

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
AUGUST 9, 2017

Mary Ann Hankins, 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); Ezerski, Barry (entered late); Hampton, Allan; Hankins, Mary Ann; Morford, Bob (entered late); Smith, Addie; Sweeney, Kerry; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Dismuke, Bob.

OTHER PRESENT: Kristin Huntley, Finance; Richard Rogalski, Planning; Jack Hanna, Park and Recreation; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

At the time of roll call there wasn't a quorum. Items needing no action were started.

1. Reports

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

Totte stated there is nothing new at this time. At the meeting last month you tabled the 2nd Street estimate.

Rogalski stated there are a lot of dead plants. I have spoke with the engineer and the contractor. The contractor has been urged to retain Bedrock. They are required to maintain the landscaping for a year at their cost. The issue is still unresolved.

Hankins asked is LETA going to be responsible.

Rogalski stated legally this is the contractor's responsibility. He is bonded so we can't do the work. He needs to get a landscaper to do the work.

Totte stated we will start the butterfly garden next week and it will be completed by the following week. I need to know what you want to do with the splash pad. Grass is starting to sprout in the tree rings. We need to figure out a maintenance plan. It shouldn't cost a lot per month. It all depends on how much color you want to plant.

Tennis asked have you thought about using rose moss.

Totte stated it thrives best in heat and really dry weather. A lot of watering will kill it.

At this time Ezerski and Morford entered the room.

Hankins asked aren't we in the transition season.

Totte stated yes. We will plant the fall color in October and we might as well wait until fall on 2nd Street.

Rogalski stated do you want to direct Totte to get a maintenance plan for the splash pad.

Hankins stated yes.

Sweeney asked when do they close the splash pad for winter.

Rogalski stated I believe Labor Day.

Sweeney stated do we want to do color there if it isn't open.

Rogalski stated the landscaping is along the roadway and lots of people drive through. For the most part it is very visible.

Totte stated I wouldn't do color inside the park. I'll bring an estimate to the next meeting.

Sweeney stated do we need to have the City Attorney give the contractor a nudge.

Rogalski stated Engineering is the one responsible for enforcing the provisions of their contract. We need to keep pressing Engineering. I think I'll have to get the City Manager involved. Engineering is short staff and so they have moved on to another project and no one is minding the store.

Hankins asked is the contractor out of Dallas.

Rogalski stated no. It is T & G Construction and they are local. Road contractors are not interested in landscaping.

Hampton asked do you think it will be done before winter.

Rogalski stated this is probably a lengthy bond so we will need to stay on them. If they don't maintain the plantings the city can do so and charge them.

Ezerski asked do you know how long the bond is.

Totte stated they are usually a year.

Sweeney asked how close to the end of the year are we.

Rogalski stated no. The project was just completed. It is still very early.

Totte stated if they are not going to replant they need to at least remove the dead plantings.

Sweeney asked can we have Totte remove the dead plants.

Rogalski stated no. If we touch it the warranty is no longer any good.

Tenis asked does the contractor realize this is a ding for them in future projects.

Rogalski stated we could take pictures and put them on FaceBook.

Totte stated every job has a retainage. If you start pulling from the retainage it might change things.

Morford asked are we watering those pots every day.

Rogalski stated there was an irrigation issue with 3 of the pots. Irrigation lines following a construction project is problematic. Until the maintenance period is over we don't want to touch them. We want to make them do their job and we want the City to enforce the contract.

Hankins stated what I'm hearing is you need to put pressure on them through conversation or a letter. Other than that LETA can't do anything. LETA will take a ding for this.

Rogalski stated you could let them off the hook and take care of it but I don't believe that is something you want to do.

Ezerski stated that sets a bad precedent.

Hankins stated I agree.

B. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated we will start with the balance sheet. We received a check in July so Fresh Paint Days is in the positive. Total in the checking account at the end of July was \$123,547.64. On the next page under income you see the check for Fresh Paint Days, interest income of \$17.55 and miscellaneous donations of \$2000.00 for the splash pad. Under expenses you have \$155 for advertising and promotions for the yearly website fee, beautification project was the splash pad and repairs, maintenance and replanting is irrigation repairs. In the custodial accounts Fishing For Food had some donations and a reimbursement for taxes, and Freedom Festival had income from the car show and t-shirt sales. Freedom Festival had some expenses and this wraps up all their expenses. Total net income for July was negative \$11,903.89. On the next page you have interest income through July and beautification project for the splash pad. On the last page we have \$298.20 remaining for the splash pad. Do we expect any other expenses or can I release those funds.

Rogalski stated I believe it is complete. Go ahead and release the funds.

Huntley stated the last page is your estimated account balances at the yearend for this fiscal year. Are there any questions.

Hankins asked does this finish our fiscal year.

Rogalski stated this is the beginning of your new fiscal year.

Ezerski asked when do we get our first draw from hotel/motel.

Huntley stated we will request a draw as the expenses accrue.

Ezerski asked is it the same with municipal fines.

Huntley stated no.

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

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

Huntley stated I don't have anything for today.

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

Hanna stated at this time we are doing overtime with mowing. We sprayed Rogers Lane from 1-44 to 82nd Street trying to keep it clean. We are managing the fence lines by weed eating. We are working on the retaining wall just past 38th Street. The saplings have grown up that wall. We are trying to maintain what you had Bedrock do. The splash pad has been unbelievable. It has been open for 27 days with over 31,000 people passing through the gates. There have been lots of positive comments. Our goal is to have one on the east and west sides of town. Oklahoma City Thunder will be here on the 24th to begin the outside Thunder Court. I have submitted 3 areas of interest and they will choose which area to make over. This is at no cost to the city. Once we get a final commitment we will make a public announcement.

Morford asked did they put weed eating carp into Lake Helen.

Hanna stated yes. Oklahoma Wildlife spot treated some areas and Parks and Recreation maintain the aerators. We have purchased a new aerator for Liberty Lake and we are waiting on an electrician to hook it up. We hope that project will be complete by the end of the week.

Ezerski asked are all the cameras up and running.

Hanna stated yes. We haven't had any alerts.

Hampton asked where are the cameras in the park located.

Hanna stated around the playground. Last month Discovery Oklahoma did a story about Lake Lawtonka and southwest Oklahoma. I spent a few hours with Lauren Nelson and the film crew. There are a lot of positive things going on.

Hankins stated and people say there is nothing going on in Lawton. This is great.

Burk asked what about the speed tables in Elmer Thomas.

Hanna stated we are still working with Engineering.

Burk stated tell them I said to get those put in. I don't care what we have to do just get it done. We have kids running between cars. There was one almost hit the other night. It is my understanding they need 2 on each side. I don't care what we have to do even if we have to bring it back to LETA.

Hanna stated I'll give Trammel and Burrow another call. The back gate and tables are suppose to be installed.

Burk stated I can't be more proud of a project. It is awesome to see kids splashing and having such a great time.

Burk asked did you notice the fence down on Rogers Lane.

Hanna stated yes.

Burk stated if we could stake it back up that would be awesome. The fence on the north side is starting to look bad. It hasn't been painted since it was built. I'm not certain who is responsible for maintaining it. We need to spray along the fence and there are trees starting to grow up by the Fort Sill bridge. Did you notice that Ez-Go placed a buffalo out front. They are redoing the front of the building and the landscaping. They are really making it look nice.

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

Ezerski stated I have spoke at a couple of civic groups and was able to get on the Chamber's agenda. This was important because there is a lot of those people who could be donors.

Burk stated great job.

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

None

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

Burk stated the pictures of the splash pad had over 30,000 hits and gained 200 likes on FaceBook. Hampton has done a good job posting pictures.

Hampton stated I haven't done a lot of posting lately. Is the old Southwestern Hospital and a building on Sheridan Road being demolished?

Burk stated yes. They have also taken down the old building by the Fairmont. Dunbar School is having a reunion to talk about fund raising.

Ezell stated Tiffany Vrska has asked if she could be given access to post pictures on our FaceBook page.

Burk stated yes. Tell her to make contact with Hampton.

H. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Leach unavailable.

Burk stated if you see a property that needs mowing please contact Neighborhood Services. They are not driving around the city looking for problems. It is all being done by phone complaints. There are still issues on Rogers Lane and Flower Mound. I need Hanna to meet me at the Shelter Creek entrance.

Hankins stated the area behind Ezerski's building is really bad.

Burk stated if it is zoned agriculture we have no way to force the owner to mow.

Rogalski stated the new law says if it is zoned commercial and is used for agricultural purposes they don't have to mow.

Burk stated we will have Neighborhood Services check it out.

2. New Business

A Consider approving the Yard of the Month for August.

Ezell stated there aren't any nominees this month. Dr. Morford nominated 1617 NW 36th Street last month so you could use this property.

All agreed to do 1617 NW 36th for the month of August.

B. Consider plans from Stan Booker for wildflowers on city entrances and take action if necessary.

Burk stated Booker would like to plant wildflowers along the entry ways to the city. We need to strike this and place it on the agenda for next month.

C. Receive report from Carolyn Rogers, Duncan Enhancement Trust Authority.

Burk stated Carolyn Rogers has started Duncan Enhancement Trust Authority and she is going to tell us what is happening in Duncan.

Rogers stated we are still trying to emulate LETA because you have done an amazing job. It is an inspiration when I see the many wonderful changes going on with the City of Lawton. Our Trust is not quite the same as LETA. Hal is the co-chair and Janie is a board member. We are proud to have both these guys because they have so much to offer. We have 11 board members and we have done a few things this year that we are very excited about. When you drive into town there are a couple of new signs. One is a Crape Myrtle Capital sign just south of the Halliburton sign and a little further north there is a sign that identifies the park. There is a fountain by the first sign and we did a little bit of landscaping. We did a fund raiser that isn't DETA money but our name is all over it because it was our idea. It is a replica of the old courthouse that was located in the center of 10th and Main Street. You had to drive around it. First National Bank is going to allow us to sit it on a pedestal on their property. There will be a kiosk that shows all the businesses downtown. DETA has a wish list of all kinds of projects we would like to do and we are trying to work towards the future. We have a lot to learn and we appreciate you allowing us to be here.

Burk stated we hold our annual Eye Candy Awards banquet in February and we would love for all of you to attend. It is a very exciting time for LETA. We appreciate you being here and if there is anything this board can help you with please let us know.

3. Old Business

None

4. Announcements

Hanna stated I had a Girl Scout approach me about doing a project. She is a junior at Eisenhower and is trying to get her gold star. She is looking at doing a wooden arbor at Elmer Thomas Park. She will be taking 3 different projects to her board and they will approve one of the three.

Burk stated awesome. The more we can get kids involved the better off we will be. Laura Puccino is the Assistant Principal from MacArthur High School. LETA YA's first project was MacArthur High School and they put a lot of money towards that project. MacArthur has not been maintained since Ms. Oates has gone to Eisenhower. Once LETA does a project we do not want to be responsible for maintenance. Katy Sealy called me and stated they needed help in getting MacArthur refurbished. Puccino is here to tell us what they are wanting.

Puccino stated when I was at Eisenhower we started Character.Org. This is about making our schools safe, a place where students want to be and being involved in the community. The touch stone at MacArthur is "something to remind us of something greater than ourselves". This means everything we do within our school from students, to teachers and staff is about us. It is

responsibility. The students came up with 3 other core values which are displayed on the banner. When I saw the landscaping for the first time at MacArthur I was embarrassed. Every time I walk into the building I think this is a school and it should look good. It should look like we care. We should care about both the outside and the inside. When I spoke with the Leadership Team I told them this was embarrassing. I know funds are tight and we can't afford to spend \$10,000 on landscaping and then not give our teachers instructional supplies. I have quotes from 4-D for a smaller bed than what it was. I assure you as long as I am a part of that team we will maintain the area. We hope to improve the three memorials that are located in front of the building. Some of our student organizations are going to help with the courtyard. We have a veteran's memorial that all the student's walk through that is embarrassing.

Tenis asked are we talking about redoing what we have already done.

Puccino stated yes. I'm hoping we can redo the memorials.

Ezerski asked did you go in and clean out the beds.

Puccino stated we had it done.

Burk asked so is this the look today.

Puccino stated yes. We spent \$3000 to have it cleaned. I'm here today because I want MacArthur to be where it needs to be. It is a great school.

Burk stated one of your estimates is for trimming bushes and adding mulch. Where is this located?

Puccino stated right in front of the building.

Burk stated this is for courtyard landscaping.

Puccino stated that is a long term goal. It is on the north end of the building between the library and cafeteria. Kids go there to eat lunch. Any help would be better than what we have now.

Burk stated so the memorial landscape plan is the 3 veterans memorial.

Puccino stated yes. That is the crucial one because it is in front of the building and it is a memorial

Ezerski stated the estimates are dated for today.

Puccino stated they just completed them today.

Ezerski asked have you had a chance to look at this.

Puccino stated yes and it is very expensive.

Ezerski asked do you have a proposal for us.

Puccino stated the cost of everything is over \$14,000 and I know that is steep. I would love to start with the memorials. I think it is critical to honor our veterans/students who are deceased.

Morford asked what assurance is there that it will be maintained.

Puccino stated I will make certain it is maintained.

Burk stated that is one of our biggest issues. As a group we want to make certain we have the buy in from the administration at the school, the superintendent and the school board. We want a letter from the superintendent that states he will make certain this is a priority. We can't keep throwing money into a big hole. When your principal was at Eisenhower he informed me that landscaping wasn't a priority for him. The memorial is a great idea and I agree it is terrible. These were kids that actually attended MacArthur High School. I don't like the Bradford Pear that is there. They are not a durable tree. I'm going to suggest that you get 3 estimates and ask them to bid apples to apples. I want the Superintendents support that all 3 high schools will be maintained. Thank you for trying because it does look bad. We would be willing to help if you can get the support of the Superintendent and the School Board. Dr. Bridges would be the perfect person to say the board would be committed.

Puccino stated I think I can get that done. I believe Dr. Bridges will be on board.

Burk stated great.

Hampton stated we will also need to see a budget and a plan when you come back.

Rogalski stated the resolution needs to be broad to include all Lawton Public Schools. The grant needs to be specific. Get with me and I'll help you.

Puccino stated that is great. I'll start to work on all this.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

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