

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
212 SW 9th STREET
MAY 8, 2013

Mary Ann Hankins, Vice-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: Bellino, Rose Mary; Burk, Jay (entered late); Godlove, Jane; Hankins, Mary Ann; Hushbeck, Tim (entered late); Safi, Anika (entered late); Smith, Addie (entered late); Smith, Marilyn; Sweeney, Kerry.

ABSENT: Dismuke, Bob; Harbison, Jean.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from 4-D Landscaping

Elkouri stated we have mulched and fertilized all the beds. I believe the beds are in good shape. One of the reasons for me making a point to be here today was due to a post on face book by Dr. Bellino about cleaning things up. I've been trying to find the proper procedure for the businesses in town that are not taking care of their property. This is not the type of work that I do so I'm not trying to get business. The grass at the movie theater on the west side is 16" tall. Should we come up with some type of fast track for these businesses to keep their property clean?

Smith M stated I thought this was a City Council issue.

Bellino stated City Council has enough work to do. My plan is simple. These are owned by local Lawtonian's and they are well known people. I'm going to put their names out there. In Savanna, Georgia they put their pictures on the TV. The area on Gore across from Lamp Lighter Plaza by the Dollar General is owned by the Worthern family. It looks like you know what and it is time to make the move.

Hankins stated okay lets go ahead with the sprinkler report.

Jason stated here is the estimate for the bubblers on 11th Street. This would take care of everything that is still alive.

Hankins asked are there any question for Jason.

Bellino stated inaudible.

Jason stated \$3923.02. Originally there were twice as many trees planted and this is what is left.

Godlove stated the trees are our concern.

Jason stated this is for yaupons and trees.

Bellino stated as far as trees there are not many planted out there.

Jason stated there are 20 something. Between each grouping there were 6 yaupons and there are 30 groupings.

Bellino stated I don't remember trimming many trees. It was our colleague in Ward 5 that wanted trees planted and we planted a few. I don't remember 22 trees.

Burk stated you guys planted the trees.

Elkouri stated someone else planted the trees.

Bellino asked on 11th Street.

Burk stated yes the Chinese Pistache were planted after the original contract.

Bellino asked are we going to replace the yaupons.

Burk stated did you get us an estimate.

Elkouri stated Joe Dan was working on it.

Bellino stated yaupons are difficult to grow. I've cut some back and pulled out the dead ones. Crape Myrtles do a lot better. We may want to rethink replacing yaupons and use more crape myrtles.

Smith M stated yaupons are evergreen and it would be something green in the winter. Our yaupons do beautifully.

Burk stated I have had issues with them but I do like it because they stay green.

Bellino stated maybe if we watered them. Maybe that was the issue.

Burk stated watering has been an issued from day one.

Bellino stated apparently crape myrtles use less water because they did much better.

Burk stated we only removed a handful of crape myrtles the last couple of years. We need to decide if we are going to use crape myrtles or yaupons. I believe we have no choice but to fix the sprinkler. We have spent way too much money to let it die and if we don't water it will die.

Bellino stated McMahon funded that project and we can't let it die. That was their money, their plaque and it makes a big difference coming from the airport. I think we don't have a choice. If we water the yaupons maybe they will grow. All we can do is try. They will look green all year round. The grasses are difficult to deal with.

Elkouri stated talking about evergreen we have mentioned several times elaeagnus. It can be as big as you want and you can shape it the way you want.

Bellino asked is that the common name.

Elkouri stated Silver Berry Elaeagnus.

Burk stated I don't know that I have ever seen one.

Godlove stated they are big bushes. They are different than yaupons and crape myrtles which make a tree. These are bushes.

Elkouri stated elaeagnus is like that.

Godlove stated this is something you probably need to see before making a decision.

Burk asked where can we see some.

Elkouri stated the Enclave planted them on the outside of their fence.

Godlove asked isn't that what is planted along the hospital as a border.

Elkouri stated yes.

Bellino stated maybe that is a better selection.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Smith M., to approve the sprinkler estimate for the bubblers in the amount of \$3923.02. **Aye:** Burk; Godlove; Hankins; Smith A; Smith M; Sweeney; Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Elkouri J stated I apologize for being late. I did 2 different estimates for the 11th Street project. First is to replace the dead as originally planted which means yaupon hollies, crape myrtles and dwarf pampas grass. That would be 50 yaupons, 10 crape myrtles and 59 grasses for a total estimate of \$17,212.68. The same estimate without yaupons is \$16,662.68.

Burk asked what size crape myrtles.

Elkouri J stated 15 gallon.

Bellino stated (inaudible).

Elkouri J stated the dwarf pampas grass is \$2360.00 and planting is 40%. That would be a difference of \$3300. The lower estimate would be \$13,300 and the higher would be \$13,900. This does not include the dwarf Hamlin grass. Every grass area had 10 dwarf pampas and Hamlin grass in front of it. There is less than 10% of the Hamlin grass left and what pampas grass that is there looks good. If it all looked like that you wouldn't miss the Hamlin grass.

Elkouri stated at the 1 year mark we replaced all the dead.

Burk stated I know you did and we have lost it again. I believe it is the road. Everything we plant near a road we have issues with. I believe due to the constant heat from the pavement we have issues and the last few years we have had the drought.

Elkouri stated we have had 2 back to back years of drought.

Godlove asked do you think the fumes from the cars could have something to do with it as well.

Elkouri stated I believe the heat from the pavement has some to do with it but it is not your yard where you see it every day. As soon as you see it in your yard you get the hose out and that is not happening on the street.

Bellino stated when the project first went up I found some of the sprinklers didn't hit the plants. That was a big problem. The system didn't water it. Those that received water did well. Some of the tress had bubblers and they did well. The yaupons are not as hardy as the crape myrtles and if they got a little less water they did poorly. If they got some water they may have done okay. They didn't get enough water. When the airport was mowing they mowed over all the dwarf grasses. It is hard to weed eat and miss them. I think the dwarf plants were inappropriate and part of the reason we lost a lot was we didn't get the water to them. The sprinkler system wasn't set up properly.

Burk stated I'm still concerned it isn't 100% the way we want it. Some of those heads are throwing at least 15' and further at times. As the grasses get bigger they get beat by the sprinkler and nothing behind gets water.

Bellino stated the bubblers make a lot of sense. You are not worried about the grass you are worried about the plants. Bubblers will make a big difference.

Elkouri stated (part of this is inaudible) let's go walk that one zone at a time.

Burk stated I agree. We need to make it right.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Hushbeck stated if you remember Givens has a real passion for yaupon hollies. We probably put more of those in because of his passion. I'm not sure they have ever had a good track record.

Burk stated he was going for the green all year round. I suggest we look at the elaeagnus. We have to have something green year round or it will look terrible.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Burk stated they are tough. If you over or under water them they will die.

Hushbeck asked is there some kind of cedar that is native to this area. I don't think we want cedars but something similar.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Elkouri J stated they are also on the west side of Memorial Hospital. All those are Eastern Reds.

Burk stated some look good but others don't.

Hushbeck stated something native that we know will work.

Burk stated we need a plan. I don't want to spend \$17,000 and have to replace them in a year. We need a plan and we do need the color because if the grass is dead that is the only thing that looks good.

Smith M stated that and the crape myrtles in the summer.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Hankins asked would the trimming be a maintenance issue.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Bellino stated (inaudible).

Burk stated I don't want to plant the small plants again. I would rather spend more and get something you can see. Everything that was planted on Rogers Lane has been a disaster. I don't want to waste money like that.

Smith M asked is it too late to plant this year? Is this something that is better to plant in October?

Elkouri stated (inaudible). October is always the best time to plant, winter second, spring third and summer is the worse.

Godlove stated I would like to see us wait until October.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Smith M stated I think we need to wait until October. This gives us a chance to check it all out. Can we trim the elaeagnus at the bottom and not shape the tops.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Smith M stated wild is fine.

Godlove asked is there a problem with blocking visibility.

Burk stated no.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Burk stated I want something with leaves. We make a huge mistake if we don't have leaves in the winter time.

Hankins stated I live with these plants everyday and they grow really fast. The shaping would be my concern because if they are not taken care of they just grow.

Burk asked so is the suggestion then that we wait until fall.

Smith M stated yes. Do you have any that are trimmed? Not shaped but trimmed.

Elkouri stated (inaudible). When we first planted those on 36th Street and Jack and Judy Bryan thought they were too small. (Inaudible)

Elkouri J stated I also have 2 other estimates. On 11th Street where the City dug out about 2000 square feet you need to replace 10 dwarf pampas grass, re-sod and re-grade at an estimate of \$1,774.80. At McMahon ballpark there are 4 trees, 2 crape myrtles, a few plants, 1 blue Atlas cedar is \$2,990.00.

Elkouri asked (inaudible).

Burk stated no. The City sued them but the last I heard it was still ongoing. We planted in the easement and we knew this could happen. In my opinion we have no choice but to fix it. This was a main waterline break and they had to fix it. The McMahon project looks really good. How are the evergreens at the entry?

Elkouri J stated 6 needle points need to be replaced.

Burk stated Council did decide to finish the ballpark. Money is set aside for landscaping. The bronze statue is in and they will fix an area for it. We will have a grand opening when the project is finished. It will be next spring before it is all finalized. Phase I is complete and now we are ready to begin Phase II.

Bellino stated (inaudible)

Burk stated it was funded from the emergency fund. We are probably 10 months away from doing anything to finish the project. I would like to see us fund both these projects and then wait until fall to do the other plantings. Once the sprinkler is repaired on 11th Street give us a call so we can go walk it.

Smith M asked are we replacing the grasses out at the airport.

Elkouri J stated only the 10 that the City dug up.

Smith M asked do we want to do that. I thought we didn't like those.

Burk stated the big grasses have worked. They are in groupings and it would look crazy to leave them out.

Elkouri J stated at the ballpark there are 4 Shumard Red Oaks that have died. We have not had a lot of success with those. They have asked us to try Nuttall Oaks. They look like a Shumard and are the same price. I think it will be a better selection for that area.

Elkouri stated (inaudible).

Motion by Smith M, Second by Smith A, to approve the estimate for the McMahon Ballpark in the amount of \$2,990.00 and 11th Street in the amount of \$1,774.80. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith A; Smith M; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk; Hushbeck. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

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

Burk stated Shahan isn't with us today.

C. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Hushbeck stated I apologize I've been out of state this month so I don't have a report.

D. Treasurer Report

Burk stated we had a beginning balance of \$57,696.45. Have we not received any hotel/motel money?

Ezell stated no. I sent the invoice to finance over 3 weeks ago.

Burk stated okay I'll make a call.

Smith M asked do we no longer receive money from the Court.

Burk stated yes we do. I will make a call. LETA balance after encumbrance is \$54,444.76; Playground is 22,981.13; Fire Pac \$2,500.85; Friends of the Trail \$1,691.38; Fishing for Food \$478.28; LETA YA \$4,801.00 for a total bank balance of 91,897.40. The Fire Pac is going to place lighting in their beds. They are waiting because they may be a little short. I told them if they needed help to come to us and we would help to finish the project. I thought we could help with \$1,000.

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

Bellino stated (inaudible)

Burk stated we always pay for our own audit. Givens never had an audit done due to the cost. At that time our annual income was between \$4000 and \$5000. If we paid \$2500 for an audit we would have no money for projects. He did an income and expense sheet for the City and they signed off stating that was our audit. We didn't want to spend half our revenue on an audit. Ezell balances the bank statements and then sends the information to the CPA. They do the tax return and the audit. I had asked the City Manager to look into putting our audit with the City's. They do some of the authorities.

Ezell stated most of the Authorities do their own except for LEDA.

Burk stated Councilman Moses has asked why LETA wasn't included in the City's audit. We produced our audit to the Finance Director and they are going to look into the City doing it for us. He believes it will be cleaner if we do our own. The audit this year went smooth and everything was good.

Bellino stated (inaudible)

Burk stated I don't disagree. If the City is doing for one authority they should be doing them all. My hope is we can get an answer from the Finance Direct within the next few weeks.

E. Receive report from LETA YA.

Burk stated these kids don't have a project and without one they don't want to stay on as members. People do not want to donate for planting projects due to the drought. We have asked Shahan to help get them something before we lose them. They are not meeting today because they will be meeting next Wednesday about the skate park. We believe LETA YA will be the leading group in that project.

F. Receive a Banquet After Action Report.

Burk stated this has not been done at this time.

G. Receive a Trash-Off report.

Burk asked I wasn't at Trash-Off so does someone have a report.

Bellino stated (inaudible)

Burk stated I hope Griffith will come give us a report on how much we recycled.

Smith M stated it was cold. Godlove, Smith A, Bellino and I were all there.

Burk asked were all the t-shirts given out.

Smith M stated all except the XXXL. We ran out of small and mediums this year.

Godlove stated there were a lot of children there.

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of April 10, 2013.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Smith A, to approve the minutes of April 10, 2013 as written. **Aye:** Hankins; Hushbeck; Safi; Smith A; Smith M; Sweeney; Burk; Godlove. **Nay:** Bellino. **Motion Passed.**

B. Review and discuss skate park and take action if necessary.

Burk stated you can see the poster behinds us. These are renderings Shahan had done. This is the preliminary to what we believe will be a 16,000 square foot skate park in Elmer Thomas at a cost of \$500,000 to \$600,000. They are beautiful. Bellino, Shahan, the City Manager and I met with an individual who is willing to make a substantial private donation to the park. Since LETA does all the stuff in the park this will be our project. Donations will be made to LETA for the project and this is something for LETA YA to do. We hope to get support from McMahon. This would be a free facility with lighting so it could be utilized at night.

Smith M asked how liable would the City be.

Burk stated just as liable as if we let them skate down our streets. We would never be able to do anything if we worried about being sued. It is very limited in what they can do to us. We do have a skate park on 38th Street and it is a metal structure.

Bellino stated (inaudible)

Smith A asked do you think it if is centrally located it might be used more than the one on 38th Street. Do we need to sponsor contest and do video filming to get them to be use.

Burk stated I think 38th Street is too far out but I also think you need LATS. You need ways for the kids to get there safely and we don't have that at 38th Street. It has to be accessible. I think we need to check with Shade Trees Over Playgrounds about planting trees. We could do benches and picnic tables. There are bathrooms, a concession and plenty of parking. I think this is something that LETA YA might get a hold of. LETA YA will be meeting next Wednesday about the park. Shahan is excited about this.

Bellino stated we also need to look at other companies. (Inaudible) If we are going to put this money in we need to know that this (inaudible). I think we need to be looking at other companies.

Burk stated there are other companies but I don't know how well they do. It is like buying an air conditioner. You get what you pay for. Shahan is looking at doing off road skating at by Lake Ellsworth.

Smith A stated they have big competitions for skateboarders. These are not 9 and 10 year old kids they are 20 and 30 years old. This can be a big event for your city if you get involved and stand behind it.

Smith M asked so you think it is more than just a passing fad.

Burk stated oh yes. Skateboarding has been here for years.

Safi stated even girls do it.

Burk stated this is just a beginning. If we find more things for our kids to do we will keep them out of trouble. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting next Wednesday here at 3:00. I believe this is a great thing.

3. Old Business

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

Safi stated Godlove and I have been working with Bryan on the website. There is a lot of information we need to gather. We have uploaded some photos and I have banquet photos to upload.

Godlove stated we started the application but we need Burk to look it over. We are not sure we have all the information that needs to be included.

Burk stated we need a location.

Godlove stated we have been meeting at Ernest office and using his computer. We can meet there.

Burk stated tell me when and I'll will be there.

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

Burk stated we are still on hold on this project.

4. Announcements

Safi stated I do have a mock handbook and I'll make copies for everyone. We need a list of projects that we need to include.

Burk stated everyone needs to take a copy to look over and then make discussion notes.

Hankins stated I spoke with Safi and we decided to wait on the brochure until we could get everything coordinated. If we need one we could use this one.

Burk stated I think that is a good idea.

5. Adjournment

Burk stated thank you all for being here. Have a great day.