated nothing is getting water right now on the southwest corner of 11<sup>th</sup>. The City tore the sprinkler out.

Burk stated this was an emergency repair and nobody contacted us. It was a month before we knew of the damage.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at a mic)

Burk stated we are doing that here. Do we have an estimate for the grasses at 11<sup>th</sup>.

L & L Sprinkler stated no.

Burk stated we need to fix the pile of dirt also.

Elkouri stated the dwarfed pampas grass is all that needs to be replaced.

Burk stated we need an estimate on fixing the area. What was the total on the sprinkler repairs.

Godlove stated \$2951.

Burk stated I don't see how we can afford not to fix them.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at a mic)

**Motion** by Godlove, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the five (5) estimates of repairs from L & L Sprinkler. **Aye:** Burk; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith A; Sweeney; Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

L & L Sprinkler stated we do commercial landscaping lighting and would like to donate lights at 11<sup>th</sup> and Gore. All we ask LETA to do is provide the electricity.

Burk stated we do have electricity there. When Shahan gets back I'll get with him on donating the electricity. Thank you.

Elkouri stated I would like to clarify the 11<sup>th</sup> Street repairs. You want us to grade the area, sod and put in 9 to 11 pampas grasses. No yaupons or crape myrtles.

Burk stated give us an estimate on doing that and bring it to the next meeting. Also an estimate on the yaupons.

Elkouri asked on all the dead yaupons.

Burk stated yes.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

L & L Sprinkler (inaudible not at mic)

Burk asked are you saying a bubbler puts out a bigger flow.

L & L Sprinkler (inaudible not at mic)

Burk asked why would you need an extra zone.

L & L Sprinkler (inaudible not at mic)

Elkouri stated a set has 5 crape myrtles and 6 yaupons and I believe there are 17 sets.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated we just put in 10 Chinese Pistache.

Elkouri stated when the City put the system in there was a section of grass and a section of trees on one zone. It is not split.

Burk stated we need to see what it will take to get it right. It maybe something we want to address. Look at it and give us an estimate.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

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

Burk stated Shahan is out of town but Billie Whipp is here in his absent.

Whipp stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated great. So is it Keith?

Neitzke stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated thanks for being here.

C. Treasurer Report

Burk stated I noticed we haven't received any hotel/motel money in this report. When did we receive our last deposit.

Ezell stated it is received on a quarterly basis. This is the first month of the quarter so we should receive it soon.

Burk stated our budget was adjusted by about \$18,000 due to the lost of hotel/motel. We may lose a quarter of our funding.

Godlove asked is that contributed to people not staying in Lawton hotels.

Burk stated yes. It is heads and beds and they are not there. Part is due to Ft. Sill has shifted what they are doing. They are putting Ft. Sill visitors up for \$55 a night with no tax. We hope to have conversations with them to change this. Also people coming to Ft. Sill say they would rather stay there due to the crime. We need to change this perception. Our audit came back nice and clean and that is very good. The cost of the audit is \$2500 for little activity.

Godlove asked can we not be included in the City of Lawton's audit.

Burk stated I have asked but so far I've been unsuccessful.

Smith A asked who mandates the audit.

Burk stated it is law.

Whipp stated (inaudible not at mic)

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated you see we will spend roughly \$5,000 for signs and t-shirts for Trash-Off. We became a Chamber member. We have \$5,000 encumbered for the Eastside Dog Park so the LETA balance is \$62,688.05. Playground in the Park has a balance of \$22,981.13; Fire Pac \$2,500.85; Friends of the Trails \$1,841.38; Fishing for Food \$478.28; LETA YA \$4,801; total bank balance is \$90,299.09. Are there any questions.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated that is a city contract paid by Parks and Recreation. LETA is reimburse by Parks and Recreation monthly. The city receives the breakdown.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated the City. It is funded through the City.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated LETA is responsible for the maintenance of the sprinklers and fall and spring color.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

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

D. LETA YA Report

Burk stated they have nothing to report this month except that they will be involved with Trash-Off.

E. Banquet After Action Report.

Burk stated I'm still not ready for this.

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of January 9, 2013 and March 20, 2013.

**Motion** by Godlove, **Second** by Safi, to approve the minutes of January 9, 2013 and March 20, 2013 as written. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Hushbeck Safi; Smith A; Bellino; Burk. **Abstain:** Sweeney. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Elect a Vice-Chair.

**Motion** by Smith, **Second** by Safi, to approve Mary Ann Hankins as the Vice-Chair. **Aye:** Hushbeck Safi; Smith A; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk; Godlove. **Abstain:** Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. Old Business

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

Burk stated I'm too busy to do this project.

Safi stated if Godlove and I could have access to the webmaster we have pages to add. We would like to work on the site.

Hushbeck asked who is doing the website.

Burk stated Element Fusion. They are willing to help us.

Godlove stated we need them to come here and meet with us.

Burk stated they don't do that. I have filled out about 99% of the information. We provide what they need and they build the site. I need someone to take over and finish the task.

Hushbeck stated it sounds like Safi is willing to do so if she can get access.

Godlove stated we have made the decision as to what needs to be changed. We are ready.

Hushbeck stated if we have issues with them we need to look elsewhere. The Lawton Public School Foundation looked at them and ended up using someone locally.

Burk stated remember we have paid half. They are not the problem I am. I'll give you Bryan's contact information and you can contact him. I appreciate it.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated our d/b/a is Keep Lawton Beautiful.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Hushbeck stated the logic behind it was the confusion with LETA and LEDA. We are LETA d/b/a Keep Lawton Beautiful.

Burk stated we want to become an affiliate of Keep American Beautiful and this was the reason for doing it.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

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

Burk stated this needs to be continued to the next meeting. I haven't had time to get with Judge Johnson and Hadley. I want them at the table when we talk about their building.

#### 4. Announcements

Hankins stated the Brochure Committee met and put together the beginning for the brochure. The main thing I need is to know which projects belong to LETA. If you are happy with the format we will proceed. This is a work in progress.

Bellino stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated the projects were all done together and I don't think it makes a difference as long as they are done through beautification.

Hankins stated I like that you see the recycling first and I also like the children's picture from Trash-Off. I went to take pictures but at this time things are not green enough.

Burk stated it is wonderful. Great job.

Hankins asked should I have a few printed.

Burk stated the website address has changed.

Godlove stated Hankins deserves all the credit.

Hushbeck asked who will print them.

Burk stated we need a quality brochure and printing is important. Contact Beverly Cook at the Cameron Print Shop. I would start with a couple hundred. I would like to add under the report section a report from the Public Relations Committee. For our new members we held 2 retreats to help us figure out who we are, where we want to go and what we are doing. Great Plains came and facilitated the retreat. We did a visionary plan with goals we wanted to complete. We are putting together a packet for new members and once it is complete you will get one.

Godlove stated Centenary Methodist Church has designated a cleanup project for Union Park located near Lincoln School. They are planning on having food for those in the area and those helping with the cleanup. This is a wonderful idea and maybe we could spread this throughout the community to other church groups and organizations.

Burk stated all these projects need to be tied together so we can get photos. This could be used for our nominations at the KOB. It will work well because this is Trash-Off month.

Hankins stated the date is May 18<sup>th</sup>. It is my understanding the church has adopted the park and it will be ongoing.

Burk stated we need to check to see if they used the Adopt A Park program.

Hankins stated the minister stated she had contacted the city and found there was the opportunity to adopt the park.

Godlove stated the minister is Norma Quinn.

Neitzke stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated you could add that to the brochure. MacArthur Park Homeowners Association has adopted a park in their area. You could use Playground In the Park; dog park; buffalo at the airport; Buffalo Soldier; and trees at the Museum of Great Plains.

Hankins stated it would be helpful for the new members if we had a list of the projects we have participated in.

Safi stated the new member handbook will have members terms, projects, boards and trustees, bylaws, maps, mission statement and the strategic plan.

Burk stated this packet was important to us so everyone knows what we have done. Ninety-nine percent of what we do is maintenance. With every new project we need to check with the city to see if it can be added to the maintenance contract.

Smith A asked have we tossed the yard of the month program.

Burk stated we talked about postponing it due to the drought. There are neat yards out there even though we are in a drought. We also have an Adopt A Spot program. One of the biggest projects is at Lake Ellsworth. This is huge and ongoing. Non-profits are cleaning it up.

Neitzke stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk asked is it still opened to non-profits.

Neitzke stated (inaudible not at mic)

Burk stated this is the same type program that we used for Adopt A Park. Non-profits look to see if there is anything they can use and if so they carry away the bad as well as the good.

Hushbeck asked what is the end game after it is all done.

Burk stated it is on us. It will come back to LETA. I spoke with Shahan about redeveloping the area and getting it back to a family visiting area. We would like to have cabins, fishing, swimming, 4-wheeling and all kinds of family fun.

Hushbeck stated with the explosion of housing out there people are looking for things to do. There are lots of opportunities but it is going to take some patrol and supervision. The 4-wheelers need to be in their own area. There is a lot of potential there.

Burk stated the beach needs to be dug out and filled in with sand. Another project is the contributories are stopped up with dead trees so it is holding the water back. There are huge grants from Fish and Wildlife we should be accessing.

Godlove asked isn't that part of our water supply.

Burk stated yes.

Godlove asked is there a plan to clear them. That seems as if it would be a major priority.

Burk stated there isn't funding. The engineers say that trickling is as good as it will get.

Hushbeck stated if you could deepen the lake you would increase the capacity. You need to get the surface level lower to where the evaporation doesn't kill you. It would take an extreme amount of money but it is sad we can't do it while we are in the middle of a drought.

Burk stated Waurika has closed the lake to any kind of boating or activity so they can remove the silt. The last thing I want to talk about is our new project. Bellino, Mayor Fitch, the Mayor from Duncan and myself sat on a panel today called “What Makes A City Beautiful”. This was great and one of the questions asked was “what do we do now”. Now that we know we have problems what is the next step. I think we have to find ways to engage more people to do better and not accept the way things are. The next big project is the ODOT bridge. ODOT has spent about \$100,000 to get this going. They hope to start the project in October or November. ODOT will pay for the basic stains and we pay for any addition such as buffalo. We needed \$144,000 to complete the design and Council awarded that money last night. We have to fund the rest of the project. There are 7 bridges to be done within the city. The first 4 ODOT is doing. We don’t know the exact cost for the rest of the project but Bill Burgess is willing to help get the businesses together to try and raise the funding. I volunteered LETA to be the lead in this project. I wanted to make you aware of where we are with this project.

Godlove stated the bridge project is a major project for the City but we need to come up with some idea that would encourage neighborhoods to make an effort to beautify their neighborhood. This is desperately needed.

Burk stated one of the things discussed today was to make certain you turn in all the addresses of dilapidated, tall weeds and grass, dilapidated vehicles and vehicles parked on the grass. Citizens need to be self-policing. Duncan now has recycling. It is a mandatory service for everyone and it cost \$5 a month. If Duncan can do this Lawton can do it. Thank you for being here and remember Trash Off April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m.

## 5. Adjournment