

MINUTES
LAWTON ENHANCEMENT TRUST AUTHORITY
3rd FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM CITY HALL
212 SW 9th STREET
NOVEMBER 09, 2018

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Burk Jay (Entered Late); Coody, Joshua; Ezerski, Barry; Hampton, Allen; Hankins, Mary Ann; Morford, Robert (Entered Late); Peters, Jo; Tennis, Michael.

ABSENT: Smith, Addie; Sweeney, Kerry.

OTHER PRESENT: Charlotte Brown, Planning; Jack Hanna, Parks and Recreation; Brock Greenhill, Neighborhood Services; Kristin Huntley, Finance Department; Denise Ezell, City Clerk's Office.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Reports

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

Totte stated we need to plant bulbs by December 1st. Normally we plant those at McMahon Auditorium, Sheridan and Gore medians, Liberty Lake, 11th and Cache Road, 11th and Gore and in all the pots on 2nd Street. There will be an additional 50 pots on 2nd Street so that's an additional 500 bulbs. Total bulbs would be 3700.

Hankins asked is the price about the same as last year.

Totte stated the price is the same we just have more to plant. It runs a dollar a bulb and .50¢ for installation. It takes about 3 days to plant them. The daffodils and hyson's are perennials. They bloom quicker than the tulips and this helps to prolong the color in the spring. These all usually bloom around Easter.

Motion by Ezerski, Second by Coody, to approve planting of the bulbs. **Aye:** Coody; Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins; Peters; Tennis. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Hankins stated we are going to move Business Item D to the next item for discussion.

D. Discuss the fire hydrants located within the landscape beds along NW 2nd Street.

Brown stated according to Code all plantings around a fire hydrant has to have a clearance of 3'. There are some issues with the plantings on 2nd Street.

Mitchell stated I'm Mark Mitchell and this is Marc Sutphin. The reason for the clearance is so the hydrants can be identified and seen easily. When we test the hydrants the crews identify those that are out of compliance. We are not asking you not to landscape but the rule of thumb is if you are driving and can't see the hydrant due to landscaping it is too close.

Tenis asked is it a 3' radius or what you have planted around it.

Mitchell stated the radius around the hydrant is a working area. Hydrants typically have two 2 1/2" caps on both side and one 5 1/4" cap in the center. There has to be room to use a hydro wrench that is 18 to 24" long to turn the caps on and off. The clearance around the hydrant is specific to the working area. The line of sight issue is if you are driving down the road and something is obstructing the hydrant then it is too close.

Sutphin stated a lot of these plants at their maturity can be huge if they are not maintained. The 3' is measured from the outside edges of the hydrant. When the apparatus drivers are driving down the road they need to be able to identify the hydrants so they don't drive by them. When it is dark and raining it could make it difficult to locate the hydrants. We wish we had caught this on the forefront before everything was planted. We hope these can be transplanted and used in other areas of 2nd Street.

Ezerski asked are all of these on 2nd Street.

Sutphin stated yes. It runs from the mall to Ferris. Probably 90% of the hydrants are similar to the ones you see in the pictures.

Allen asked what will you allow us to put in the 3' radius.

Sutphin stated this space is suppose to be clear. The other part is we flow water from one of the ports every third year. When they open these ports it will wash all the mulch from the beds and damage plants. Some of these have a lot of pressure. The force of the flow can make the ground shake. For safety reason we teach our guys not to stand in front of the cap when they are removing it. You can see in this picture they had to straddle a bush.

Mitchell stated we won't complain about ground cover as long as you understand when we flow you may have to replace it. The problem wasn't with just vegetation. There were trashcans and benches that need to be moved.

Sutphin stated and a couple of crape myrtles.

Hankins stated we will have to move them so what can we do to make this work.

Totte stated I'll go look at them.

Hampton stated we will need an estimate on the redesign/redesign of the area.

Totte stated hopefully not. We are just starting the north end so we will make certain to include the clearance.

Mitchell stated we are not here to complain. We appreciate all you are doing for our community. My concern is the water supply is paramount when you go to a structure fire.

Sutphin stated this handout explains what is required.

Mitchell stated feel free to call anytime if you have any questions.

Totte stated a 3' radius is not a problem. If we have an established tree will you work with us? You have clear trunk at the bottom and I would think visibility is good on those.

Sutphin stated as long as they are maintained and trimmed up we will look at them. If there are 3 or 4 trunks maybe 1 could go up over.

Totte stated that would be fine.

Allen stated we pay to have those beds maintained.

Totte asked did you say there were some trashcans and benches.

Sutphin stated I'm not certain where those are located. I can go back and locate them.

Brown stated those would be south of Gore.

Sutphin stated this isn't just a 2nd Street issue. We run into these issues all over town.

Totte stated once I'm done I'll call you so you can come inspect them.

Sutphin stated anytime you have questions call the Fire Marshall's office and we will be glad to help.

Hankins stated we are for beauty and safety. We will make this work. Thank you.

B. Consider approving invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment.

Huntley stated we have 5 invoices for payment. Two are for Bedrock for work done on 2nd Street. Sprinkler repair in the amount of \$2,544 and plantings for the north end pots in the amount of \$11,569. You approved the planting a few months back. I have an invoice for Bedrock Irrigation in the amount of \$176.95 and \$150.75 both for sprinkler repair and Bedrock Nursery \$674.75 for flowerbed maintenance.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Ezerski, to approve invoices, requisitions, and all other submitted materials for payment. **Aye:** Hampton, Hankins; Morford; Peters; Tennis; Coody; Ezerski. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Receive Treasurer Report and take action if necessary.

Huntley stated at the end of October you had \$323,836.72 in your account. The custodial accounts totaled \$202,435.49. On the Income Statement you see the hotel/motel for the first quarter was \$4,150.40, interest income was \$27.40 and municipal fines for August were \$5,409. The expenses were for sprinkler repairs and flowerbed maintenance in the amount of \$3,426.09 for a total net income of \$6,191.71 for October. On the Income and Expense Tracker under revenue you see we have collected \$24,408.75 for the year and \$8,705.73 in expenses. In projects pending we have \$37,029.00.

Hankins asked have we received the revenue from the landfill fee.

Huntley stated they have an amount. I will check on that.

Motion by Tennis, **Second** by Peters, to accept the treasurer's report. **Aye:** Hankins; Morford; Peters; Tennis; Coody; Ezerski; Hampton. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

D. Receive report from Cultural Preservation Committee and take action if necessary.

Hankins stated Cheatwood isn't with us today.

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

Hanna stated we are working on Holiday In The Park and it happens on Saturday. We have started our winter projects of trimming trees, weed eating and spraying fence lines, removing tree saplings, redesigning a drainage issue at Grandview, repairing some tabletops and benches, replacing and dragging our walking areas, cutting down a tree at McMahon Auditorium, wood fiber mulch at the playgrounds, repairing playground equipment, move some of the arm gates in Elmer Thomas, sprinkler repairs at McMahon Park, dirt work cleanup at McMahon Park, sealant at Kid Zone and demo the arbor on the east side of Elmer Thomas Park for a Boy Scout project. We are waiting on approval from the troop to see if this project will happen.

Morford stated the light on the flag in Elmer Thomas is still not right. You need to go out at night.

Hanna stated we will look at it again.

Ezerski asked did we have some vandalism at Elmer Thomas Park.

Hanna stated yes.

Ezerski asked are the camera's not working.

Hanna stated this was done to the Christmas displays and not in the playground. We were fortunate we did not lose a display. We had to replace some fuses and that was all.

F. Receive report from Public Relations, Website and Facebook Committees, and take action if necessary.

Hankins stated Victoria Ondorf is a freelance artist and is doing some logo designs for us. They will be ready in December and we should be able to report more about this at the next meeting. We gave her a lot of directions on what we want. We would like to use Indian Blankets and some of the Oklahoma wildflowers.

Burk stated Vrska needs to get some pictures of Holiday In The Park and post to Facebook.

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

Hampton stated Ware on C has expanded to 2 blocks and is still happening downtown.

Tenison stated vendors were too far apart. I believe that is too big.

Ezerski stated they will be hosting one in December and then stop until March.

Hampton stated the Patterson Center is not located in my Ward but they are doing great things there. A lot of remodeling and it looks great.

Burk asked why is the flashing light at Douglas still in use. There are no kids there.

Hanna stated they do have kids there. They hold the Bridge Academy and one other program there. There are probably 300 to 400 kids there.

H. Receive report from Neighborhood Services.

Burk stated Greenhill isn't with us today.

I. Receive a report from the Planning Division regarding ongoing LETA projects and take action if necessary.

Brown stated Rogalski put together a Beautification Request Resolution. He wants to know if you want a resolution or a Memorandum of Understanding.

Burk stated call it whatever. We want a contract that says if you are to receive money you agree to abide by our rules.

Ezerski stated none of this is any good unless you have consequences.

Burk stated I agree. There are no penalties. We need to be able to write a citation if you are not going to follow Code.

Ezerski stated to get an occupancy permit the landscaping has to be complete. There is a reason for the builder to complete the job. Once it is done there is nothing to make them maintain the landscaping.

Burk stated the ordinance has a maintenance clause with no enforcement. Let's bring a copy of the ordinance back to the next meeting and start reviewing it. We need to add punishment for failing to maintain, up the points system, lessen the points for rocks and address remodels. We can call this a resolution or a MOU. Do we agree it addresses all the issues?

Brown asked do you want to specify the number of years. We left it blank.

Burk stated 5 years. If you have maintained it for 5 years I believe you will continue to do so.

Hampton stated part of the issue is changeover.

Burk stated in regards to the schools this resolution would be done with the School Board and not the principal.

Ezerski stated I don't believe they will do that.

Burk stated we need to know that before wasting our money.

Motion by Ezerski, **Second** by Hankins, to approve the Beautification Request Resolution and adding that the period of the Resolution is for 5 years. **Aye:** Morford; Peters; Tennis; Burk; Coody; Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Brown stated when Rogalski gets back I will get with him on trimming the trees in the interchanges. He needs to sign the contract. I have sent it to him for his review.

Burk asked are they ready to get started.

Brown stated yes.

Burk stated I can sign the contract.

Hampton stated the rust on the interchange is really bad.

Burk stated we need to discuss that with ODOT. Ask Rogalski to contact them.

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

2. Old Business

None

3. New Business

A. Receive a donation from Arvest Bank “Helping Hands” recipient Tina Burch-Lee.

Lee stated I want to tell you guys I love hearing all the wonderful things you are doing. I was born and raised in Lawton and have always thought there are so many cities that are so beautiful. I’m with you on beautification. I’m excited about all you do. Arvest is amazing. We all love to volunteer and try to make our home better and they award us for doing so. For the month of September I received the “Helping Hands” award and Arvest allows the winner to pick who they would like to give a \$100 donation to. I was at a wine and cheese event when I heard a gentleman talk about needing playground equipment for the handicap. This touched my heart and when I received this award I knew where I wanted the money to go. I want to give this to LETA to help with the handicap playground. Thank you for letting me be here and I appreciate all you do.

Burk stated thank you.

B. Approve minutes of October 10, 2018.

Motion by **Tenis**, **Second** by **Hankins**, to approve the minutes of October 10, 2018. **Aye:** Peters; Tennis; Burk; Ezerski; Hampton; Hankins. **Abstained:** Coody; Morford. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

C. Discuss ADA accessible playground equipment at the Playground in the Park.

This item was struck

E. Consider giving a grant to Cub Scout Pac 4001 – Mathew Aguilar.

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

4. Announcements

Burk stated we have some guest today to talk about some ADA playground equipment for Elmer Thomas Park.

Nunez stated my names is Amanda Nunez and we want to say thank you for allowing us to be here today. I understand there are some policies and procedures we have to follow so we

will be back next month. We want to talk to you about the Playground In The Park. Recently we have identified a need for exclusive playground equipment. Our group wants to insure that children of all developmental phases and range of mobility have a place to play. At the Moon Light Walk Against Drugs Joe Chesko witnessed a child in a wheelchair sitting on the sidewalk while his friends and siblings were running and having fun. He saw a need to provide children of all developmental stages and mobility playground equipment. His vision is for wheelchair swings and an accessible merry-go-round. With the help of Heather Harper from Play and Recreation the vision has now turned into a potential space for a playground. ReMax professionals held a fund raiser last month and there was a total of \$6,060 raised. We are in the process of planning another fund raiser. We have created a committee called the "Children's United" to oversee the overall success of this project. In the packet I handed out we included an outline of events that we would like to see happen. We would like to host a "Dancing With The Stars" with different leaders of the community partnered with a local dance instructor. The event would include a cocktail hour, dinner, live entertainment, silent auction and a special guest from the Ms. Amazing pageant. The Apache Casino has donated their ballroom for the event. Harper has created a book of renderings of what we would like to see the playground looks like, the equipment and quotes.

Harper stated here is the wheelchair swing. It is big enough that an adult can swing with them also. They can swing themselves or someone can swing it for them. It has 2 handles so it can go side to side or back and forth. This is the merry-go-round and you will notice it is flush to the ground. Here is another merry-go-round. You can sit on it and if they are capable they can turn the wheel in the middle. There is a seat for the caregiver to sit next to them and straps can be put in the seats to secure them. I have designed this playground that no matter their disability they are going to find something that was meant for them to be able to play. We have musical notes to play with. You don't have to be gifted in music for it to sound pretty. They are all in the same key so whatever key you hit it sounds like your are making music. There will be ramps on the structure so you can get a wheelchair on the structure and move throughout the playground. There is also a piece that looks like a boat that they can wheel upon and it moves like waves.

Nunez stated we have provided links to different places across the United States that have these types of playgrounds. You see children utilizing them and having fun. After some research it appears the closes playground to this area is in Dallas. It would be nice to have something much closer.

Chesko stated we have approximately 2500 children in our community with disabilities and cannot enjoy the playgrounds. It was heartbreaking when I saw that child. He was clapping, laughing and having fun while his siblings and friends were playing in the playground. That was when I realized we had to fix this. He should have been able to enjoy the same things the other children were enjoying. We are not asking for money from you but for permission for us to collect funds and go through your organization. I'm very passionate about this and I'm going to work until this becomes a reality.

Nunez stated we understand you have procedures to follow to get to the next step. We just wanted you to see our vision and see where our plans are moving. We would like your feedback as to what we need to do to make this a reality for our community.

Hankins asked is “Children’s United” a national program.

Nunez stated no. This is a group of local people.

Hankins asked are you a 501(C)3.

Nunez stated no. We would like to use your 501(C)3 status.

Burk stated this is a great idea and much needed. I believe this group will totally be in support of you using our 501(C)3 status. We can’t make it official until December. We will start a subaccount for the project and all funds collected would go into that account.

Nunez stated we will make sure we have your approval and feedback. We will give a monthly report because we want to be 100% transparent in what we are doing. We want you to know what is going on so we can work together as a team.

Morford asked would this be an extension to the existing playground.

Hanna stated yes. It would be a sister playground to the existing one. It would be a fence line structure but it would be ADA accessible. We would like to make it comparable to the existing playground.

Nunez stated here is a rendering of what it would look like. This would be the empty field to the west of the playground.

Chesko stated we are called “Children United” because we want all children to feel united and not separated. The equipment is separate but in the same complex.

Nunez stated we will be using the same company that put the original structure together. We want it to complement one another.

Burk stated I want this to be beautiful. We want the parents to enjoy this as much as the children. If they don’t enjoy it they will not take the children. What is the actual size?

Harper stated 128 x 160 is a dream playground. This may not be what happens but we are shooting for the stars. This is our goal.

Ezerski asked will something like that run a couple \$100,000.

Hanna stated my estimate was \$250,000.

Chesko stated my vision was to have a handicap accessible merry-go-round and 2 swings. That has flourished and I'm not stopping. I'm going to keep raising funds to achieve the ultimate goal.

Nunez stated we will be joining forces with Mountain Metro Ambucs, Jeanette Cline and other organizations in the community.

Burk stated always dream big. This is a great concept and idea. We will be glad to partner with you and are willing to help. We will also promote this on our Facebook page. We will put this item on the agenda in December. Thank you.

Hankins stated this is a nice match.

Burk stated they have raised some money and the checks are made out to LETA. If everyone agrees we will go ahead and open a subaccount so we can deposit those checks. Next month we will discuss funding and help them with grants.

Morford asked who has the final say on what it looks like.

Burk stated LETA. They understand there is a process and guidelines they will have to follow. We don't want them to lose interest. I love the concept but I believe it is more like a \$400,000 project. You will have to haul in dirt and repack it. The terrain has to change before putting in a playground. You are going to want lights, trees, and shade like the original playground. The original project cost almost \$450,000. This is a big project and to raise \$400,000 is a big task.

Hanna stated I mentioned to them I wanted to see a pour-n-play surface. This is the same surface as the Miracle League Field and it is the best way to go.

Burk asked what is the comparison in size to the original one.

Hanna stated it is about three quarters of the size.

Burk stated I hope they don't bite off more than they can chew.

Ezerski stated the good thing is Nunez is very diligent. She will go after every grant possible. Where there is a chance to get money she will try. There is money available for these types of projects.

Burk stated I think McMahon will be interested.

Hampton asked is there a bigger liability on this type of playground. Will insurance cost more?

Burk stated we are self insured. My biggest fear is people tearing it up. Every kid is going to want to go see and try it out.

Hampton stated you will have maintenance cost once the project is done.

Hanna stated I mentioned that to Nunez. I don't have the budget to maintain it.

Ezerski stated that is where someone like Ambucs comes in. Great Plains Ambucs keeps a fund for maintaining Kid Zone.

Ezell stated I believe this is Matt Aguilar.

Burk stated great. Let go back to that agenda item.

E. Consider giving a grant to Cub Scout Pac 4001 – Mathew Aguilar.

Aguilar stated I'm Matt Aguilar and I'm here to ask for a \$1500 grant. We are making some needed changes to the outside of the Boy Scouts Service Center. We have raised approximately \$1800 to do landscaping, cleaning the sign and new LED lights. We are asking for matching funds to purchase a buffalo, additional landscaping, lights and painting the buffalo. When you drive into Lawton we would like to you to see something nice. This is what the sign looks like now with the landscaping.

Morford asked is that where the pond is.

Aguilar stated yes.

Hampton asked what is the \$1500 going to be used for.

Aguilar stated a concrete pad, additional landscaping, lights and painting of the buffalo. I appreciate your consideration and would appreciate any assistance you might give. We are going to get this done but having the funds would help to expedite the process. Thank you.

Burk stated we will discuss this and get back to you. Thank you.

Aguilar stated thank you.

Burk stated we have never done anything like this.

Morford stated we would be paying for the buffalo.

Ezerski stated they have already purchased the buffalo. They want us to pay for the pad and painting.

Hampton stated usually we have a plan.

Ezerski stated if they come back with an itemized list of where the money will be spent then I think we could consider it.

Burk stated even with a detailed summary they have already done the project. I don't know how to respond to this request.

Coody asked is there more than 1 Cub Scout pack in Lawton.

Morford stated there is a bunch. This would be their headquarters location.

Hankins stated I believe that would be a good project for one of the troops.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Coody, to deny the grant of \$1500 to Cub Scout Pack 4001. **Aye:** Burk; Coody; Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Peters. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**

Morford stated if they want to come back later with more details we could reconsider.

5. Adjournment

There being further business the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Motion by Morford, **Second** by Coody, to adjourn. **Aye:** Coody; Hampton; Hankins; Morford; Peters; Burk. **Nay:** None. **Motion Passed.**