

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
APRIL 11, 2018

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

ROLL CALL:

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

ABSENT: None

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Ezell stated Huntley would like to move her items to the top. She needs to leave.

Hankins stated yes.

1. Reports

C. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated at the end of March your balance was \$127,879.71 with \$41,444.71 in the custodial accounts. The next page shows your income from municipal fines for December, January and a few days in February was \$7,641.00. Your expenses are dues and subscriptions \$340, beautification for the Library \$10,000, concrete for Butterfly Garden \$500, postage for the Eye Candy Event, repairs, maintenance and replanting \$350. Your total net income for March was negative \$3,551.95. On the next page you see I got a income from hotel/motel in the amount of \$15,448.62. It is not reflected here because it wasn't deposited until April 4th. Your expenses are in good shape. Beautification projects are at 66% and repairs 77%. Under project pending the only outstanding project is the tree ring plantings. Are there any questions.

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

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

Totte stated here are the numbers for the tree rings on Lee Blvd. Burk wanted to make them uniform. There are 35 crape myrtles at \$150 installed for a total of \$5250. There are 50 to

60 yaupons and I've only charged you for 40 at a total of \$2000. Total for the tree rings is \$7250.

Dismuke asked is it worth the money to plant that large of a crape myrtle.

Totte stated the existing ones are so small it will take time for them to catch up. We could top the taller ones and stunt their growth until the smaller ones catch up. There are 10 or 12 that will have to be replaced.

Hankins asked will they bloom.

Totte stated yes. They will look more like a dwarf.

Sweeney asked how tall are the existing ones.

Totte stated less than 2 foot and these are 4 to 5' planted.

Morford asked how long will it take the smaller ones to catch up.

Totte stated 2 or 3 growing seasons. Sometimes they never catch up.

Hampton asked will they look right if you top the others off.

Totte stated I can get them to where they are presentable. Those that haven't suckered will have to be replaced. To be uniform you would need to replant.

Burk stated this project is so visible and looks bad on our part.

Sweeney asked are there other medians that need to be replaced.

Totte stated this is the main area.

Burk stated there is a portion of 2nd Street that we are not responsible for is the only other project that needs to be replaced. I don't want the City to accept this project until they take care of the landscaping.

Rogalski stated the engineering division is working with T & G right now.

Burk stated I would like to see if T & G would give us the money and then we can have Totte replant. Could we talk to them?

Rogalski stated that would be their decision. You could try and make a deal with them.

Burk stated will you get with the engineers and let me know what they say.

Rogalski stated we would deal directly with T & G.

Burk stated before anything is replaced if we could offer the option of them giving the funds to LETA and we would oversee the replacements.

Rogalski stated I will contact engineering to see who they are working with.

Morford asked is there water there.

Burk stated yes.

Rogalski stated the maintenance bond expires tomorrow.

Hanna asked can we deduct the cost from their maintenance bond.

Rogalski stated that is a possibility. We will have to give them an opportunity to make the situation right.

Walters asked how do we know that T & G won't lowball us.

Burk stated we will ask for copies of their replacement plants and then get an estimate from Bedrock. Why don't you get us an estimate on what it will cost to redo that portion? Bring us an estimate next month.

Totte asked what about the medians on Sheridan Road.

Burk stated let's meet out there the first of next week.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Coody, to approve \$7250 for the replacements needed for the tree rings on Lee Boulevard and to negotiate with T & G Construction for the replacements on 2nd Street. **Aye:** Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Burk; Coody. **Nay:** Dismuke. **Motion Passed.**

Burk stated we are going to move item D next.

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

Huntley stated I have 4 checks with 2 of them being retroactive. One is to Massad's for \$840 for the Eye Candy Event, City of Lawton for postage, Monkey Biz for Trash Off and Bedrock for tree replacement in Elmer Thomas Park and flowerbed maintenance at the Splash Park and Butterfly Garden.

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

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

Cheatwood stated thanks to Great Plains Vo-Tech and the City of Lawton the tail has been repaired on the buffalo.

Rogalski stated Streets picked up the buffalo and transported it to and from the Vo-Tech. Kelly Carter from Great Plains remounted the tail. He also did some texturing so it looked like it was original and not a repair. Benson Warren used patina on the raw material so it will weather and look like the rest of the buffalo. All of this was done at no cost to LETA.

Burk stated awesome and thank you.

Cheatwood stated the committee finished working on the first draft of the master policy. We want to do some tweaking before presenting it to the Authority. Our advanced team is working on a couple of event. Allan Hampton and Roger Cannon have agreed to do an outline on the building policy and Jim Whitely and I are staring on the fine arts policy.

Burk stated thank you.

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

Hanna stated we have removed 30 evergreens and cleaned up the area on the west end of 38th. We hope to have Rogers Lane cleaned up by Friday. Once it is cleaned we will spray. The contractors have started mowing and we are mowing the parks. We are getting to our busy time of the year.

Burk asked are we making certain they don't mow the wildflowers.

Hanna stated yes.

Burk stated some of the fence has been removed on Rogers Lane and those areas will need to be mowed.

Hanna stated this was discussed at our staff meeting today.

Burk stated we have issues with some of the lights at the playground.

Hanna stated it has been wired and we will check out the situation tonight.

Burk stated thank you.

Morford asked is there anything that needs to be done to the aerators at the lake.

Hanna stated no. We have to change the air filters and clean them out. They are doing great and so is the lake. There is a lot more foot traffic since we installed them.

Morford asked do we have any kiosk in the park that talks about the different ducks and fish.

Hanna stated no.

Rogalski stated we need something like the butterfly sign.

Sweeney stated that is a great idea.

Morford stated at Jed Johnson they have little signs that tell the story as you walk.

Burk stated this might be a project LETA would want to be involved in. These signs would be a great asset to the park.

Hanna stated the trash cans you purchased have been placed in the park. At this time the barrels are still there until people get use to the trash cans.

Morford asked to you have to have a city license to fish there. There is nothing posted.

Hanna stated yes.

Hankins asked how much is a city license.

Rogalski stated \$10.

Walters stated kids can fish for free.

Hanna stated 16 and under and over 65 can fish for free.

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

Ezell stated Ezerski will be late.

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

No discussion.

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

Hampton stated everything is going great.

Burk stated I have boosted about every post. It has been a great asset.

I. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Greenhill stated here is the design for the Trash Off t-shirts. The event is coming up on April 28th. Most of the vendors are tied down except for recycling. We will accept recycling but it will have to be taken to the landfill.

Burk asked would Fort Sill not take the cardboard.

Greenhill stated there was an issue of getting on and off post.

Burk asked can we take it to them.

Greenhill stated I will ask.

Burk asked have you spoken with Brenda Spencer Ragland.

Greenhill stated no.

Burk stated she is the director of MWR. She can make this happen.

Greenhill stated if we can make recycling happen we have everything else. Goodyear is doing waste management, Parks and Recreation is helping with setup, Solid Waste is taking batteries and paint, Gill is doing waste oil and we have Goodwill. Everything except recycling.

Burk stated in the past LETA has given out the t-shirts. Initially Trash Off was going up and down roadways to clean them. We have moved away from that. We need to focus on areas that need to be cleaned up. Do we have areas we will be focusing on?

Greenhill stated a few. Comanche Nations and Comanche Spur casinos are on board. They would like to take Rogers Lane from I-44 to Fort Sill Blvd.

Burk stated Elmer Thomas Park around the lake is an area that needs cleaned. We need to focus on areas with our Wards and get volunteers to help. In the past we have painted park equipment and stained the playground fence. It was a day of caring to clean up Lawton. It's great you bring your trash but we also need to focus on getting out in the community.

Greenhill stated we will be looking at that next year. I didn't have time this year to get it all lined out.

Burk stated it is a great event and I would like for LETA to stay involved. Anyone that is available to help please do so. Do you need anything from us?

Greenhill stated no. Monkey Biz will update our signs and I have interviews setup with the radio and news. I'm excited.

Burks stated I would like to inform the Authority of something that happened at Council last night. I'm going to leave Greenhill out of this conversation because I don't want to get him

in trouble. Part of Council wants to do away with Neighborhood Services. The idea would be to have the sanitation workers to take the pictures. They would keep a couple from Neighborhood Services to process paperwork. At this time we have 5 inspectors that cover the City of Lawton. Sanitation drivers need to focus on driving and not tall weeds and grass. They talked about putting 3 people back on the trucks. LETA needs to speak up as a group.

Walters asked can you explain what Neighborhood Services is.

Greenhill stated we used to be known as Code Enforcement. We are used as a punitive tool. I have a meeting with Councilman Davis so I'll try to explain what we do. There is a lot of legal paperwork to be done before we can mail the homeowner a letter. We have to give the homeowner a certain amount of time before we can abate the property. If we abate the property we have contractors who go mow and clean up the property. A lien is placed against the property and if the cost of mowing and clearing isn't paid we place the costs on the tax rolls. Condemning a building is a small part of what we do. We have to be very careful about what we do. If the wrong property owner is notified the City of Lawton has to eat the cost.

Tenis stated sanitation workers have enough to do. You will still have to have someone process the paperwork.

Burk stated they want to give the sanitation workers an extra \$2 per hour.

Greenhill stated a code enforcement officer has to be certified by the State of Oklahoma. If the sanitation workers take the pictures you still have to have a certified officer.

Walters stated so you would still have to go out there.

Greenhill stated correct.

Burk stated I don't see how this helps anything. If we do away with that department what will our city look like in a year?

Tenis stated most of the owners live out of state.

Greenhill stated we can either abate the property or issue a citation. If the property owner is out of state we cannot issue a citation.

Walters asked what does it cost to file a lien against the property.

Greenhill stated it is according to what it cost us to abate the property. We don't make a profit we just clean it up for safety issues.

Rogalski stated the cost run around \$200 to \$250.

Burk stated I wanted the Authority to be aware of what was going on and to be prepared to take a stand. You can't eliminate this department and to ask someone else to do their job is crazy.

Coody stated I would like to see the numbers on how this will save money.

Burk stated I'm going to fight this. It never hurts to contact your Councilmember and voice your opinion.

Morford stated Councilman Tanner believes it hurts his image if he reports a property. It doesn't bother me at all to do so.

Hampton stated I believe there is a vast difference between someone being trained on what code is and what it is not. Drivers don't know what pictures to take and what not to take.

Burk stated it was stated last night they would be asked to use their discretion. I don't understand the concept. Their idea was to give more money to the sanitation works for the extra duties and then have 3 employees in Neighborhood Services to do paperwork.

Dismuke asked who is pushing this issue.

Burk stated Caleb Davis and Dwight Tanner.

Hanna stated don't we have a policy that says you can't use your cell phone while driving.

Burk stated I said that same thing. Please call your councilperson.

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

Hankins asked have all of you RSVP. Everything is coming along great. We are excited.

Sweeney stated we are optimistic there will be a good turnout. It will be the 20th of April and the attire is business casual. It starts around 6:00 and we will start serving around 6:30. We ask you all wear your name tags since we are hosting the event.

Burk stated awesome. We hope to see everyone there. Thanks to the committee for your work.

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

Morford stated we need to finish the lights in front of this building and light the dome.

Rogalski stated we need to add those items to next year's budget. I'm going to start putting those numbers together. A lot of the items will carry over from last year. If you want to add an item this is the time to do so. We talked about irrigating the lawn here at city hall so we need to get some estimates.

Burk stated I thought the quote was somewhere around \$20,000. I would rather see the City put the irrigation in. I will try to have it placed in the budget. Sweeney, Rogalski and I meet with the Farmers Market today. Here is a rendering of what they want to do. This is roughly a \$2,000,000 project and at this time they have about \$1.25 million.

Walters asked where is this located.

Rogalski stated where City Hall use to be.

Ezerski stated this rendering would be if you were standing at the police department looking west.

Hampton asked does this follow the master plan.

Rogalski stated yes.

Burk stated there will be a pavilion on one end and a year round building. There are overhead doors, an educational facility and a kitchen.

Dismuke asked is there a plan for the other half a million.

Burk stated yes. LETA needs to be a part of this project. We need to help with fund raising activities. The cost to the architect is \$60,000 and this gives them the ability to go out for bids for the facility. McMahon has given \$50,000 so they need another \$10,000. They were hoping we would give the other \$10,000. Since we don't fund plans I stated there was a possibility that we would fund \$10,000 for landscaping. If we agree to fund the \$10,000 we could go ahead and give them the funds with the understanding when the building is complete they must landscape. Their idea is to have a Downtown Redevelopment Group who would have an employee housed in the building. They would coordinate Arts for All, Open Streets and events of this nature.

Sweeney stated they would also coordinate with the food trucks. This would be using a public space in a positive way. The Farmers Market is a good fit for what we do and great for Lawton. The Farmers Market group has a lot of enthusiasm for bringing other groups in to be a part of downtown. I think we would be proud to be a part of it.

Burk stated the design is absolutely wonderful. Dr. Legako stated it wasn't just about what they sell it is about education.

Sweeney stated they will be using the kitchen for demonstrations and teaching.

Walters asked who is the Farmers Market group.

Rogalski stated it is a non-profit organization that is separate from the City of Lawton. Dr. Legako, Larry Neal and Kent Waller are the 3 who are actively working on the building.

Sweeney stated they have been working 2 or 3 years on this project.

Hampton stated they are tied with the Fit Kids Coalition.

Rogalski stated it originated from the Fit Kids Coalition.

Burk stated at this time they are year round at the coliseum.

Sweeney stated this would give them a home.

Hampton stated I love the idea of rebuilding our downtown. This is a good foundation to build on.

Ezerski stated there is an antenna located on that property. Will it be removed?

Rogalski stated it will probably stay until the building is torn down. There is electrical equipment located in the parking lot that cannot be removed and they have designed the building around it.

Walters stated so the \$10,000 is going to fund the shortage for the architectural plans.

Burk stated it would be a grant that go towards landscaping. We would give them the funds now with the understanding that when the building is complete they are to spend \$10,000 towards landscaping.

Rogalski stated they will bring the landscaping plans back to the Authority for your approval.

Ezerski stated it is like a deposit on the landscaping.

Sweeney stated correct.

Walters asked will they break ground once they have raised the other \$500,000.

Burk stated yes.

Walters asked is this property owned by the city.

Burk stated yes.

Walters asked will we lease it to them.

Burk stated yes. They will enter into a contract with the City like we do with Elmer Thomas Park. We lease the park from the Comanche Nation for \$1.00. They will be responsible for the maintenance.

Motion by Morford, Second by Sweeney, to approve giving a grant for landscaping to the Farmers Market in the amount of \$10,000. **Aye:** Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Burk; Coody; Dismuke; Ezerski. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

2. Old Business

A. Discuss providing a Grant to the Mountain Metro Ambucs for a project related to the Miracle Field in Elmer Thomas Park and take action if necessary.

Rogalski stated last month they requested LETA to help them finish the Miracle Field by purchasing a bronze statue. They are trying to have a grand opening but need to finish the field first. They would like to enhance the playground and place a statue in the circle that is in front of the field. They have chosen a statue from Randolph Rose of a girl in a wheelchair playing ball.

Burk stated Randolph Rose does an excellent job and we have order from them before. That would be another piece of art in the park. What is their plan?

Rogalski stated they would like for LETA to purchase the statue and the concrete to place it on. The cost of the statue is \$9800.

Hanna stated the original cost is \$11,500. Since LETA has purchased before they lowered the price to \$9,800 if we will commit with the deposit.

Rogalski stated the cost of stained/stamped concrete is \$1,920.

Ezerski stated you are looking at \$11,720.

Hanna stated they would like to landscape but don't have a plan. They are open to suggestions.

Coody stated this was tabled because they didn't have a specific dollar amount or ideas/thoughts. We asked them to come back with a plan. Are we there yet?

Burk stated we don't usually do projects where we pay for the whole project.

Hankins stated the project kind of got dropped.

Rogalski stated I thought someone would be here today.

Burk stated normally we would ask they raise at least half the money.

Ezerski stated they haven't approached our AMBUCS for help. They need to reach out to the other AMBUCS and the 3 groups start fund raising. We have funds that we could help with the cost.

Burk asked would you reach out to them to see if you can bridge the gap.

Dismuke stated I would like to see all this done.

Burk stated I agree.

Sweeney stated they are busing in children to use the park. If Ezerski could get more information for us that would be great.

Ezerski stated I don't think we should reject the project but just postpone until they come up with a plan.

Motion by Tennis, Second by Dismuke, to table this item until the next meeting. **Aye:** Hankins; Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Burk; Coody; Dismuke; Ezerski; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. New Business

A. Approve minutes of March 14, 2018.

Motion by Tennis, Second by Hampton, to approve the minutes of March 14, 2018. **Aye:** Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Burk; Coody; Dismuke; Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Discuss collaborating with the Lawton Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce on a potted flower project in downtown Lawton and take action as necessary.

Burk stated Rogalski and I meet with the Chamber and they are starting a new downtown district called the Ware District. Ware is the middle name of General Henry Ware Lawton. They would like to hire someone to oversee everything that happens in the downtown. Hossein Moini and Albert Johnson, Jr. have started a committee trying to get downtown businesses to purchase pots and to maintain them. They want 30 pots assembled on C Avenue between 4th and 6th. They would like for LETA to collaborate with them. If everyone agrees I will let them know.

(All Agreed)

B. Discuss a quote for textured paint for the existing skate park at McMahon Park and take action if necessary.

Rogalski stated during the public forum for the skate park there were 2 comments made about the McMahon Park. They stated McMahon is too slick and too hot because they are metal and the paint is worn. American Ramp Company contacted me stating they had a textured paint to help with these issues. He sent me a quote of \$2,546.20 to resurface the ramps. This does not include labor.

Hanna stated we will do the painting.

Hampton asked how long does it last.

Rogalski stated there is no guarantee. The park has been there for 12 years and has never been painted.

Burk stated there is \$8,077 in the skate park money.

Walters asked is the paint made for skate ramps.

Rogalski stated yes.

Motion by Hampton, Second by Ezerski, to approve purchasing the paint for the skate park from the skate park funds. **Aye:** Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Burk; Coody; Dismuke; Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins; Morford. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Receive a presentation regarding the incorporation of art into City crosswalks and take action if necessary.

Leary stated I'm Lisa Leary and I a 1978 graduate from Eisenhower. I married a Lawton High guy and we moved to the Dallas/Ft. Worth area in 1995. We moved back this past September. When I moved back I'm looking at Lawton with new eyes. One of the first things I noticed was the stripping on the streets has deteriorated. One day I ended up in the wrong lane because the stripping. I started looking around and the crosswalks are deteriorated also. During some research I found that Austin and Denver were doing painted crosswalks and here are some examples of what I found. I learned the federal highways are not keen on unusual things in crosswalks but is it welcomed in places like Elmer Thomas Park. You must maintain the white striping. Painted crosswalks help to define neighborhoods. It is community collaboration. You have the possibility of lots of group and organization collaborating and painted by volunteers. Potential partnership would include the high schools, Cameron, all the art groups, LETA, Chamber of Commerce, City of Lawton, and Lawton Arts and Humanity Council. Some neat areas would be the library, city hall, Carnegie Hall, downtown and Elmer Thomas Park. I believe this would be a great project for all of us to get involved with. Thank you.

Rogalski stated the traffic engineer and the public works director stated the federal highways doesn't allow cities to do this. If art is placed within the white strips it is not considered a crosswalk. This doesn't mean you can't do it but it means it isn't a legal crosswalk.

Burk stated I think it is a great idea. Thank you.

D. Discuss removal of certain portions of right-of-way fence along I-44 and US 62 as approved by ODOT and take action if necessary.

Burk stated Rogalski and I met with ODOT and they have agreed to removing 8000 linear feet of fence. We have been working with Streets on the removal and they have removed the fence on Indian Trail. Streets is removing the fence, concrete within the holes and filling the holes with dirt. It looks amazing. The removal Bedrock did last year is coming back and we can't afford to have it removed every year. I asked if they would help to maintain it and they said no. They will mow but will not weed eat around the fence.

Hankins asked once the fence is removed the personal wood fence will fall.

Burk stated we hope not.

Walters stated this is where Neighborhood Services steps in.

Burk stated we will not be removing any personal fence. At this time we are able to use the street department. It won't be long before they have to go back to their regular duties. If they don't get it all removed it will cost \$3 a linear foot to have it removed. I'm hoping LETA will help with the removal. It will cost around \$15,000.

Walters asked does that include the removal of the trees that have grown back.

Burk stated no. Parks and Recreation will have to help with removing those.

Rogalski stated originally there was 8,000 linear feet and now it is down to 4,700.

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Sweeney, to approve spending up to \$15,000 for the removal of fence along Rogers Lane and I-44. **Aye:** Sweeney; Tennis; Walters; Burk; Coody; Dismuke; Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Smith. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

E. Discuss the condition of the landscaping within the final phase of the 2nd Street enhancement project and take action if necessary.

This item was struck.

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

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