

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
DECEMBER 11, 2013

Mary Ann Hankins, 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: Rosemary Bellino-Hall, Jay Burk (entered late), Bob Dismuke, Barry Ezerski, Jane Godlove, Mary Ann Hankins, Anika Safi, Marilyn Smith.

ABSENT: Jean Harbison, Addie Smith, Kerry Sweeney.

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

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from Dennis Totte.

Totte stated it is time to start planting tulips and I wanted to ask if you were interested in planting any bulbs. The cost is \$1.00 a bulb planted. We can do a color choice or mixed. We would put these in around the pansies and they would bloom in the spring.

Hankins stated spring flowers are always exciting.

Smith M stated my experience with tulips are they bloom once maybe twice if you are lucky. Would it be better to plant daffodils where we would get multiple years.

Totte stated you can. We do use daffodils in the mix. They don't quite make the pop that a tulip does but you are right they just bloom once. Once they are done we actually pull them.

Smith M stated daffodils multiply. They are pretty if you use the yellows. Would it be the same price.

Totte state yes.

Godlove stated daffodils will naturalize also.

Hankins stated you are saying it is time to make a decision if we want to plant bulbs.

Totte stated we start putting bulbs in the ground in December. We like to get a couple of good hard freezes first. The reason they don't do good from year to year is because the ground warms. You can pull them, cut the foliage off, re-chill them and then re-plant them if you are willing to do all that.

Smith M stated that isn't cost efficient.

Totte stated no it isn't.

Dismuke asked do the pots downtown need them.

Hankins stated I think that would be a good place.

Bellino asked how many bulbs are we talking about.

Totte stated that's up to you. Most of my accounts give me a budget and we decide how many at that location. There are about 400 at Memorial Hospital there on Gore. Last year we did a tulip and daffodil combination with yellow and red. Tulips are only good for one year and they only bloom for about two (2) to three (3) weeks. We mix the varieties trying to get at least three (3) weeks.

Burk stated how many do we need.

Totte asked are we talking about doing just the medians.

Burk stated yes and the entry way into McMahon Auditorium.

Dismuke stated I would like to see us do the pots on 2nd Street.

Totte asked do you want to put the boxwoods in now or wait.

Burk stated whatever you think. If you have them and you are ready to plant then do it. Have you billed us?

Totte stated I haven't because I haven't planted anything. It was my understanding we wanted to wait until spring to get color in the pots once we had the irrigation turned back on.

Burk stated I need a bill to file against the construction company.

Totte stated okay. The irrigation being shut down was my hold up on planting anything new. I was worried about turning it on and off or having to hand water. I thought we wanted to wait till spring.

Bellino asked what do we want to do about the tulips.

Burk stated I suggest we do something.

Totte stated for all the medians I would suggest doing 1500 bulbs.

Motion by Godlove, to spend \$1,500 on bulbs.

Dismuke asked do we want daffodils or tulips.

Hankins stated I'm leaning towards daffodils.

Dismuke stated me too.

Godlove stated the bright yellow ones. The King Alfred's or something that shade.

Totte stated okay. Daffodils will come back but if it is in a space where you are constantly changing flowers some do get dug up. You will want to replenish every year.

Second by Smith. Aye: Burk; Dismuke; Ezerski; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith M. Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Totte stated we will do a mixture with the 1500 bulbs.

Smith M asked does that include the pots on 2nd Street.

Burk stated the price for the pots on 2nd Street was given to us at the last meeting.

Smith M asked did that price include bulbs.

Totte stated it covers the boxwood/double knockout rose in the middle pot and annuals in the side pots.

Bellino stated I' confused. We decided to spend \$500 a month for maintenance on 2nd Street. Are we maintaining 2nd Street.

Totte stated that doesn't start until March. It was my understanding that Parks and Recreation would do a weekly clean up now and we would start in March.

Burk stated that is correct. Totte's contract will be renewed in July and we will add that to the contract.

Bellino asked what was the price to do the bulbs and the repair work.

Totte stated sprinkler repair was \$650 and we have done that work.

Bellino asked did we address putting bulbs in the pots.

Totte stated the bulbs we talked about are for the medians not the pots.

Burk stated at the last meeting we agreed to do boxwood/knockout roses in the middle pots and annuals in the side pots.

Bellino asked does that include bulbs.

Totte stated no.

Burk asked are you wanting to put bulbs in the pots.

Totte stated if we do all the planting on 2nd Street now I can put bulbs in. If we don't plant until the spring it will be too late to plant bulbs. I think we need to wait with planting due to the cold. I don't want to kill them.

Bellino stated so your saying to plant bulbs now and in the spring plant other stuff.

Totte stated I can. The problem with right now the pots still have juniper roots so we have to replace the soil. They are totally root bound and unplantable at this time.

Bellino stated so your saying the pots will be empty for several months.

Totte stated yes.

Hankins asked will that be so bad with the construction going on.

Godlove stated I think that will be fine.

Ezerski stated the hotel opens in March.

Totte stated that is about the time that I was going to turn the sprinkler back on.

Godlove stated I believe we need to wait on the pots.

Burk stated I do also. I would like to have it planted by the time they have the grand opening.

Totte asked is that in March.

Ezerski stated March 3rd.

Bellino stated so in March all the pots will have plantings.

Totte stated the boxwoods/double knockout roses will be planted but there won't be any spring annuals. I have some dianthus we could use for the grand opening.

Hankins stated what we are wanting is some color.

Burk stated you just take care of it and be creative.

Bellino asked what did we decide to do about Rogers Lane.

Totte stated I'm going to talk to my friends about doing some donations.

Burk stated last night we received a \$5000 donation from the Walton Foundation. This is a grant and they want you to do a project with it. I would love to do another median and dedicate it to the Foundation. If it is doable for the Foundation we will be receiving an annual donation. I would like to see us do a median on Sheridan Road near Ft. Sill or east Gore Blvd.

Smith M asked how about the flag pole at Elmer Thomas.

Burk stated they will be putting sidewalks in there soon and until all the construction is complete I hate to see us do any planting. We need to have a discussion as to where we want to spend the money.

Bellino stated water is available on Lee Blvd and I have plans for those.

Burk stated we need to give those plans to Totte so he can give us an estimate. That isn't a little project. There are lots of crape myrtles there.

Totte stated is that for the medians.

Burk stated yes. I can give you the list of materials 4-D was going to use. Will that work.

Totte stated yes.

Burk asked didn't somebody donate money for that project.

Bellino stated they had promised a few years back but I don't know if they would still be willing or not. We could try. Could we get an estimate on what it would cost.

Totte asked is it mainly a lot of trees, crape myrtles and irrigation.

Burk state yes.

Godlove stated when I spoke with David Madigan about the grant we talked about another project. Did he specify and does he care how we spend it.

Burk stated no. We talked about helping with the bathrooms in Elmer Thomas and he was great with that. The project has to be complete within the next year.

Bellino asked why not Lee Blvd. if the water is there. You have a lot of traffic there. We would be putting in basically crape myrtles and bubblers and you could do that reasonably fast.

Burk stated let's look at it. I would like to come back with some ideas and maybe cost. You have money set aside from Lawton Beautiful to use on Lee Blvd. and we could set some aside to help with that project. Maybe we could use this to do a median somewhere else. Now is the time to look at a couple of those projects.

Totte asked do you want to incorporate flowerbeds on Lee.

Bellino stated no no no. Maintenance is terrific on Lee Blvd. Crape myrtles is all you need. Maintenance is what you have to be concerned with.

Burk stated I would like to do one a little different. Some of the things that Oklahoma City is doing now is low maintenance. They use a lot of ground cover with a couple of boxwoods. That would be something to look at.

Totte stated anything pretty has to be maintained and that is the hard part.

Burk stated the good part is the city has taken over the maintenance and as long as we don't get above our threshold they will keep allocating the money. We need to consider that and I believe the crape myrtles on Lee Blvd. will be perfect. I will get you the numbers, types of plant we will need and the plans that were drawn by the engineers.

Bellino stated we have to be really careful with the sight triangles.

Totte stated get it together and I'll come get it.

Burk stated is there anything else. Thank you Totte.

Totte stated thank you. You guys have a good Christmas.

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

Burk stated Shahan isn't with us today but we do have Whipp. I guess we did the right thing by cancelling the event. Thanks to everyone for making calls. We have rescheduled to January 23rd.

Whipp stated Journey Production and the valet parking have been rescheduled. There were 176 confirmed RSVP's for December 5th. A lot of those have reaffirmed. I'm working with Cameron to do a rescheduled card and it does ask that you reconfirm you RSVP by January 16th. All the certificates and the programs have the date of December 5th.

Burk stated we are going to use those.

Whipp stated you have thirty-five (35) silent auction items and they are great items.

Hankins asked when do you want those items here.

Whipp stated we will not set those out until the day of the banquet. So anytime between now and then you can deliver them to Ezell's office. If you collect additional items please email me the information so I can do a bid sheet.

Burk asked have we ordered the signs with the donor's information.

Whipp stated I have asked Runway to hold off until January in case we have additional donors.

Ezerski asked how do the numbers compare to last year.

Whipp stated seating for last year was 232.

Burk stated the difference is the way we did our nominations this year. We did not have three (3) nominees in each category this year and last year we did.

Ezerski asked can we handle up to 240.

Burk stated 232 is our limit. The jazz band is unavailable for that date so we are replacing them with another band. I believe we are going to have a fun night.

C. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Hankins stated I had 50 brochures printed because of the banquet. I have never thought they were adequately proofed so if there are mistakes please be kind. I thought they were needed for the banquet.

Godlove stated we need to use what you have done.

Burk stated the billboard is up and running and the radio is running the PSA.

D. Monthly Ward Update

Hankins stated I want to say thank you for allowing my Ward to receive Yard of the Month. I loved delivering the plaque. That was so exciting and she was so grateful. She had lived in that home since it was built.

Burk stated people are impressed when you bring it to their home. It is amazing what a thank you for keeping your yard can do. If we embellish upon any program this year I hope that will be the one. We need a way that the community can nominate yards monthly. We need community involvement. It is very touching to me when you know they have done all the work.

Bellino asked is this done through the winter.

Burks stated from April to October. We need to get the newspaper to write an article on how to nominate a yard. It needs to run a couple of times in March.

Safi stated I'll put it in O.K.I.E.

Ezerski stated when the website is up and running they need to be able to do nominations online. We need to have KSWO do a story that incorporates the winners from last year showing their home and all they did. At the end of the story they could say something about here is how you nominate a yard.

Godlove stated that is a great idea.

E. Treasurer Report

Burk stated there isn't a lot of activity this month except for the banquet. I would like to pick up a few more sponsors. If you know of anyone please let us know. I would like to do a thank you letter this year that is personalized from LETA.

Godlove stated I think we should do that.

Burk stated I would like to take \$10,000 of the playground money and move it to a designated fund for the bathrooms at Elmer Thomas. That was donated by the Apache Casino for the bathrooms. The city has \$50,000 for that project and we are working on getting that money released. Now is the time to start construction before Shahan hits the mowing season.

Godlove stated I have the name of a person from the Comanche Tribe that we could contact. Maybe some of us could go visit with her.

Burk stated absolutely. You schedule it and let me know.

Godlove stated I call her.

Safi stated the Tony Hawk Foundation is now open for the 2014 grants if we are interested.

Burk stated we are at a standstill. We need \$10,000 to do a development/design plan. In Bricktown they have a new park and it is really cool. It isn't huge but cool. This may be something we want to look at. We need to get with Shahan about going up there. That may be doable with the substantial donation we have from an individual.

Bellino stated why couldn't we use their plans. Let's send Shahan up there to get the details.

Burk asked do we have our raffle tickets.

Whipp stated yes.

Burk stated if you would like to sell some before the banquet you can. Are there any questions about the report.

Ezerski asked you had mentioned we needed to be careful with our bank balance. Are we in any danger.

Burks stated I don't think so especially since we have projects we are about to start.

Hankins stated encumbered is a good word.

Burk stated it is. If we show we have projects and are moving forward they are not going to be concerned. If there was \$300,000 or \$400,000 sitting there and they thought we were just building a bank account then we would have need for concern.

Motion by Ezerski, **Second** by Godlove, to accept the treasurer's report. **Aye:** Dismuke, Ezerski, Godlove, Hankins, Safi, Smith, M, Bellino, Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Receive report from Website Committee

Burk stated the company we hired has sold to another company with a lot of the same people working there. After the first of the year we are going to get activity. We are close.

G. Report from Banquet Committee

Burk stated we covered this in Shahan's report.

2. New Business

None

3. Old Business

None

4. Announcements

Bellino stated at our next meeting I would like to discuss a one and five year vision. The one year vision would be doing maybe one (1) or two(2) medians. We need to plans those out. The five year vision goes back to the Institute of Quality that came here from Norman. Lawton has no soul as a community. If you have done the three (3) mile walk/run that the Chambers has on the first Thursday of the month you would see the area we walk are all just pieces. If we connected the pieces we would have a place. They walk from the Chamber to 2nd Street down to the mall and over to C Avenue and down to City Hall and back. For a small amount of money we could connect the pieces and that would give us a soul for Lawton. It will be a lot of work and we will have to bring in the Chamber, LURA, and a lot of other people. We need a lot of energy but I think we can do this. We might want to start with C Avenue. I think we need these visions so we have some direction and know where we are going.

Burk stated I agree. The trustees did a great job when we had our strategic meeting and developed a short term/long vision plan. Obviously we have to have a plan. Our biggest hiccup has been financial. We both went to the meeting in Norman and their story to us was Lawton is so spread out. Not that is bad but we have no centergy. They believe C Avenue was the connector to 2nd Street, City Hall then heading towards Cameron and 82nd Street. Connecting all these places for people to have quality of life things. It is no different than the bike path. As a group we need to get behind the bike path and push it through. I'm tired of hearing about so let's

get it done. This is the group to start screaming that we want it done. The money is there. I agree we need to incorporate all the people and ask how to get started. The kids from Norman have some great ideas and now we need to take the next step.

Bellino stated in my mind I can almost see it. This will take a lot of work and effort but we could make the difference.

Burk stated you have to start somewhere and they thought C Avenue was the place to start.

Bellino stated it wouldn't be that much money. You would have the cement boxes with trees, awning and benches and the trees would be lighted.

Burk stated there were Council members that ask why LETA wasn't doing something about lighting 2nd Street and C Avenue to make it Christmassy. We might could do something with 2nd Street but the light poles on C Avenue are ugly.

Godlove stated you are talking about a main street project that other cities have done.

Hankins stated my hometown is doing something similar. They have a coffee shop downtown and once a month they have a gathering where they block the streets off. They have coffee and visit. It is uniting the community and people really enjoy it. Sometimes they have fireworks. I think it demonstrates to the community we are united in a healthy activity.

Burk stated Oklahoma Beautiful has done that in downtown Oklahoma City in the blighted areas. They block off streets and have a block party.

Bellino asked in February could we have a meeting with a site plan and bring in people from the Chamber and LURA to see what it looks like. Make a plan.

Burk asked where are the kids from Norman at. Are they near something in helping us.

Bellino stated they did say we will help you do this. The piece of saying this is what you need to do was not there.

Burk asked how do we get them to say that.

Bellino maybe we need to go there with our site maps and say this is what we have can you give us some ideas.

Burk stated they have the expertise to do this with their engineers and architects. They get their money from grants due to the communities they have helped. I think we have gotten on a gravel road and we need to get back on the highway. We need to tell them this is what we want but we need your help. They suggested starting with C Avenue.

Ezerski stated I think you need to get the buy in from the businesses along there.

Burk stated they said that also. They said we couldn't do this alone. Let's set up a meeting with them. Is there a good day for all of you. They were even concerned about how ugly it was between C Avenue and the mall. They were talking about buffers with big trees and putting grass in to get a green space. I was really impressed with the corner of C Avenue and 2nd Street. That has made that corner look a whole lot different.

Ezerski stated Insurica helped with the looks down there also.

Shahan stated the center of the circle you are talking about is old city hall. Image that being green. A green space in the center of all that would connect it.

Dismuke stated I like that idea.

Shahan stated you are trying to find that center spot that begins to create the feeling of connectivity and it is not in a building. It is in out space. There is nothing there that gives room for that to be developed. That will have to be incorporated into it. You have to find the interior to be able to make it happened. Somebody has to say this is going to be the center.

Bellino stated if you remove old city hall you could increase that area for festivals.

Ezerski stated a lot of the communities have a water source that is a focal point. We don't have that because Cache Creek runs through native American land and we can't touch it. We have to create our own.

Shahan stated the waterway to the old water park area is the most unique piece of land we have downtown in terms of landscaped property. That is not a centerpiece for the connectivity to some of those other things. There are a lot of components there that could be worked on. No one has ever looked at it from that angle. It has always been looked at from concrete and drainage. There are grants on how to utilize green space for storm water operations instead of using concrete to move water around. This is the time to create that plan downtown. It is the wow factor that Lawton is lacking and most wow factors are connected to a water element. This body is on the right track. It will take this group to put it together and initiate it.

Ezerski stated this is like Bricktown. They had to build their own water source.

Shahan stated that is correct. They got the water from the river and brought it to them. We have a similar situation we just have to figure out how to use it.

Burk stated for most of us getting rid of old city hall is something we have to do. I had never thought of it but it is another connecting piece.

Hankins stated it connects the library and everything.

Dismuke stated I love that idea.

Shahan stated this would be the place for a small level skate park like the one in Bricktown. The one we are planning in Elmer Thomas is a multi phase type. It is a massive

operation. There are different kinds of skate parks you can develop. If you start connecting at Shepler Park to create the whole idea then someday you will want to move the police department.

Bellino stated Shepler Park has water. This is a huge commitment of our time and we have to be committed but I think we can do it.

Hankins stated you can't write grants without a plan.

Burk stated this is a good start. I love the conservation. I think in February or March we get some of the players together. Shahan can help pull this together. Can you put something together with the Norman group to meet with us. Let's get the connectors together and then email everyone so we know where we are and what we are doing. I know they have the aerials so we need to know what is our next step. Tell us how to kick start this and how to get the community involved.

Ezerski stated and how to get the funds to do this.

Bellino stated I would like to talk about Lori Bridges and the \$1,000 for trees. I don't know if you know Lori but she is a wickedly smart person. I suggest we send her a letter explaining we need a plan and then come visit with us. We can't just give money to someone because they want to plant trees. We need a plan. Can we do that.

Burk stated LETA YA has already made contact with her and they will be meeting in January. All the kids are excited. I believe they are going to have great energy in this and get something going. Merry Christmas to everyone and thank you for being here.

Smith M stated I'm going to resign from the Authority. I want to thank everyone for allowing me to serve.

5. Adjournment