

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
NOVEMBER 20, 2013

Bob Dismuke, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the New City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Jay Burk (entered late); Rose Mary Bellino-Hall; Bob Dismuke; Jane Godlove; Jean Harbison; Anika Safi; Addie Smith; Kerri Sweeney.

ABSENT: Barry Ezerski; Mary Ann Hankins; Marilyn Smith.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office, Dennis Totte, Bedrock Nursery.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from Dennis Totte.

Dismuke stated he just walked out so we will come back to this report.

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

Shahan stated I would like to introduce Keith Neitzke our Parks & Grounds Administrator. Neitzke works directly with Totte on his contract. He has a grant he wants to tell you about.

Neitzke stated Kaboom is an organization that wants to put a playground within walking distance of every child within the United States. I applied and received a grant for \$750 for the work LETA YA did in the Playground In The Park. This grant was for maintaining or doing minor projects within a park. This park is now on the National Kaboom Map of Play. They do have other grants available with some up to \$20,000 and Kaboom is very community orientated. If you receive one of their \$20,000 grants they have you attend a workshop to train you on getting volunteers and pulling the community together to do playground improvements or a build.

Dismuke asked will you be applying for the \$20,000.

Neitzke stated yes in 2014.

Godlove stated there is a park located on the east side of 67th between Gore and Lee that is baron.

Shahan stated the playground unit is property of the city but Lawton Public Schools is responsible for everything else. That is a designated site for a potential school.

Bellino asked could the \$20,000 be used for a skateboard park.

Neitzke stated typically it is for play spaces.

Burk stated thank you. Now let's go back to Totte's report.

Totte stated I have three (3) different proposals that you had requested at the last meeting. Starting with 2nd Street there are twenty-five (25) total groupings of three (3) pots with a big one in the middle and a smaller one on each side. Every other grouping needs some height and a focal in the middle with seasonal color on the sides. I propose a boxwood and double knockout rose in every other large pot. That gives you evergreen and color. There are dead juniper root balls that will need to be removed and we will need to replace the potting soil.

Bellino asked how are they watered.

Totte stated each pot has a drip irrigation. There are parts leaking and missing that will need to be repaired.

Burk asked are there pots on the south side of Gore.

Totte stated there are three (3) pots on the west side and twenty-four (24) on the east side.

Burk asked do they have plants.

Totte stated no.

Burk stated the plan is for legal to charge the contractor for the cost of replanting and repairs. Some of those trees are crooked how do we fix them.

Totte stated I met with L & L and the line on the east side controls both sides. It runs north and south underneath the concrete about 5'. There could be multiple breaks in the line and those lines control all the drips for the trees on the east side of the road. He recommended tapping into the hotel system instead of spending the thousands to fix it.

Burk asked so the hotel would be supplying water to the trees at the street.

Totte stated yes. The drip system is all working except for the trees on the east side of 2nd Street. To make the repairs we would have to run all new lines.

Burk stated Shahan, you and Neitzke find out if the hotel is willing to allow us to tap into their line. If not we will have it repaired and collect from them.

Dismuke asked what is the cost of the pots.

Totte stated \$8448 after spring annuals go in. We could split the cost if we put the boxwood and roses in first and then come back with the spring color. Spring color is \$3200. So \$5000 for the main plants and soil.

Burk stated I believe we need to approve the full amount and then we will go after the contractor for that amount.

Motion by Dismuke, Second by Harbison, to approve the amount of \$8448 per grouping for the pots on 2nd Street. **Aye:** Burk; Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison; Safi; Smith A; Sweeney; Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Totte stated I'm concerned about 2nd Street from south of Gore to C Avenue. These are not a part of the contract. I believe we need a maintenance plan for those to include the trees. The trees need to be stripped up, and there is trash, litter and leaves in the beds. This would be an additional \$550 per month for maintenance. I don't know if you want to revise your contract or what.

Shahan stated the city can't revise their contract until it is time to renew.

Burk stated the city could amend the contract for the next fiscal year but LETA would need to pick up the maintenance until then.

Dismuke asked does that seem a little excessive. You will only trim the trees one (1) time.

Totte stated there are several beds and trees. We would walk it once a week to pick up the trash/litter and pull the weeds. I don't know the exact number of beds but there are several. To save some money we could do a one (1) time cleaning and then start a weekly cleaning in spring.

Burk stated I hate to drive by one of LETA's beds and it is filled with debris. It looks unkempt when you do half the street. We are asking everyone to keep their stuff clean but we aren't keeping ours.

Totte stated you wouldn't believe the amount of trash down there. Sometimes I have to send my guys twice a week due to the construction and people littering. It just builds up.

Burk stated it would cost \$3850 for seven (7) months. My biggest concern is trash. Can we walk it to pick up the trash?

Neitzke stated I will put this on the litter control regular schedule to walk once a week.

Totte stated the beds are full of leaves and if someone would go in and clean those out it will probably last until spring. I'll knock another \$50 off to make it an even \$500.

Burk stated that is a total of \$2200 but what about the one time cleanup.

Totte stated we will throw that in.

Dismuke stated that would be \$2000.

Motion by Bellino, Second by Sweeney, to approve Bedrock to maintain the beds and pots south of Gore Blvd. on 2nd Street from Gore to C Avenue at a price of \$500 per month starting in March and ending in June. **Aye:** Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison; Safi; Smith A; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Totte asked you will start cleaning the trash now.

Neitzke stated on a weekly basis we will clean the trash and leaves.

Totte stated I checked Rogers Lane from 18th to 21st and 46th to 52nd. I'm concerned about the watering system. The system sprays about a 12' radius. We talked about alternating crape myrtles and pampas grass back and forth, but you can't do that if your irrigation is in a straight line. There are big sections of red tips that were pretty nice and growing well. I counted what it would take to fill in and make a hedge. Then I altered red tips and pampas grass. In the next section I did Wichita blue junipers which will mature at about 15' tall and 4 to 6' wide. This will give you color all year round. This is going to total to a lot of shrubs. The key to obstructing the view is in the way they are planted. The existing red tips are 10' apart so you will have to wait ten (10) to twelve (12) years to get a screening. Something needs to be planted every 3 to 4' apart. I propose three (3) gallon red tips, five (5) gallon pampas grass and seven (7) gallon blue juniper. The juniper at time of planting will be about 4.5' tall, pampas grass 3 to 4' tall and red tips 2'.

Bellino stated there is a drip system there.

Burk stated we had to go in and replace the system so the drip is no longer there.

Totte stated L & L stated PSO tore up a bunch of the lines so part of it doesn't work. This is something we would want to address before we plant. I haven't walked it so I don't know.

Burk stated I don't remember that.

Dismuke stated I was under the impression it all worked.

Totte stated I will need to turn it on to see what is working.

Burk stated we are constantly having to repair Rogers Lane where people are damaging it.

Dismuke asked is PSO responsible.

Burk stated we are in their easement. If you plant in a utility easement you take a chance of them digging it up.

Shahan stated it is also an access to those back yards.

Burk stated we need to see what kind of repairs are needed and what we are looking at before we decide to plant.

Dismuke asked what are your estimates.

Totte stated 46th to 52nd needs a lot of plants. For 190 red tips, 105 pampas grass, 45 blue junipers, and installation it would be \$17,400. I propose you do this in phases due to the expense. From 18th to 21st the total cost is \$6,560. This area has more existing plants that can be use. Going from power pole to power pole, which is 135', we would do a section of red tips, pampas grass, junipers and then repeat.

Burk asked is this sprinkler system in the contract to be monitored.

Shahan stated yes.

Burk stated you haven't looked at the issues over there since July.

Totte stated actually this system is not in the contract. It wasn't checked as part of the contract.

Neitzke stated Rogers Lanes was not in the original contract so that wasn't included.

Burk stated we need an evaluation to see where we are at. We need a price to maintain and monitor the watering system. This will need to be addressed in the contract next year. We may have to figure something out in the interim months. Rogers Lane is a money pit.

Bellino stated we need to bring community involvement into this. We need to see if in each section a community group would adopt it. This needs community energy.

Dismuke asked is there some type of grant we could look at.

Neitzke stated maintenance grants are hard to come by.

Dismuke stated not necessarily a maintenance grant, but one to help with the plantings.

Burk stated grants require you to propose how you are going to maintain them and we don't have the manpower that is required on most grants.

Dismuke stated we need to look at anything we can get.

Burk stated the trustees will have to help. The city doesn't have a grant writer so we would have to look them up and then write them.

Dismuke stated we need to get others involved with the beautification of the city. I wish we had a reporter here to get more publicity.

Burk stated we have Kim McConnell with us today.

Bellino stated that is not what you need. We need to get different groups to adopt a section and give us the initial monies for a project just like we did with the medians. They all came from private donations. If you don't get community energy involved you drop to the lowest common denominator. They will usually help with maintenance.

Dismuke stated yes and we can't afford to do it all.

Burk stated I agree. This is a huge undertaking for us and there is only so much you can do. Helping with the initial expenses isn't enough. Maintenance is our biggest expense. As a local business owner times are tough and most businesses right now are not giving the kind of money they gave three (3) years ago. They don't have the money to give.

Dismuke stated that is true.

Burk stated maybe Rogers Lane needs to be our yearly project. The problem with Rogers Lane is it is ugly and I wouldn't want to put my name on a sign down in a ditch that far off the roadway.

Dismuke stated plus they are driving 55 miles per hour.

Burk stated I'm not certain Rogers Lane is a project that you can go asking for funding.

Godlove asked is there a way to go after those that are damaging our property. Could we put up a sign that states this property is maintained by and those who damage the property will be fined?

Burk stated I'm not sure. If we get it planted people won't be driving through it. I'm also concerned if it ever rains it will flood that ditch.

Totte stated I was going to bring that up. With the irrigation the way it is now the plants are at the crest of the ditch and when it does rain I'm sure it stays wet for a long time.

Burk stated that is a state highway and they make the regulations as to how far off the road the planting and signage must be.

Motion by Dismuke, that we get an estimate on what it will take to repair the water system on Rogers Lane.

Totte stated let me get with my competitors to see if we could come together for one good cause. Maybe we could go together and do Rogers Lane. I'll see if we can put our minds and funds together to do something.

Bellino stated that is what we need. We need that energy from the community.

Burk stated I want to thank Totte for the donation to entry way of this building. It looks great. He is also one of our largest sponsors for the banquet. Thank you.

Whipp stated he has also donated two (2) trees as auction items.

C. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Burk stated we have nothing for this meeting.

D. Monthly Ward Update

Bellino asked were the trees in front of Eisenhower removed.

Godlove stated they cut them down but left stumps.

Dismuke stated Burk has a letter from the PTA that is addressed to LETA. The PTA has donated a lot of money for things the kids need. They have started collecting money to help with replanting the trees and they are asking LETA to donate \$1000 to help beautify that visible corner. They are asking us because we were the group that brought it up about the corner being so ugly. The principal has agreed to maintain and water the trees that they plant. Several Sundays ago there were about 80 people that came out and cleaned everything from the elementary to the high school and from the high school to the middle school. They cleaned all the trash, flower beds and planted flowers. I would like to see us donate the \$1000.

Burk stated I did read the letter. This is an adult group and Lori Bridges is the President. LETA YA went to each high school a year ago concerning the watering and maintaining, but maybe he has had a change of heart.

Dismuke stated this group has donated so much towards teaching supplies. Lori has been involved and she has said she wants to do this. They will make certain it is maintained. They are not going to do all this work and then not take care of it. Whatever the change of heart is it doesn't matter why, but now they want and see a need to do something in this highly visible corner. It looks terrible.

Burk stated every single high school in this town looks terrible.

Bellino asked what does the letter say.

Burk stated it says "Dear LETA Chairman Burk and members. On the weekend of October 24th seventy-seven (77) Eisenhower high school students along with numerous parents, teachers, administrators, and staff participated in the very first Eagles Cleanup Their Nest Day. We picked up trash, cleaned and weeded flowerbeds, planted flowers, and trimmed bushes. Your suggestions concerning the removal of dead trees was taken to heart and has been completed. However, if you have driven by lately you will notice that our campus is bare and in need of new trees. I'm sure that you are aware that the school does not have funds to accomplish this task. The ESG (the parent group) has started an initiative to beautify the grounds and is accepting donations to achieve this goal. Our plea to you is to donate \$1,000 and we will plant long lasting trees and will consult with local landscapers to determine the best options available. Different groups will be adopting areas to care for and Mr. Ingram the principal has assured us

that the maintenance and watering of these trees will not be an issue. Your donation will be greatly appreciated in helping to beautify the highly visible corner of 52nd and Gore. Sincerely yours Lori Bridges President”.

Bellino asked is there a watering system.

Burk stated no.

Dismuke stated there is a sprinkling system.

Burk stated not on the corner. The only place with a watering system is on the new section. They let everything on that corner die. It was beautiful when they first planted it, but they turned the sprinkler off and it all died. They may have cleaned it all up.

Bellino stated if there is no watering system I wouldn't do it.

Dismuke stated it died because they were driving and parking on it while they were working on that section.

Burk stated when they finished the job they planted all new and they didn't water it. If we are going to plant trees they need to be watered or we are just wasting our money.

Dismuke stated they have said they would water.

Bellino stated they will not water with a hose. Without a watering system I guarantee you it isn't going to be watered. There will be interest for a year or so and then it will die out. As Lori's kids grow older and graduate she will lose interest.

Burk stated LETA YA has done an evaluation of every high school and middle school. Most do not have a watering system in the areas you would plant trees. A few of the beds do have. You have to drag a hose across the grounds to water so everything dies. My suggestion is we involve LETA YA with this group. They are our youth advisory council and each school is represented on the council. They have talked with the principals and they would love to take on a project like this. There are several requirements that need to be met before we are willing to spend money at the schools. I believe we need to help all three (3) high schools.

Dismuke stated we can't do every school in town all at once. This is the most highly visible corner in town and the principal has assured us there will be water.

Shahan asked why don't we have LETA YA request a plan/drawing and let Totte look at it before you give an approval on how much you are willing to offer to support it. Then you know what you are committing to.

Burk stated then LETA YA can come back to us. They may need more money to complete it right.

Dismuke stated I don't believe this has anything to do with LETA YA.

Burk stated it absolutely does.

Dismuke stated no it doesn't. You have an adult group that is willing to take care of the problem.

Burk stated then why have LETA YA.

Dismuke stated I don't know.

Burk stated there is the issue.

Godlove stated I agree with Bellino. In the summer time the principals are gone and unless there is a way to water they will not pay attention to it when it is hot.

Dismuke stated that isn't true. I was a high school principal and we worked twelve (12) months a year.

Shahan stated it is not going to be a priority for them. I would recommend you don't give city money to anybody if they don't provide a watering system.

Sweeney asked could the money they are requesting go towards the sprinkler system. Then they could come back and request more for trees once the system is in place.

Bellino stated put a plan together and don't just ask for money. Let's be responsible with our money. If they bring a plan then maybe we can help them.

Burk stated I'm willing to help them but let's get it right. Beauchamp told me he could not require those administrators to do anything outside the building. He stated their focus was inside the walls. Maybe the new superintendent is different. I'm not against the project I just think we need more information. I would love to have Schyler contact them to see what they could do to help. Then they can come back and present it to us. They need some estimates to know how much they will need.

Dismuke stated they will plant as many trees and shrubs as they have money to do so.

Shahan stated that goes back to the planning. We are always hodge podging things so put requirements on them whether they get all the money or not. You create a plan of what you want it to look like and then start spending money to accomplish something with the plan.

Dismuke stated this is not a landscape deal. They just want to plant some trees.

Bellino stated I guarantee they are going to die. They planted trees in the medians and they have all died.

Dismuke stated many of those trees are still there.

Motion by Godlove, Second by Harbison, to request a plan from the PTA at Eisenhower High School through LETA YA and once the plan is complete to bring it back to LETA for discuss and possible action. **Aye:** Godlove, Harbison, Smith A, Sweeney, Bellino, Burk. **Nay:** Dismuke. **Motion Passed.**

E. Treasurer Report

Burk stated we received the court funds for July, August and September for a total of \$13,018.50. The balance of Playground in the Park is \$22,981.13, Fire Pac is \$15.35. If you haven't seen the lighting at the entrance they did to Elmer Thomas Park you need to drive by there at night. It is absolutely beautiful. The balance of Fishing for Food is \$478.28. Mike Tennis will be hosting this event again this year. If you haven't attended it is a great event to raise food for the food bank. It will be held this Saturday and there will be great give aways for the kids. If you get a chance go by. LETA's balance is \$112,195.00 for a total bank balance of \$141,470.76. Are there any questions.

Motion by Bellino, Second by Sweeney, to accept the treasurer report. **Aye:** Godlove, Harbison; Smith A, Sweeney, Bellino, Burk, Dismuke. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Receive report from Website Committee

Burk stated this company has been bought out by another company. They made contact with me and feel they can give us a better service. I told them we would get with them after the first of the year.

G. Report from Banquet Committee

Whipp stated we have 103 confirmed reservations. Going through the list if everyone brought a guest we would have 150. There are 26 finalists that have not RSVP as of today.

Burk asked can we get a list so we can make phone calls.

Whipp stated Ezell has that list. As of today you have 22 auctions items. Totte has donated two (2) 45 gallon autumn maple glazed trees at a value of \$325 each. If there are other donations I would appreciate you getting me the names by tomorrow. I would like to give Cameron approval for final print by Friday. The way Thanksgiving falls this year if we don't get the information to her this week it could be Wednesday before the banquet before we would get the program. That is just a little too late.

Burk stated I say we don't wait. We can purchase those large sign again to place at the entry way of the silent auction area. It doesn't have to be in the program.

Ezell stated our large sponsors are receiving the same recognition as those donating silent auction items. That is a big dollar difference.

Dismuke stated those sponsors make money from this. They write it off but they also have a contact and are making money.

Whipp stated there are sponsors who do not have a contract with LETA or the city. When I do the International Festival certain sponsors look for certain benefits. We appreciate all the donations, but does a \$35 gift certificate get the same recognition as a \$2500 sponsor. I spoke with Runway Printing and they did three (3) signs with sponsors and three (3) signs for donors. We put a clause in the program that says these were the donations that were received at the time of printing. Anything you would like to add to the program needs to be done today or first thing in the morning if possible.

Godlove asked who are our sponsors.

Burk stated \$2500 sponsors are Memorial Hospital, Bedrock and Fire Pac. Brad Burgess called and wants to be a sponsors.

Whipp stated you have a total of \$10,250 in sponsorships.

Godlove stated great.

Burk stated I wanted \$15,000 because that is about what we spend. Next year let's not list the auction items and maybe run an add after it is all over thanking our sponsors and donors.

Godlove stated that is a good idea.

Burk asked can we delete it this year.

Whipp stated we can.

Burk stated delete it. I had never thought of it like that.

Whipp asked do you want to add the amount and the level of sponsorship to the program or just the title.

Burk stated let's put the dollar amount.

Whipp stated okay.

Burk stated we should probably call the Council. The Mayor did say he would be here.

Whipp stated my staff will call them.

Burk asked have we sent anything to department directors.

Ezell stated I'll email them tomorrow.

Burk stated what about prior Mayors.

Ezell stated Purcell is on the invitation list.

Whipp stated how do you want to handle the 26 finalist.

Burk stated Ezell can email everyone a list to make contact with.

Whipp stated do we want to put a starting bid on the auction items.

Burk stated yes.

Whipp stated if you receive more donated items please get an estimated value. My staff cannot start the packets until we have all the RSVP's. If we could have that information by Monday the week of the banquet it would be a tremendous help to my staff.

Ezell asked has anyone spoke with Ramon's.

Burk stated I will do that. I'll check on their donation and a flower arrangement for the lobby. We need to try and collect more auction items.

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of October 9, 2013

Motion by Harbison, **Second** by Godlove, to approve minutes of October 9, 2013 as written. **Aye:** Smith A; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk; Dismuke; Godlove; Harbison. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

B. Consider recommending to Lawton City Council that Chapter 16-3-1-321(A) of Lawton City Code be amended to lower the fine of \$750.00.

Bellino stated I want to see what everyone thinks about this. Back in 2005 the fine for littering was increased from \$250 to \$750. After talking with the police chief it seems to intimidate the officers to write a \$750 ticket for littering. Would it make more sense to lower the fine so maybe the officers will be more aggressive? Some of those that they stop they will find have outstanding warrants because those are the kind of people that litter. I email Judge Johnson and between October 2012 and October 2013 there were 55 citations written. Most of them pay a minimum fine of \$100 and work the rest of the fine off by doing community service. Do you feel we need to address this or just leave it?

Dismuke stated \$750 seems excessive.

Burk stated it seems high to me also. I was surprised it was that much.

Sweeney stated I understand that this makes a strong statement.

Burk stated that was the thought, but no one is willing to enforce it.

Bellino stated it barely passed at the time council voted on it.

Burk asked I'm concerned as to what it looks like for LETA to bring this forward. How do you go forward and it not look bad on LETA's behalf.

Godlove asked how many people know that and do we have to tell.

Burk stated they want until we broadcast it.

Shahan asked my question would be how many citations were written when the fine was \$250.

Bellino stated the problem is it has never been pushed.

Shahan stated that is correct.

Burk stated I spoke with the previous chief and he stated it didn't matter how much the fine was. If they don't see them litter they can't issue a ticket and they don't have the manpower to chase after someone for littering. It is not a high priority. I don't know how politically we can lower it.

Godlove stated much of the littering is done at night. I walk at 6:00 in the morning and I see all kinds of litter that has been tossed during the night. You will never be able to catch those.

Burk stated so is it worth the battle and also to have people think LETA lowered the fine.

Dismuke stated I don't think you have to say it was LETA. Say that council talked with the chief and they decided to lower it because it was excessive and that they felt by lowering it the officers would be more aggressive in giving a citation.

Bellino stated we need to pole the council members to get their feelings.

Burk stated I'm willing to do whatever I just don't want the perception that LETA wants to lower the fine. You need to remember there will be a cost associated with the change. They will have to change all the signs to the new amount.

Bellino stated we need to pole the council and if it is going to be a battle it isn't worth it.

3. Old Business

None

4. Announcements

Burk stated I need to let you know that the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award will not be accepting the award.

Bellino asked who is that.

Burk stated Buddy Green. He appreciates the acknowledgement but has declined. This is a little late because the invitations have been printed and mailed. The invitation states he is the winner. I have learned a huge lesson. In eight (8) years we have never had anyone say no. Next year we will notify all the winners before posting anything in writing.

Bellino asked how are we going to handle it.

Burk stated I thought like the Oscars do. I don't know how else to do so.

Ezell stated I spoke with those who know him and personally I would drop it. When I spoke with him the last time I told him that the invitations had been printed with his name. I'm sure he has received this invitation.

Shahan stated I'm friends with him and I've tried to make contact, but he doesn't want to talk with me.

Burk stated we need to ask if he would send someone to accept the award on his behalf.

Ezell stated I think he is a very private person.

Dismuke stated he is.

Ezell stated when I spoke with him he stated that he and his family had been very blessed but there were other in this town who do as much or more than he does and they deserve the recognition not him.

Dismuke stated he is a great person. I would say he was unable to attend.

Godlove asked is it okay to mention his name.

Shahan stated I want to speak to him to make sure.

Dismuke stated if it is already in the program.

Whipp stated it has not been printed in the program.

Godlove stated if he doesn't want his name mentioned maybe we should leave it out of the program. Just list the other two (2). I don't want to offend him.

Burk stated from what I know of him he isn't easily offended. I get what he is saying. I know he appreciates the consideration. I don't believe he is against LETA he just doesn't want to be the center of attention.

Shahan stated that is him.

Burk stated Shahan, you make contact with him to see if he wants us to drop it or if he will send somebody to accept on his behalf. I know he is a private person. I just wanted to bring this to your attention. Is there anything else? If not thanks for being here.

5. Adjournment