

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL AUDITORIUM
212 SW 9th STREET
August 14, 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: Bellino, Rose Mary; Burk, Jay; Dismuke, Bob; Ezerski, Barry; Harbison, Jean; Smith, Marilyn; Sweeney, Kerry.

ABSENT: Godlove, Jane; Hankins, Mary Ann; Safi, Anika; Smith, Addie.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Burk stated we will begin with Item C. I have no objection to moving to the 3rd Floor Conference Room. Does anyone object to this move?

By show of hands all in attendance agreed. Since we had no sound system we moved today.

1. Reports

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

Shahan stated we awarded the contract to Bedrock Nursery and it should be in operation within the next two or three days. It was awarded at \$78,000 with a one time cleanup fee of \$4500.

Burk stated this contract will include planting color into the beds. The amount that was budgeted into the Parks and Recreation budget should cover the cost of the contract. It may not be necessary for LETA to help fund the contract.

Ezerski asked what is this contract for.

Shahan stated maintaining 22 locations throughout the city such as McMahon Auditorium and 38th Street Ball Park. This includes sprinkler repair, cleaning beds, mulching and planting.

Burk stated let me introduce our new member Barry Ezerski. For your information LETA has two sources of revenue. We receive 5% from hotel/motel funds and \$4.50 for every municipal ticket that is paid. Outside donation are extremely small. In December we hold our annual Eye Candy Banquet and we are very proud of this event. We are in the process of preparing a new members packet and it is almost complete. We are a non-profit organization so we help others that are trying to raise funds for project by placing their donations into our account so they can use our 501(c)3 status. We are not mandated by city rules. We are our own entity with an audit, book, and checking account.

B. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Burk stated we don't have a report today. Hushbeck was the chair of this committee so we will be looking for someone to take his place.

C. Monthly Ward Update

Smith M stated the dead tree at 11th & Gore that I mention at the last meeting has been removed. Ward 5 is looking nice.

Sweeney stated I have a good Ward with nothing to report.

Dismuke stated I drove by the parks in Ward 8 and all is good.

Burk stated since Ezerski and I do not represent a certain Ward we will be looking at all areas across town.

Harbison stated Ward 4 has nothing to report.

Bellino stated Lowe's has removed all the dead trees and they have plans to re-landscape. I also spoke with the Superintendent of Schools and he promise that in September he would address removing the trees at Eisenhower High School.

Dismuke asked are they going to replace any of them.

Bellino stated probably not. They have no sprinkler system. When an individual is looking at moving to this town one of the first things they look at is the school systems. Our schools look terrible and that is a black mark for Lawton.

Burk stated LETA YA is a youth advisory council with two representatives from each class from all three high schools. Their job is to help with beautification at the schools and parks. They are working on some different things and they will report to us in September.

Bellino stated I spoke with the manager at Walmart on Sheridan. He has plans to redo the landscaping in the fall. Hopefully it will look better before long.

Ezerski asked how does it work in a neighborhood with dead trees. Is it up to the homeowner to remove that tree?

Bellino stated the City is not allowed to go onto private property. If it is in the easement the city can remove it.

Burk stated LETA cannot go onto private property nor can we use any of our funds for private individuals.

Ezerski asked can we go knock on a door.

Burk stated yes.

Shahan stated on the west side of 38th Street the property owners are responsible for the grass from the curb back.

Ezerski asked do the property owners know that.

Shahan stated they were told at the construction meeting.

Burk stated that is a mess and needs to be added to the contract to be mowed.

Dismuke asked doesn't the city have a department that is responsible for taking care of this.

Burk stated in my opinion it is on the right of way along a major arterial. We have the same thing on Flower Mound. They should have made the sidewalks wider. What will it take to get it mowed?

Shahan stated I'll find out.

Dismuke stated I don't like the idea of spending LETA money on maintenance. I would rather do more projects. We are not completing project we started years ago. I would like to see us get back to doing things. That is why most of got on this board was to do things. We haven't finished the buffalo, Roger's Lane, or the 38th Street Ballpark. We have done good things but we need to finish them. The airport projects needs to be filled in. It looks trashy. Look at the old Southwestern Hospital and Dunbar Elementary. We are afraid to talk to anyone about those two buildings. They have not been touched in 40 years. Things like this are unattractive. I would like for us to set some goals on what we want to beautify. People don't know what we stand for. The reason we don't get donations from business people is because they don't know who we are. Duncan is known as the "City of Crape Myrtles". It is beautiful. I would like to see us plant about 5000 crape myrtles and really make Lawton beautiful. We talk a good game.

Burk stated you are preaching to the choir. Southwestern Hospital is owned by three tribes and getting them to agree is an act of congress.

Dismuke stated get the media involved. These people cannot afford to not come to the meeting if we have the media involved. It is real easy just to blow it off.

Burk stated I'm not blowing it off but I'm telling you it is not an easy task. The media doesn't want to get involved. I have done everything I personally know to do to get the building removed.

Bellino stated I have also.

Dismuke stated give them a deadline.

Bellino asked then what are we going to do to them? We have no resources. Some of the biggest problems in this town is the old time business owners. They don't care about this city.

Burk stated all the projects you have mentioned have not been forgotten. There has been other issues that were more pressing. We need to remember for every project we do it becomes a maintenance issue. It adds money to the city budget that they don't have.

Ezerski stated it cost more money to maintain them than it does to put them in.

Bellino stated every time you do a project you have to plan the maintenance.

C. Treasurer Report

Burk stated we have \$78,191.48 in the LETA account; \$22,981.13 in Playground; \$2,500.85 in Fire Pac; \$478.28 in Fishing for Food; \$4,801.00 in LETA YA; for a bank balance of \$109,498.31.

Motion by Dismuke, Second by Smith, to accept the treasurers report. **Aye:** Burk; Dismuke; Ezerski; Harbison; Smith; Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Sweeney. **Motion Passed.**

D. Receive report from Website Committee

Burk stated there is nothing to report at this time. We hope to have the website up before the banquet.

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of July 10, 2013.

Motion by Smith, Second by Haribson, to approve the minutes from July 10, 2013. **Aye:** Dismuke; Harbison; Smith; Bellino; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Abstain:** Ezerski; Sweeney. **Motion Passed.**

B. Nominate and award Yard Of The Month.

Burk stated since Ezerski and I don't represent a Ward we can nominate a yard from any Ward. Here are the nominees for this month:

4134 Carrol Drive
38th & Euclid
1115 NW Lake Avenue
3010 NE Pioneer Parkway
4810 Ozmun
1602 NW 50th Street
4634 Meadowbrook
810 Arlington
#8 NW 58th

#11 NW 58th
1400 Block Elm
7602 Willowcreek Drive.

Burk stated yard of the month will be award a \$100 gift card from Bedrock plus we have a sign that will be placed in the winners yard.

Sweeney stated I want to explain why I picked 7602 Willowcreek Drive. They don't have a yard crew. He does the grass and his wife does all the flowers. They have a big yard because it sits on a corner lot. Not only do they do the front yard but they also do the side yard. They work hard on this yard and I thought it was beautiful.

Smith stated a single woman does this yard. The side yard and across the back is planted with crape myrtles. She does a great job.

Harbison stated this is on the 1400 Block of Cherry.

Burk stated everyone has had a chance to look at all the pictures. Which one do we believe should be August Yard Of The Month.

Ezerski stated I nominate the Willowcreek home.

Bellino stated I agree.

Dismuke stated I have noticed that home for years. They do a great job.

Burk asked all in favor of Willowcreek Drive. (By a show of hands everyone voted Aye for this yard) Okay 7602 Willowcreek Drive is the Yard of the Month.

C. Discuss moving the monthly meeting to the 3rd floor conference room and take action if necessary.

3. Old Business

None

4. Announcements

Burk stated next month we have to have our nominations in for the Eye Candy awards. Please bring 3 business nominees from each Ward. We will email you the past winners and vote in October.

5. Adjournment