

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL 3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
212 SW 9th STREET
FEBRUARY 11, 2014

Jay Burk, Chairman, 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: Rose Mary Bellino-Hall; Jay Burk; Bob Dismuke; Barry Ezerski (entered late); Jane Godlove; Mary Ann Hankins; Anika Safi; Addie Smith (entered late); Kerry Sweeney.

ABSENT: Jean Harbison.

OTHER PRESENT: Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office; Jim Russell, Assistant City Manager, Richard Rogalski, Planning Director; Tony Griffith, Neighborhood Services; Tim Bennett, Planning Department.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

A. Receive report from Dennis Totte.

Totte stated I have two (2) proposals for you today. First is Rogers Lane.

Burk stated this is the project we had discussed getting help with from different entities. This is a work in progress. We have spent lots of money trying to make plantings live.

Totte stated irrigation is the most important. I talked to some of the different landscapers and a couple committed to helping with this project but one has pulled out. This estimate is for the total project. If I do this on my own I'll have to do it in sections. We need to start with the irrigation.

Bellino asked how is the irrigation set up. Are they bubbler heads?

Totte stated this is misters. We would use the existing timers but there are so many breaks in the line you will have to have new heads and pipe.

Bellino asked there are misters for each plant.

Totte stated no. The head pops up 4" and sprays to over 15'.

Burk stated 4-D believed bubblers in that area wouldn't work due to the spacing of the plants. The original system was a drip and it was a nightmare. These sit in the utility easement and that is the reason for the breaks.

Dismuke stated it wasn't that long ago that everything was working. I thought someone was taking care of Rogers Lane. If we redo this is there a possibility of it happening again.

Burk stated I feel we will go down the same road.

Totte stated the problem is the utility trucks and heavy equipment.

Burk stated I believe we need to fix a couple of the places we know has bushes and then put this on the back burner until we can figure out a better solution. I would rather see us do small sections at a time. We can't keep spending this kind of money on that project again. We are throwing money after money and not getting any head way. There is one area when it starts to rain it will flood and rot. I believe we need to cut our losses in that ditch. I know we are trying to hide ugly but we are in the middle of the utility easements.

Dismuke asked is there something that can be planted that doesn't need the irrigation.

Totte stated summers are so extreme around here that you have to have water.

Burks stated we don't have to decide on this today but we wanted you to have the estimate. Totte agreed to help us and to get help from his friends but I'm not certain we want to spend a lot of money. We really need to discuss this project. The next estimate is what we are here for today. It is the medians on Lee from 38th Street to 52nd Street. Totte has looked at the plan that was submitted to ODOT.

Bennett stated we applied for that grant in 2012. It would have been awarded in July but ODOT lost the funding.

Burk stated I have asked Totte to give 2 different estimates. First with just the crape myrtles and the second estimate with plants around the crape myrtles.

Totte stated you have two (2) different irrigation bids. One is the drip irrigation and the other misters. The drip is only good if you have a single planting. You can wrap the tube around the plant and it is a concentrated watering on that root ball. The mister is for planting annuals and the tree ring around the crape myrtles. For \$700 more I recommend the misters. We will place those 6" off the inside of the curb and it waters everything to include the grass in the median. You get more for your buck with the misters. We try and run those at night because during the day you get some loss. The landscaping estimate includes removing the grass, putting in a metal edging, planting the crape myrtle and mulch. The second estimate includes shrubs for the ring. This would be like the median in front of Liberty National Bank on Gore Blvd.

Burk stated I don't like drip irrigation. It is a waste of time and money. We have used a drip on two (2) different projects and had to tear it out and replace with misters.

Totte stated the main reason I don't like it is because if it isn't working you don't know it until the plants are dead. When you test a mister you see it has a broken head or nozzle.

Dismuke asked do you have money set aside for this.

Bellino stated no. Four (4) years ago I had commitments for donations.

Burk asked are they not willing to donate now.

Bellino stated I haven't spoke with them in four (4) years. Sprinkler heads in my books are a nightmare. What is the matter with bubblers and I don't agree with the shrubs. I'm concerned about maintenance. Maintenance kills you year after year. The median on Gore Liberty Bank maintains. I would just do crape myrtles and use bubblers. The guys mowing those medians will run over the heads and damage them.

Totte stated that is why I bid it both ways. I was just bidding the plan. If you don't do the shrubs or flowers then the bubbler is an option but if you are going to water anything more you need a mister. Of any plant design this is about as low maintenance as it is going to get.

Bellino stated the long term maintenance worries me.

Totte stated if the heads are installed correctly they are meant for mowing. The canister is below ground and the head pops up so it was meant to be mowed over. It was made for a mower but not a five (5) ton utility truck.

Bellino stated I'll do whatever you want but I'm warning you the maintenance is going to be a nightmare.

Totte stated it is like we talked before anything pretty is going to require a little maintenance but for a shrub design this is about as low maintenance as you can get.

Burk stated these are 30 gallon crape myrtles. Part of me is with you on the maintenance but I love it when we sprinkle the entire median with landscaping. The one on Gore in front of Liberty is beautiful and that is the median that everyone talks about. At some point we have to decide if we want pretty. Nothing says we can't come back and put the shrubs in later. I would like to sprinkle the whole median on all three (3) of them and then maybe see if we can get others throughout there to buy in.

Totte stated you could do the ring and crape myrtles and then come back and do the shrubs but if you ever think you will go back and plant shrubs you absolutely want to go the mister route.

Burk stated I don't want to see us use a drip anywhere. It is a waste of money. If this is going to be our project for this year we need to make some decisions. The city has placed the water there.

Bellino stated let's just do it. How far from the curb do you put the heads?

Totte stated 6" to 8" inside.

Bellino asked is 6" enough.

Totte stated we can go 12”.

Burk stated we need to talk with those doing the mowing and tell them we expect Lee Blvd. to be a priority area and not to mow with a backhoe.

Totte stated if you use a mister the grass will grow and you will have to weed eat around the rings or grass will creep in.

Bellino asked what is the total cost.

Burk stated around \$57,000.

Bellino stated we need to see if we can get donations. We need a guideline as to what size of donation gets you signage.

Burk stated we need to come up with a design for a different sign.

Bellino stated we need to get this done because the plants need to be in the ground.

Totte stated I have the crape myrtles and they are 7’ tall.

Burk asked can we do all of this for \$55,000.

Totte stated yes.

Motion by Bellino, Second by Godlove, to approve the estimate of \$55,000 for the three (3) medians on Lee Blvd between 38th Street and 52nd Street. **Aye:** Burk; Dismuke; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Sweeney; Bellino. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Burk stated I’ll do a letter with the different levels. We also need to come up with a different sign.

Godlove stated Oklahoma City has a nice sign. It is visible and you can read what it says.

Burk stated the only problem I have with theirs is it is wood. I did see the Oklahoma Beautiful sign and below the sign you can attach smaller signs with the name of a donor. It is done with chains and you can attach several of them. I want Totte to go look at the median next to Penn Square with all the ground cover. They are beautiful. I want you to do look and give me an estimate. Do you have a start date?

Totte stated in two (2) weeks.

Burk stated thank you.

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

Shahan stated there was a group that did a cleanup project on Martin Luther King Day. If you know of someone doing a project please ask them to take before and after pictures. Here is a project to put in your files for future reference.

Burk stated these guys have another meeting at 4:00 so let's move to item F of new business.

F. To discuss endorsement of the concession operations at Fisherman's Cove at Lake Ellsworth and take action if necessary.

Shahan stated we are here asking your endorsement on this project. This item reflects a piece of property owned by the City at Lake Ellsworth. It is called Fisherman's Cove Concession Area. The Lakes and Land Commission desired to extend an opportunity to develop not only a concession operation for camping but also to develop an ATV track. We had \$50,000 to \$60,000 in cleanup that was required before we could get the project moving. For the last two (2) year we have addressed as much of this cleanup as we could. We have an individual that wants to develop and initiate that through cleanup and then to began to develop the park as a new piece of recreation within the lake area. This individual is Buck Lafferty and he is here with us today. The Lakes and Land Commission has approved this and City Council has approved discussing this with him to establish a contract. This will be taken to City Council on the 25th. I will bring these types of project to this body because I believe this is a quality of life improvement. It is an enhancement to our community. What I'm asking for today is your position and your thoughts about this property.

Burk stated I've been involved with this since the beginning. It was a disaster. There were old trailers and lot of drug activity out there. We have finally gotten it cleaned up. I believe this is a great idea and a great start to building something people can use for quality of life stuff. Are there any questions from the Authority?

Godlove asked will Mr. Lafferty be responsible for security for the area.

Shahan stated yes for the concession operations. There is a bridge that creates a demarcation location for people accessing the lake. There is a portion of the property that has a baling lease which will not be up until September 2015. So the ATV portion of the project will not be implemented until that property is released from that responsibility.

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Sweeney, to approve endorsing the concession operations at Fisherman's Cove at Lake Ellsworth. **Aye:** Dismuke; Ezerski; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

G. Consider providing location and direction for trees that can be purchased with Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding and take action if necessary.

Burk stated we used these funds two (2) years ago to line an area in Elmer Thomas Park. Our goal was to tree line the walkway. To use this money you have to have irrigation and it must be maintained. Parks and Receptions did the planting and ran the sprinkler system. Out of the forty (40) trees we received we only lost a few. A few were used inside the playground. Our

plan is to go up the hill towards 6th Street and then back towards the east. There are areas that are spotted with trees and we want to fill those in. How many of you have seen the lights that are in the park. They are beautiful and have lit up that whole area. We got the lights through a grant.

Shahan stated that was the first level of funding at \$15,000 and the second level we are trying to get \$160,000.

Burk stated I would like to see us add another set of lights. It is \$15,000 to finish the lighting all the way to 6th Street. This \$15,000 plus the \$30,000 for the trees will make a huge impact on the park. If we are able to add all this that would finish that area and next would be on the other side of 6th Street headed up and around the Miracle Field.

Shahan stated the goal for the trees is as they grow there is a level of canopy over the walking area. Elmer Thomas Park used to be bare so every time we build we try to build it to where there will be a canopy of shade.

Bellino stated this is a no brainer we just need to do it.

Burk stated I agree.

Bellino asked what kind of trees are they?

Burk stated I'm not certain but we have had good luck with them so we would go back with the same kind.

Motion by Bellino, **Second** by Ezerski, to provide location and direction for trees that can be purchased with Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funding and to spend \$15,000 for the purchase of lighting.

Burk stated Rogalski is the reason we get this money.

Rogalski stated this is federal funding that is provided to the state. We get about \$150,000 a year. We have band aided items like our advertising for the air quality program but we can also have other items. As long as the federal government provides the funding we will have a source. Another vision would be to route the lights and trees down the new Rail For Trails we are building behind the 2nd Street project.

Burk stated absolutely. We have some great plans on 2nd Street. We have some cool stuff coming and I believe LETA can be the lead on it.

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

D. Discuss Municipal Court Building and take action if necessary.

Shahan stated you ask for a cost estimate associated to making improvements on this building.

Burk stated if you remember we made the deal with the Judge to help refurbish and landscape the building. He wants the court to be something that is respected. It is in a state of disrepair. The awning on the front of the building is falling, the glass front is single pane with some tint, and the doors are in poor shape. You can stand in the building and feel the cold air coming in from around the windows and door. The entire building needs windows but our focus is on the front. When you water the landscaping it floods the building. There is an area between the foundation and the walls that have huge crack so water seeps in through the cracks. We have foundation issues which could cause major sewer issues if allowed to go much further. The building has shifted and there is a main sewer line for the entire building that runs through there. If the foundation falls it will crush the line. This building has issues and some are more urgent than others. We have let the building go to long without repairs due to funding. The building also needs a new roof. The roof will be submitted in the budget next year. This list shows you the cost of all the repairs that need to be done. Obviously the foundation and roof is something that has to be dealt with in the city's budget.

Ezerski stated you don't want to do any repairs until the foundation is done.

Burk stated correct. The foundation is just the southwest corner of the building. In my mind the City of Lawton needs to spend the \$12,000 ASAP before we have major cost with the sewer line. I have told the City Manager that.

Bellino stated we have the Assistant City Manager sitting here. That has to be dealt with.

Ezerski stated I agree.

Burk asked are we going to do that now or wait until the new budget.

Russell stated it is on the project list. As far as a time frame it will be sooner than later. I'm not sure we have the funding identified yet. We are looking for the funding source.

Burk asked what is sooner than later.

Russell stated before the end of the fiscal year.

Burk stated we can't wait that long.

Russell stated that is only five (5) months.

Burk stated I know but if that sewer line bust we are going to have major issues.

Russell stated I understand. We have to get the funding in place first. As soon as the funding is identified we will get started.

Burk stated I would like an agenda item for the meeting of the 25th.

Russell stated okay.

Burk stated surely we can find \$12,000.

Dismuke stated this really doesn't affect us.

Burk stated that doesn't but we promised the Judge new glass, landscaping, and painting and sealing of the building. This is what we had agreed upon.

Dismuke stated I remember landscaping and paint but I don't remember windows.

Burk stated the windows were his first concern. We discussed the windows and the front door.

Dismuke asked could we look back at our minutes to see what we agreed to. I don't remember that.

Ezerski asked how much money has been brought in since we made this agreement.

Burk stated roughly \$50,000 a year.

Bellino stated my personal opinion is when we do the new police station I would love to see Municipal Court move into the same building. I didn't realize you had to take prisoners from one place to the next. That is dangerous. We need to be concerned as to how much we do to this building at this time. We can't let the building collapse on the sewer line and maybe some minor cosmetic things to the front but I want to work on putting the court in the new police station.

Burk stated we could paint the building fairly inexpensively. He would also like to have some lettering on the building to show it was the Municipal Court. It could be five (5) to seven (7) year before we get a public safety building. I believe finding the funding for the foundation repair is number one and then the city has to fund the roof by budget time. The windows and glass repair need to happened but I think painting and signage could be something we could handle.

Bellino stated those are cheap. We could do that.

Ezerski stated not until the foundation is repaired.

Burk stated correct.

Motion by Godlove, Second by Hankins, to cover the cost of painting and signage for the Municipal Court building at a total cost of \$5,021.15. **Aye:** Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk; Dismuke; Ezerski. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Receive report from Public Relations Committee

Burk asked do we have anything from this committee.

Safi stated no but with all these new projects we will have.

Burk stated maybe we can get some articles on our new projects. Be certain to get before and after pictures.

D. Monthly Ward Update

Godlove stated my husband and I drove Ward 3 and found several trashy yards. I did forward those addresses to Neighborhood Services. There are also two (2) burned out houses.

Burk stated have you looked at the burnouts.

Griffith stated those are on our list. I wanted to talk to Dr. Bellino first to make certain she has no objections on me taking them to Council.

Bellino stated I do not.

Burk stated I have asked Griffith to go back to the flea market in Ward 4. There are a couple of buildings that are bad that need to be removed.

Griffith stated I'm working on those.

Safi asked what is going on with the widening of SE 45th Street.

Burk stated it is still in the process. They are trying to acquire land.

Ezerski stated at 2802 Bellaire Circle there are a bunch of trees that have been cut down and piled beside the street. They have been there for two (2) months.

Griffith asked is the property vacant.

Ezerski stated yes.

Griffith stated I believe we are tracking that.

Ezerski stated thanks.

E. Treasurer Report

Burk asked I had a report on the banquet and I forgot it. We spent roughly \$3500.

Godlove asked have we arranged to send out thank you letters to our sponsors.

Burk stated if you will help me we will do that.

Safi asked why didn't we have a live band.

Burk stated we did you just couldn't hear them.

Sweeney stated they were on the stage.

Burk asked are there any questions about the treasurer's report. The LETA balance is \$114,824. I saw there was a sign at the playground so we are ready to set the sculpture. Hopefully in the spring we will have an event to thank McMahon and all the others for their help. We would like to do another project. This year Trash Off is going to be more themed with ten (10) projects.

Griffith stated Keep Oklahoma Beautiful has a project called Fresh Paint Days. They give you a very limited amount of paint and you can do one (1) structure. I have gotten with Ft. Sill and the 7th Brigade is willing to partner with us permanently to do two (2) projects a year. They are willing to give 500 soldiers per day. We are looking at twice a year going out and painting thirty (30) homes for either the elderly or handicapped. This group would decide how the homes were selected. I'm going to try and get funding for paint, brushes and any other materials that would be needed. This would be a tax write off and media coverage for anyone who donates. Ft. Sill will send 250 soldiers in the morning and another 250 in the afternoon.

Bellino asked did you say you want us to pick the homes.

Griffith stated yes. I would suggest you not pick a dilapidated structure. We will need the homeowner's permission and I have forms I'll run through legal to make certain they are okay. Another criteria would be the homeowner was unable to do the painting themselves.

Burk stated I believe we need to include single mothers. This is perfect. Thirty (30) homes is a huge splash. Do you think we can get thirty (30) homes?

Griffith stated it will be based on the amount of materials we are able to get. We have the volunteers we just need the materials. I would like to use LETA's name when visiting the local businesses.

Burk stated absolutely.

Griffith stated the average structure is 30 x 30 or 900 square feet. It will take about twelve (12) gallons of paint per structure.

Ezerski asked is this interior or exterior.

Griffith stated exterior. I based the cost at \$15 a gallon. We want one that combines the primer and paint.

Burk stated with that many people it would be nice to caulk and prep also. One group could prep and then other group could come in and paint.

Griffith stated twenty (20) or twenty-five (25) soldiers per home could do it all.

Burk stated we need a form that shows the criteria to be eligible to nominate your home. We need to have before and after pictures. If we did thirty (30) a year in some of these neighborhoods that would be amazing. In my mind you have our blessings. We need to contact Kim McConnell and have her to an article. This needs big publicity.

Rogalski asked are you thinking about doing this on the Friday of the Trash Off weekend.

Burk stated yes. We want to make a big weekend out of Trash Off.

Bellino stated you realize that is just two (2) months away.

Burk stated yes. We are going to make a huge splash in one week. Hopefully we will do that every year except for the painting and we will do that twice a year.

Bellino asked who is going to do the paperwork for the criteria. We need to get moving.

Rogalski stated Griffith and I will work together and get a draft. I'll get with Housing because they can probably help us.

Bellino stated each Ward should get first priority.

Burk stated I agree.

Rogalski stated if we do sixteen (16) that would be 2 per Ward.

Burk stated get the paperwork to us and we will look it over. We can do this by email. Once we have that we will start taking applications. Those need to be submitted to the City Clerk's Office.

Griffith stated I'll start trying to get donations for the materials. Would this group be willing to close the gap on the funding if we come up short?

Burk asked what kind of funding are you talking about.

Griffith stated about \$2500 will do the entire project.

Burk stated if you need that fine but I hope you get enough donations.

Griffith stated one of my selling points will be that a sign will be placed in the front yard that lists the sponsors.

Smith stated you need to make contact with the Great Plains Weatherization. They will come in and do the caulking and weatherization. They have programs specifically for low income and elderly.

Griffith asked do they supply the materials.

Smith stated yes. Contact Bill Havron.

Ezerski stated you need to caulk a couple of days before you paint.

Hankins stated that sounds like it would be a really good partnership because they have trained volunteers to do the job.

Griffith stated this group has always helped with funding t-shirts for Trash Off.

Burk asked have you had any response from Beverly's group.

Griffith stated no.

Ezerski stated Debra stated they would do whatever they did last year and she thought that was \$500.

Griffith stated I would suggest this group provide the guaranteed funding and the money that is raised will go back into your fund.

Burk stated if we give you \$3500 and you get \$500 from the Chamber that should take care of the t-shirts. You will still need to sell sponsorships.

Griffith asked could you make it \$3600. I need \$100 for the design competition.

Burk stated we talked about LETA YA doing this. You need to get with them.

Griffith stated we still need funding for the competition.

Burk stated I'll donate the \$100.

Motion by Ezerski, Second by Sweeney, to donate \$3500 to Trash Off. **Aye:** Hankins; Safi; Smith; Sweeney; Bellino; Burk; Dismuke; Ezerski; Godlove. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Rogalski stated before I leave I would like to tell you about the park. The environmental clearing is done and it is ready for demolition. LURA is willing to donate the property but they are not excited about paying for the demolition.

Burk stated I'll talk to them.

Rogalski stated I'll put an item on their next meeting.

Bellino stated so they are going to donate the property to the City.

Rogalski stated yes.

Bellino stated and the building is going to be demolished.

Rogalski stated yes.

Bellino asked so who is going to pay for that.

Burk stated I hope I can get LURA to take it down.

Rogalski stated the other item is the landscaping ordinance. Bennett will give you the presentation for this item. We have found where we can make some modification to get what you are looking for. Sorry I have to leave but I have another meeting.

Burk stated don't forget to agenda an item for the demo on the LURA agenda. Okay we need to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Motion by Hankins, **Second** by Safi, to accept the Treasurer's Report. **Aye:** Bellino; Burk; Dismuke; Ezerski; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith; Sweeney. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

F. Receive report from Website Committee

Burk stated I would like for us to meet sometime next week to discuss this.

Godlove stated how about Monday afternoon.

Burk stated let me look at my calendar.

G. Report from Banquet.

(No report given)

2. New Business

A. Approve minutes of January 8, 2014, November 20, 2013 and December 11, 2013.

Bellino asked what was decided about the semi traffic on 2nd Street.

Ezerski stated Traffic Commission did not meet last month. It is on the agenda for this month. I have spoken with Sagar and he is working on it. He believes there are some things he can do without going to the Traffic Commission.

Burk stated I spoke with Ihler and they believe there are other routes that can be taken. They do believe it is doable.

Motion by Godlove, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014, November 20, 2013 and December 11, 2013 as written. **Aye:** Burk; Dismuke; Ezerski; Godlove; Hankins; Safi; Smith; Bellino. **Abstained:** Sweeney. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Discuss a Five Year Plan and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I'm going to get with Rogalski about a design so let's put this off until the next meeting.

E. Fit Kids presentation and take action if necessary.

Rogers stated there is a lot of momentum and excitement about the downtown project and other things throughout the community. We have that as well within our collation and want to see if we can connect the dots and not duplicate any efforts by working together instead of against each other. For those who may not be familiar with the collation I'm the Project Coordinator with Fit Kids of Southwest Oklahoma. My job is to help facilitate and execute all physical activities and nutrition for the entire county. That is everything from community gardens to sidewalks. Fit Kids has been around since about 2006 and there are roughly 60 organizations within the collation from schools, city government, Ft. Sill and civic organization. Really anyone and everyone that can play a part in creating a healthy community. We are all about physical activity and nutrition. Our main goal is to make the healthiest choice the easiest choice. We want to create opportunities where people will eat as healthy as possible.

I know you have your Five Year Plan and I think there are some key things that fit into ours as well. In our packet is our trail way map and concept. The Fit Kids trail way is trails for the entire county. We are trying to collect information on all these trails. They could be hiking, biking, added shoulders, and natural surface or concrete. We want to include anything and everything so people will have one place to go to find the information to be out and activity. There is a lot that we can't include so we are working on websites, phone apps and all kinds of things. There are some big projects downtown and we want to make key projects within the whole thing. One is the proposed mountain bike challenge park on the land north of Days Inn. This land can only be used for park land so this would be great. There are lots of things that would go into developing this but we want to help accomplish that. This is something for all ages where you can do professional stunts. That runs adjacent to the Rails and Trails that runs all the way to Lee Blvd. We are trying to acquire some of the trails from Ferris north. ODOT has some of it and Union Pacific owns some of it all the way to Key Gate. We hope to develop that into a biking/walking trail all the way from Key Gate to the Lee Blvd. There are some thing that have to be taken care of with the Ft Sill access and Rogalski is working with the developer of Lawton Town Center to develop the Rails of Trails concept now.

Bellino asked are you talking about this whole area here.

Rogers stated yes. The old railroad tracks. There are some private owners that are willing to develop that as well. We are really trying to develop that into a walking/biking area. You would have lights and other features along there. OHR&L Park is there and is a beautiful piece of property that we would love to see a walking trail in. Those are the things we are looking to do downtown.

We also have the fitness and action series. This is all fitness events in one place and is a Fit Kids project. Three Mile Thursday is part of that and has become a really big social thing downtown. There was talk about getting a permanent walking trail downtown so we didn't have to rush around and put signs out. That stimulated conversations with Rogalski to talk about a trail hub and where it would start and stop and actually set signage throughout the whole downtown area.

Bellino asked do you want the property located at 2nd & C.

Rogers stated yes. We could start and stop the trail there. There has been talk about developing a quarter of Shepler Park to be the hub but this property could be another hub or information center along these trails. It really connects the north and south downtown project with Challenge Park, Elmer Thomas Park and the great stuff there, all the way down to the south 2nd & C, Rails of Trails and the downtown walking trail. The collation would love to help this group develop those areas. You see the logos of those that have been involved. Some of the opportunities the collation could bring are the website, promotion of all these things, committees to help our group, helping to find funding, write grants, and community conservation to increase state holder ship. I know residents feel like they have no input into anything and that is where we can come in and hold town hall meetings to get their input. Finally, I have submitted a \$10,000 grant for the challenge park as a starting point where we could get this built. We are waiting to hear back from them. There has been a lot of conversation about the Certified Healthy Community Grant that funded the bollard lighting in Elmer Thomas Park. The total grant is \$175,000 and if you take the \$15,000 for the lights that would leave us \$160,000. We could apply these funds to the separate projects downtown. There are some criteria's you have to meet and they are in the works trying to meet those. I just wanted to make you aware of our efforts. We would like to help you accomplish your goals because it helps us both.

Bellino stated to get the \$160,000 we have to be certified as an excellent healthy city-gold. The city will have to look at their advertising policy and have no tobacco on city property policy.

Burks stated there are some concerns about different city events. The Arts & Humanities Council has some issues. If we work through this anything is doable. I have worked with Fit Kids before and love their ideas and what they stand for. I think a partnership is a great opportunity and we would be crazy not to team up with them. The land at 2nd & C I will work with anybody to get something done. My goal is a focal point and some new landscaping. I appreciate you being here and I'll find out about tearing down the building so we can start to work on that corner. Thank you.

H. Consider recommending changes to the City of Lawton Landscaping Code and take action if necessary.

Bennett stated we are looking at making changes to the landscaping code to help beautify the city more. I have researched other cities on what does and doesn't work for them. Lawton has one of the most understandable codes in the state. I do the reviews on landscaping plans and there are some gaps I would like to see filled. I believe we need to require more evergreen

points. Right now we require 25% minimum of the total requirement. Other cities require 40%. This would give your landscaping more greenery during the winter. Deciduous lose their leaves in the winter and become barren and look like twigs. The evergreen will keep the color year round. That would be one of the major revisions to the code. Rogalski talked about bucket strips. Those are strips of greenery that extend into the property. There is an upside and a downside to bucket strips. The upside is you get away from the barren look. The ordinance went into effect in 2012. If it had been in effect when Tractor Supply built they would have been required to landscape and not have the barren look. Jack in the Box has the same barren look because they opted to substitute river rock for ground cover or turf. This is allowed by code. We want to cut down on the points that are allowed for rock and special features. We want to revise the code to require more evergreen planting to a percentage you feel is fair.

Burk stated I like the 40%. You are right without evergreen in the winter it looks barren and empty. I'm probably more discussed with the river rock. They don't even keep the weeds out. Code states we can enforce the landscaping ordinance. Are we doing that?

Bennett stated yes. I will do an assessment of the project. If they drop below the required points then we can enforce the code. They have to remove the dead and replant to bring it back to meet code. We can issue citations to require them to replant.

Burk asked are we doing that.

Bennett stated yes.

Burk asked so at some point we evaluate the property.

Bennett stated if there are complaints it works along the same lines as tall weeds and grass.

Burk stated I don't want to wait for complaints. I want us looking at every property that has been done since 2012. I need a list of those properties.

Bennett stated I have a list.

Burk stated the code is supposed to have teeth in it to make certain they keep their landscaping. A dead tree doesn't tickle Griffith's interest as a full project will. I want to make sure we are implementing those enforcements.

Bennett stated I apologize I missed understood. I have a data base of all the landscaping. Once a project is complete I do the landscaping inspection.

Bellino stated the problem is nobody keeps it up. I had to call the Regional Manager of Lowe's because the local one wouldn't talk to me. They think we don't care.

Burk stated we found in other cities their code had substantial penalties if they didn't maintain the landscaping. They could be fined on a daily basis until it was maintained. Rogalski

made a point to place this enforcement in our code. I want to make certain we have a list of properties since 2012.

Ezerski stated developers have asked if the fines would be waived during water restrictions.

Russell stated that provision is written into the water restriction code.

Burk stated we are so far behind the curve in commercial property. Even the code we have today isn't strong enough. Lowe's or Home Depot in Edmond has better looking parking lots than we do. Look at the 82nd Street project. When we asked CVS why they didn't do any landscaping they told us it was because we didn't require it.

Godlove asked so how long do they have to correct the situation and what is the penalty.

Griffith stated 48 hours and the fine is up to \$750. First time offenders usually are charged \$150. You can get a citation every 48 hours. I can probably assist in enforcements. I have a lot of eyes out there.

Bennett stated I do a yearly inspection but maybe we need to do a spring and fall inspection also.

Burk stated yes.

Ezerski asked is there nothing we can do in retrospect to anything before the code change.

Burk stated no.

Bellino stated you can complain and sham them. You can pick up the phone and if the local manager won't do anything call corporate. If he doesn't help you then get on the website. They don't want you publically complaining.

Griffith stated I believe that Bennett and I can take care of this.

Burk asked send me a copy of the data base and I would like for this Authority to help with keeping our eyes open. We are the eyes and ears of the community as far as enhancement and we could drive by and look at them. In my mind move forward with making the changes you have recommended. Change the greenery to 40%.

Bellino stated are succulents considered greenery. Such as an agaveie plants.

Bennett stated they are like a cactus and it falls under the shrub classification.

Burk stated you have our blessing to move forward. Once you have them drafted bring them back to us so we can move these on to Council. Thanks.

I. Discuss the proposed park improvement on the property located at NW corner of SE 2nd Street and SE C Avenue and take action if necessary.

Burk stated LURA wants to give this land to the city. There were talk about placing public bathrooms there but I'm not for that idea. I think this is a good area for rails for the bike connector. I have asked them to demo the structures and they are balking on doing that. I'll go on the 18th and talk with them to see if we can come to an agreement. The estimated cost is \$9,000 to remove the parking lot and the structure. Maybe they will pay half. The wells have been removed and the environmental has been done. I like the idea of some water features. They are so comforting and smoothing. If Fit Kids can get the \$160,000 grant they could use some of it to help develop this area. I'll keep you updated. Maybe by the next meeting I'll have something to report.

Bellino stated Fit Kids would like to use it for signage for their track.

Burk stated that isn't a bad idea if you use the right kind of signage. They have a good vision but not a lot of money.

Bellino stated the \$160,000 depends upon Council passing two (2) ordinances.

Russell stated we will get it done.

Burk stated I don't think it is a non-doable thing I just think it has hills.

Russell it is going to take some push.

B. Discuss doing the medians from 38th to 52nd Street on Lee Blvd. as a One Year Plan, and take action if necessary.

Burk stated this was covered under Totte's report.

3. Old Business

A. Maintenance and Repairs and take action if necessary.

(This was not discussed)

4. Announcements

Burk stated there is a voluntary fireman that wants to do some median enhancement at no cost to us. He would like to do an artistic snake. Here are some pictures of what he does. They are very large and would cover the whole median.

Hankins stated it is mosake.

Burk stated he would like to do a couple of them within the city.

Bellino stated no.

Godlove stated I don't believe this would work. I don't think this is a good idea.

Bellino stated it doesn't fit with our landscaping.

Burk stated maybe he could do something at the lake. I'll suggest he talk to Shahan about Robinson's Landing. Thanks for being here today.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.