

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
NEW CITY HALL 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
103 SW 4TH STREET
MAY 11, 2011

Jay Burk, Director, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the New City Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room. Notice of meeting and agenda were posted on the City Hall notice board as required by law.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk, Jay; Carter, Carroll (entered late); Dismuke, Bob; Godlove, Jane; Hushbeck, Tim; Smith, Addie (entered late); Smith, Marilyn; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Haribson, Jean; Munkacsy, Debbie.

OTHER PRESENT: Rex Givens, Director; Kim Shahan, Parks and Recreation.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Approve the Minutes of April 13, 2011.

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Tennis, to approve the minutes of April 13, 2011 as written. **Aye:** Dismuke; Godlove; Hushbeck; Smith, M.; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Carried**

2. Reports

- A. Treasurer Report and take appropriate action if necessary.

Burk stated the beginning balance was \$41,976.37 and the ending balance was \$40,401.58. We have not received the Court Fund fees for March and April. I have a couple of donations from Trash-Off that needs to be deposited. The grants we gave to the middle schools was the best money we have spent in a long time. Tomlinson bought four trees and Bedrock donated two so they planted six trees. MacArthur landscaped the sign in front of the school. They would like to have a project every year to enhance the front of the school. Both schools look nice.

Hushbeck stated it has been discussed at the Chamber about the pictures Lawton Public Schools website has of their buildings. They are ugly because they have no landscaping around them. I believe getting kids energized to enhance those areas could help us in a lot of ways and help the image of the community.

Godlove asked who will be responsible for maintaining them.

Burk stated the schools and this was a concern with the principals. We need to talk with Barry Beauchamp about this.

Godlove stated a lot of this depends on the principle. If they want their grounds to look nice they will maintain it otherwise they don't want any landscaping. We may need to mail a letter to all the principles explaining what we are doing and that we will expect them to maintain it. It might become a competition between the schools.

Burk stated this might be something we should work on. There are no outstanding expenses. As of the first of June our monthly maintenance will increase because 2nd Street will be added to the contract.

Givens asked is this just for the month of June?

Burk stated yes and we will redo the contract in July. We hope the City approves the same funding for maintenance in next years budget.

Givens asked the whole contract or just the \$70,000.

Burk stated the \$70,000. I have asked 4-D to give us an estimate on Cache Road and hopefully we can add this to the contract.

Givens stated I'm all for maintenance, but we didn't start this Authority to become a maintenance organization. When we start spending more on maintenance than improvements I'm not happy.

Smith M stated I agree, but if we improve it and don't maintain it we have lost the improvement.

Givens stated true, but we are not responsible for maintaining improvements made by others such as 11th and 2nd Street. I understand maintaining the projects we complete.

Burk stated I think maintenance is the biggest project we have done. I don't care what little flowerbed we put in the median it is more about the maintenance. We are cleaning up. I think maintaining is part of what enhancement is about. LETA is going to go into a different direct direction once the landscape ordinance is final. Certain projects will need this Authorities approval.

Givens stated there will be provision in the ordinance that LETA will be the appeal board for. We will have a little input about what is going on.

Burk stated LETA will know what projects are being done and we hope to keep uniformity throughout the city.

Givens stated I believe the Mayor should write letters to CVS and Walgreen's corporate headquarters to complain about the way they look.

Burk stated we have no way to force someone to clean up their property. This ordinance states once you plant it you must maintain it. It also will have designated green spaces.

Givens stated it does away with the 6' fence and forces you to do a berm. Existing areas will be grandfathered in and we will not be allowed to do anything to those areas.

Godlove stated this Authority needs to write their corporate offices.

Givens stated that is correct. We need to register a compliant.

Godlove stated particularly those places that sell plants.

Burk stated parking requirements will also change for new developments. Places like Lowe's and Home Depot don't use all their parking and are using it for storage. Parking lots will also have required green space.

Godlove asked as Council members is there nothing you can do to create a maintenance priority for the City. I know it cost, but this is important.

Givens stated I thought they were going to put something in for maintenance, but it didn't happen.

Burk stated they say the budget for this year is flat and there isn't any extra money.

Smith M stated part of the problem is there is very little community pride.

Burk stated if we start doing things it will be come contagious. It starts by us making an example.

Dismuke stated one of the greatest things Council has done is to have clean-up four times a year. People use to stack their junk beside their home until time to pick it up and that doesn't happen any more.

Burk stated Trash-Off has also helped. We didn't have the volunteers this year, but there wasn't as many areas to clean. Ft. Sill has started cleaning and weed eating the fence line on Rogers Lane on a regular basis and this has helped.

Godlove stated we need to create something for the radio stations to talk about taking pride in Lawton.

Givens stated the ads for 4-D on TV talks about the City of Lawton trying to beautify things.

Burk stated when we have the money I would like for us to do some billboard ads to promote what we do.

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Smith M, to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Aye:** Hushbeck; Smith, M.; Tennis; Burk; Carter; Dismuke; Godlove. **Nay:** None. **Motion Carried**

3. New Business

None

4. Old Business

A. Review and Discuss a website and logo, take appropriate action if necessary.

Burk stated our web address is lawtonenhancement.org. Clark thinks the first part will be ready in about fifteen days. If you know of a project that isn't on the site let me know so it can be added. Munkacsy has written a summary about LETA and I'll get it to him. We have a good start. We will have six different pages. One will be an informational page and there will be a link where you can donate to LETA.

Dismuke stated we need to add the addresses to the projects we have done. There needs to be a place for future projects also.

Smith stated we also need to include Trash-Off.

Burk stated we need to take before and after pictures.

Dismuke asked are there any plans to go north on 11th Street?

Burk stated we would like to go to Lee Blvd. and south to I-44.

Dismuke asked what about the project on Rogers Blvd?

Givens stated some of it looks good and some doesn't.

Dismuke stated we need to fill in the big empty spaces.

Givens stated this project was done by Lawton Beautiful and it wasn't done right. We did help clean it up by putting in a sprinkler system. Bellino has money and she needs to finish her projects.

Burk stated she has a project on Lee and it will become ours at some point. I haven't done anything on this project until she decides what she is going to do with the \$50,000 from Lawton Beautiful.

Dismuke asked does she have enough to do something on Rogers Lane.

Burk stated there maybe a few thousand. The Lee Blvd. project will cost around \$35,000. I think when we replant we need to do so with good size plants. We may only be able

to purchase a few a year. This is something that needs to be placed in our budget for next year along with Cache Road.

Dismuke asked is Shahan not capable of doing any of this.

Burk stated he has only three people to do that kind of work. The others are ballpark personnel. We need to get privatized. It is much cheaper than hiring fulltime employees. We need to discuss this during our budget process.

B. Review and Discuss Trash-Off and take action if necessary.

Burk stated Trash-Off was a great success. We had more tonnage than we did last year with less volunteers. Seventeen bags of trash were collected from one park and twenty-two on Sheridan Road. Griffith is on vacation and when he gets back we will get a report. I need help with getting the report back to Oklahoma Beautiful so we can qualify for the Great American Cleanup award. We had a lot of kids involved this year. There was a bus load from Boys and Girls Club, Brian Henry had a group and Woodland Hills had a group. Re-Tree Lawton wasn't as successful as it was last year. I wasn't pleased with the trees we received this year. They were about half the size of those from last year. Next year we will cut back to fifty trees instead of a hundred.

Givens stated there wasn't as many people show this year as they did last year.

Smith M stated I don't believe we advertised as much.

Burk stated we were on the radio and TV.

Dismuke stated it was a bad day due to the weather.

Hushbeck stated I agree with Smith. I didn't hear as much about it this year as in the past.

Burk stated last year due to the ice store we had lots of damage. Also a quarterly clean-up from the City has helped. Trash-Off, the quarterly clean-up and awareness have made a huge difference.

C. Review and Discuss the Budget and take action if necessary.

Burk stated I'm putting the numbers together on what we have spent this past year so we can put the budget together. This year we need to promote the Adopt A Park. MacArthur Park Homeowner Association has adopted the first park.

Smith M stated when we lived in Raleigh to graduate from High School you had to perform twenty-five hours per year of community service. We need to get the school board to approve this for our High Schools to get the kids involved.

Hushbeck stated Cameron has scholarships where community service is a requirement. Cameron would be someone else we need to talk with.

Tenis stated the twenty-five hours would need to be a part of an elective credit. There has to be a trade off.

Burk stated that is the group we need and their parents also. Our budget has to be submitted by June 15.

Givens stated we will need it by May 24th.

Burk stated now we are receiving five percent from hotel/motel and \$70,000 for maintenance.

Givens stated the five percent is estimated at \$65,000 this year.

Hushbeck asked is the court money perpetual.

Given stated yes.

Burks stated we'll meet next Thursday the 19th at 3:00 to discuss the budget.

5. Announcements

None

6. Adjournment

Motion by Dismuke, **Second** by Tennis, to adjourn. **Aye:** Carter; Dismuke; Godlove; Hushbeck; Smith A.; Smith M.; Tennis; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Carried**