

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

Jay Burk, 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; Dismuke, Bob; Duffy, Andrew; Ezerski, Barry (entered late); Hampton, Allan; Morford, Bob; Sweeney, Kerry; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Hankins, Mary Ann; Rogers, Kyle; Smith, Addie.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Scott Powers, Finance; Richard Rogalski, Planning; Jack Hanna and Keith Neitzke, Park and Recreation.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Powers stated looking at the Profit and Loss for the month of October we had a donation to Fishing for Food in the amount of \$500, Freedom Festival for \$1,000 and the Skate Park for \$14.60. You had expenses for advertising and promotion, the website fee and Mike Mazzo for Yard of the Month. We had an invoice for Playground in the Park, Fresh Paint Days, maintenance for the flower beds, color for 2nd Street and Lee Boulevard, professional fees to Hatch, Croke and Associates, and repairs to the sprinklers. On the Balance Sheet I added a category for committed funds. So your committed funds are \$54,275 leaving a LETA balance of \$70,726. There was one liability to Comanche Home Center for Fresh Paint Days. Are there any questions?

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

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

Totte stated we will start the 11th Street project on Monday. Eight-five crape myrtles will be delivered on Tuesday, 55 more tomorrow and the yaupons will be delivered tomorrow. This project should be done by next Tuesday. L & L went through to make certain everything was right in every zone and we replaced some solenoids on the east side. I will continue to hand water and keep a close eye on everything for now. We will begin planting bulbs the first of December and in January start pruning trees on Gore and 2nd Street.

Burk stated there are 4 tree holes on 2nd Street that are missing trees. Have we done anything about those?

Totte stated that was the last part of the irrigation that needed fixed. I'll get you an estimate on those.

Burk stated Council approved the final phase of the 2nd Street project from Columbia to Ferris. This will begin in early spring.

Dismuke stated we need to do something about the dead limbs and trees in Elmer Thomas Park.

Burk stated we need to get with Parks and Recreation.

Neitzke stated we did some minor cleanup but there is a lot of pruning that needs to be done that would be a vast improvement to the park.

Burk stated we need someone to check the lights on 2nd Street. Several of them are out. The pots look amazing.

Ezerski stated the open field at 38th and Lee Blvd. and on 40th Street looks terrible. What are the rules for parcels like that?

Rogalski stated there are a couple of different issues. First the railroad is responsible for part of it and we have no authority over the railroad. They are exempt from the statutes that give us the authority to require them to mow. Second issue is agricultural land. We don't have a lot of authority over agricultural land. We do send a letter asking them to mow but we don't have any authority.

Ezerski stated the parcel located on 40th Street is commercial.

Rogalski stated then we can make them mow it.

Dismuke stated if the agricultural land is within the city limits the same rules need to apply. We need to change that.

Burk stated the city can't do more than what State law allows. We have the same issue on the east side of town. Dr. Bellino believes there are 2 trees on the corner of 35th and Gore that are in the right-of-way and both are dead. She wanted to know if there was something we could do to help with those.

Rogalski stated I'll get with Neighborhood Services and see what we can do.

Totte stated there was discussion of the city removing the dead stuff on 11th Street but we had to do a lot of prep work to get everything ready so there will be an additional expense on the 11th Street project. Thank you.

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

Neitzke stated I would like to say thanks for purchasing the lamp for the park. There were 3 broken fixtures and 2 that needed glass. Now they have broken 2 more lamps. We ended up replacing 5 of the 9 lamps out there.

Burk stated I don't understand why all of a sudden we are having issues. We need to make contact with Chief Smith to have someone patrol the area.

Neitzke stated here is a rendition of a skate park that Hanna wanted me to bring to you. This is just one concept.

Rogalski asked is this a concrete park.

Neitzke stated no. It is a composite that is inexpensive to replace.

Rogalski stated I was told the skate boarders want a concrete park.

Burk stated there was a group of skaters that was willing to help with the design. We need to do something they would be pleased with and that is also attractive. The goal is to get them off the streets and park benches.

Neitzke stated I would like to introduce Ryan Ryswyk. He is with the Fish and Wildlife Services and he has a proposal to help manage the weeds in Lake Helen.

Ryswyk stated thank you for your interest in the lake and fishing opportunities. The Department of Wildlife is all about creating opportunities for fishing particularly in urban areas. Let me start by saying this is going to be a difficult problem to get a good handle on. Algae is a rooted plant that grows from the bottom, you see it on top and it spreads out. To tackle the issue it takes some intense management and a commitment. We have done spot treatments over the years in the highly fished areas. We use a chemical called Navigate. It is expensive but you can see from this picture it works. Two months ago we spread some of the chemical by hand from the bank. You can see it is surrounded by weeds except where we treated. The problem is it only treats the spot the chemical made contact with. Milfoil is highly invasive and spreads very easy. If you are truly interested in tackling the problem I have a few recommendations. First you need an air diffuser system. This is not going to kill the weeds but anytime we kill vegetation and it starts to decompose it uses up oxygen. Fish need the oxygen or they will die. If we are going to do a lake wide treatment this is very important. There are different ways to oxygenate the water but the air diffuser system is the most complete and uniform way. Fountains are a localized way to oxygenate.

Burk asked so the fountain we have is not enough.

Ryswyk stated it treats only the area around the fountain. They are good for hot summer months but I would be cautious if you decide to do a lake wide treatment. The air diffuser system will cost anywhere from \$3000 to \$6000. Fountains are cheaper but not as effective.

Rogalski asked are the diffusers a permanent installation or just used during treatment.

Ryswyk stated permanent.

Rogalski asked would it work if we added another fountain.

Ryswyk stated fountains are not as effective. This is a big cost but you are also going to have a big cost in chemicals. I'm not saying you can't do a fountain but it makes me nervous.

Burk asked are you saying if we use the diffusers we don't need the chemical.

Ryswyk stated no. If you do the chemical treatment I highly recommend doing the diffusers. Does anyone remember seeing an oxygen related kill at Lake Helen.

Rogalski stated no.

Ryswyk stated the diffuser system is going to give you better quality throughout the year especially in the summer.

Morford asked how much maintenance is there with the diffusers and what is the life expectancy.

Ryswyk stated the companies make really good claims on their systems.

Morford asked is it like a 10 year cycle.

Ryswyk stated that sounds reasonable.

Morford asked do these go on the bottom

Ryswyk stated yes.

Hamilton asked does this price include installation.

Ryswyk stated no.

Ezerski asked are there any side affects with the chemicals and does it hurt the fish.

Ryswyk stated no.

Sweeney asked are there any side affects if you eat the fish.

Ryswyk stated there are no restrictions. Do we irrigate out of Lake Helen.

Burk stated no.

Ryswyk stated then we should be good to go. It cost \$400 an acre to treat with the chemical. This is quite expensive.

Duffy stated number 2 is the most recommended option but in order to do 2 you need to have 1.

Ryswyk stated correct.

Rogalski asked what does the diffuser look like on the surface.

Ryswyk stated you would see a few bubbles depending on how deep they are.

Burk asked how much are fountains.

Neitzke stated \$1200 to \$1600. The problem with fountains is you have a lot of maintenance.

Morford stated it would take 3 or 4 fountains and then you have as much invested as you would with the diffusers. I think that many fountains would look strange.

Hampton asked do they make fountains that aerate like that.

Ryswyk stated anytime you have disturbance to the water you are aerating. The effectiveness of each type of disturbance is different. They make different types of fountains but the air diffusers are the most effective.

Ezerski asked doesn't the grass carp eat the weeds.

Ryswyk stated yes but to see a difference by next spring you need to do the first two. We would treat the lake early next spring.

Ezerski asked do you handle the treatment.

Ryswyk stated we could assist Parks and Recreation.

Neitzke stated you have to keep doing this treatment throughout the summer.

Ryswyk stated we also have a dye treatment. Plants need sunlight to grow and if you put the dye in the water it shades out the sunlight to inhibit plant growth. This is not a cure for the problem but I think a combination of all these things will work.

Morford asked how is the appearance of the dye.

Ryswyk stated typically we use blue but you can get it in black also.

Morford asked if you had a cup of the water can you tell it is in the water.

Ryswyk stated yes.

Ezerski asked does it affect the fish.

Ryswyk stated no. Remember when plants are doing photosynthesis they are putting off oxygen so this would require the diffuser also.

Rogalski stated we have to do either diffusers or fountains.

Ryswyk stated you have to decide what you want your lake to look like. From a fishery standpoint I believe the diffuser is the way to go. If multiple fountains are more desirable we can look into those.

Burk stated if we have the same effect and we receive some enhancement from it we have a win win.

Morford asked does it look strange with several fountains.

Burk stated I don't think so.

Tenis stated the question to ask is whether it is about aesthetics or actually making the area nicer.

Duffy stated if you accomplish 2 in 1 you have done a great job.

Burk stated the diffusers worry me because we are not good at maintaining things. Another fear is this amount doesn't include installation and I'm afraid we will not know how to install it.

Duffy asked would 3 fountains strategically placed be as effective in time.

Neitzke stated we have problems with the existing fountain. When the lake gets to shallow it sucks up mud and causes problems.

Burk asked is the electrical source to the diffusers outside so all it does is pump air.

Ryswyk stated yes.

Morford stated I believe diffusers would be easier to maintain than the fountains would be.

Rogalski stated you are right. The maintenance on diffusers would be extremely less. The flow goes one direction so you never suck anything in. A fountain sucks water in and shoots it up. Is our pump head outside of the water?

Neitzke stated it is submersible.

Burk asked are there any State grants we could apply for.

Ryswyk stated this lake is a part of the Close To Home Fishing Program. We have done some spot chemical treatments, stocked grass carp and a number of different things. I don't believe the Department of Wildlife will give the full amount for the diffusers but they might do something. I'll talk with my supervisors. There is potential but I can't give you a yes or no at this time.

Morford asked do we need to do this by a certain time.

Ryswyk stated the chemical treatment would be early spring. You would want to do it by early March every year. The hope would be to do a full lake treatment and then spot treat it.

Dismuke asked could we table this until you speak with your supervisors.

Ezerski stated we also need to know the cost of the diffuser and the cost of installation.

Burk stated we all realize we have to do something.

Ryswyk stated our administrators are going to want to know what the City will contribute.

Neitzke asked do you have specific criteria for assistance.

Ryswyk stated it would probably be the cooperation with the city.

Burk stated LETA will make the commitment but we would like to know what you would be willing to help us with.

Ryswyk stated I'll talk with our administrators.

Morford stated time is of the essence here so we need to get started.

Ryswyk stated I'll get this then and get back to you. Thank you for allowing me to come speak with you today. Feel free to contact me if you have any other questions.

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

Ezerski asked are we ready to talk with the radio stations.

Burk stated yes.

Ezerski stated okay. I hope everyone saw the article on hotel/motel and how it is important to LETA. It was great to see the spread of approval for the tax.

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

Duffy stated I have a handout I would like to pass around. This commercial business is in Ward 3. I have expressed my concerns to Burk on the way this represents our business community in Lawton. Johnny Owens has a for sale sign on the property and I did call him to get some background information. He informed me that the owners of Wayne's also own this property. I wanted to bring this to the Authority to get some feedback. Also I would like for Rogalski to give us the rules and regulations on a situation of this nature. There might not be anything that we can do but I believe this is an eye sore.

Rogalski stated this is a permitted function and there is a temporary sales tax permit. You can only get this permit on C5 property.

Burk asked what about the meat truck.

Rogalski stated I don't know if he is permitted or not. If he is a mobile food with a license he is allowed to sale. He cannot pull onto private property without permission. The City doesn't have any regulations in regards to mobile food.

Tenis stated there is a huge difference between this and a food truck.

Burk stated Abshire's park their food truck there. They put up lights and seating also.

Hampton stated there is a food truck located at 12th and Gore at times.

Burk stated I believe we need more food trucks but we need to have a place for them and they need to be regulated.

Rogalski stated they have health regulations but as far as where they can locate within the City the City doesn't have a lot of regulations.

Duffy stated I have a few questions. Is this the first complaint that has been received about this situation.

Rogalski stated it is the first that I have heard.

Duffy stated is there anything that the City can do to assist with selling these properties.

Rogalski stated I spend 2 to 3 hours a week talking with brokers that are inquiring about different properties. We work with them all the time. We help as much as possible but it is still private property and they are responsible.

Duffy stated this is a reflection on the City of Lawton.

Rogalski stated if the City doesn't want this we can regulate what happens by changing the code.

Duffy stated my question is what can we do as a committee and what can the City do.

Tenis stated I believe the food trucks are different than the flea market.

Duffy stated I propose we change the code to regulate this issue.

Morford asked are you talking about the flea market part.

Duffy stated yes.

Dismuke asked how do you decide who goes where. You say it is okay for a food truck but it's not okay to sell flags or rugs.

Burk stated it is a slippery surface.

Duffy stated it is but it is also a fair statement that it needs to be addressed.

Burk stated we need to look at other cities. I appreciate you bringing this to our attention. I have had others make statements about this same thing. Rogalski would you look into how other cities are handling mobile sales and food trucks.

Duffy stated as the Ward 3 representative I believe it is my job to bring this to the table.

Burk stated absolutely. Thanks for this and once we know what other cities do we will bring it back for discussion.

F. Receive report from Website Committee and take action if necessary.

Hampton stated nothing at this time.

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

Burk stated she isn't here to give us a report today.

H. Receive report from Gala Committee.

Sweeney stated we have on the agenda today to approve the contract for the Hilton Garden Inn and to send them a check for \$500 to hold the room. We will meet in early December to decide on a menu. Things are progressing and coming together nicely. I would like to remind each authority member that we need you to start gathering auction items. I know

it is a hassle but it does bring money in for LETA YA and their projects. So I ask that every member bring something nice for the auction.

Hampton asked is it 3 items per member.

Burk stated that is our goal.

Sweeney stated we also talked about this board is to be the host of the party. It is important that each member be there. We hope to have lots of new people so we can introduce ourselves and explain what we do and what are goals are. We will give another update in December.

Ezerski asked are you going to try and stay with the same as we did last year.

Sweeney stated yes. There will be some tweaking since last year was the first time for those changes.

Burk stated sounds great.

2. New Business

A. Consider approving invoices, requisitions, and other submitted materials for payment and take action if necessary.

Powers stated we need approval for a check to Hilton Garden Inn and one to Comanche Home Center for Fresh Paint Days.

Motion by Ezerski, **Second** by Tennis, to approve invoices, requisitions, and other submitted materials for payment and take action if necessary. **Aye:** Duffy; Ezerski; Hampton; Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Consider approving the minutes of October 14, 2015.

Motion by Sweeney, **Second** by Ezerski, to approve minutes of October 14, 2015. **Aye:** Ezerski; Hampton; Morford; Sweeney; Burk; Duffy. **Nay:** None. **Abstained:** Tennis. **Motion Passed.**

C. Receive an update and presentation on Lake Helen.

This was handled under the reports from Parks and Recreation.

D. Discuss a policy allowing businesses to sponsor landscaping in a public space and receive recognition for same and take action if necessary.

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

E. Discuss ordering all members a name tag and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I think this is a perfect idea.

Sweeney stated we talked about this at our Gala meeting. It would be nice if people know who we are and the Ward we represented.

Motion by Tennis, Second by Duffy, to approve purchasing name tags. **Aye:** Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Duffy; Ezerski; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Discuss ordering mailing labels from the Chamber of Commerce for the Gala and take action if necessary.

Rogalski stated the Chamber has already sent their list to us so we do not need to purchase them.

G. Approve banquet agreement and \$500 deposit with the Hilton Garden Inn for the annual Gala.

Motion by Ezerski, Second by Tennis, to approve agreement and a \$500 deposit for the Hilton Garden Inn. **Aye:** Morford; Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Duffy; Ezerski; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

3. Old Business

A. Discuss the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget and take action if necessary.

Rogalski stated the first page is the actual numbers from last year's budget. Page 3 is what you will see on a monthly basis. It will show how much you have budgeted, how much you have spent, how many deposits have come in and how much you have encumbered. Page 4 is the different categories where we itemized the individual projects. The last page is the same as your Profit and Loss statement.

Ezerski stated the hotel/motel tax has gone up to 5%. In the 2015/2016 budget will we receive a little more than this year?

Burk stated we will receive 5% of what is collected. This is great work. This makes it easier to know where we are and where we are going. I guess I'll have to raise Cain to get the municipal fines coming in like they are suppose to. This is ridiculous as to how far behind they are. How close are we to having the budget ready.

Rogalski stated I believe we are where we need to be. If necessary we can amend it at any time.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Ezerski, to approve the budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. **Aye:** Sweeney; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton; Morford. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

4. Announcements

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

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