

GENERAL REPORT

February 9, 2016

1. Representatives from the Friends of the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail group will attend the meeting to discuss their concerns about the trail surface, the depot and the back side of the stadium. Both Ruth Theis and Bill Ratliff have talked to me and I believe Mayor Gwin about the stadium. Repairing the stadium has been on the work list for the Park Department, however other projects continue to push it to the bottom of that list.

I talked to Brian and they will at least replace the boards and maybe power wash the cinder blocks this week and the first of next week, if necessary. I asked the trail group if they were willing to paint and the answer was no. It has been suggested that a group of students might paint a mural on this wall but no one has come forward with any suggestions.

Given the scope and amount of work that needs to be done at the depot, I decided to ask for bids because the needed work is beyond my employees' abilities and available time. This includes painting the bathrooms, repairing a wall in the men's bathroom, repairing and reglazing the windows, replacing some window sills, painting all outside areas and painting and repairing the inside doors. Andy Frye accompanied one individual to show him the areas that need to be repaired. Another individual is interested and will give us a bid within a week. This project will be very labor intensive and could take at least a month to complete.

I'm not sure what to do with the trail surface. We have tried patching it but that isn't a permanent fix. With so many city streets that need repaired, the budgeted funds are used for that. I have tried, unsuccessfully, to get grants. I haven't talked to Trent to see if they might have any funds, but given the financial woes of the state, I imagine the answer will be no.

2. Jay Norco will not only provide a bid packet for the first phase of the sewer rehab work but I have asked him to review what has been approved by the governing body so that Jody will understand what is planned for the next ten (10) years.

3. You will note a name is listed for the student representative position. Mike Sibley talked to me about this young man who has indicated a willingness to serve in this capacity. I believe he will be at the meeting Tuesday night.

4. The Lake Garnett Grant Prix Revival Committee met again to continue discussions about their event and the possibility of repairing the north lake road.

A bid from Killough doesn't appear to address the groups concern so they are marking a map showing the road around the lake and what needs to be repaired so an accurate bid can be received. Road repairs are of major concern to the LGGPR sponsors as well as the go-kart club organizers.

More information was shared by the representative from Kansas City, including the car show to be held on Saturday, a window decorating contest and efforts to attract sponsors who might be willing to contribute to the road repair. The possibility of increasing their registration fees is being discussed with some of the proceeds going to the city for future road repairs.

Chamber representatives Desiree Donovan and Carol Barnes met with the group to discuss their Taste & Talents event that will be on Saturday, October 8th. It was agreed that each group will include information about the other's event in their individual advertising campaigns.

5. Six (6) different transient guest tax applications are listed on the agenda. The Tourism Advisory Board met in special session to discuss these applications so the Chamber and Knights of Columbus could get an answer from the governing body this month so they could begin making their plans. A copy of the tourism meeting minutes are attached.

The board is recommending that a total of \$1,000 be approved for the G Town Smokin' Showdown event rather than the \$1,489.90 requested. Please refer to the tourism minutes and the application for an explanation.

Desiree provided a chart for the five (5) Chamber applications listed on your agenda. Their total funding request, including a non-marketing application for \$1,500, is \$3,439.90. All Chamber applications were recommended for funding by the tourism board. The non-marketing application is being requested for the first time this year because the Chamber wants to have an individual who is responsible for providing and shooting off the fireworks rather than relying on volunteers to help. At the present time, not enough donations are raised to cover the entire costs of this event. The fire department will continue to provide a fire truck and personnel at the firing location in the event there is a fire. At the present time, not enough donations are raised to cover the entire cost of this event so it was suggested that the Chamber apply for the non-marketing grant. Desiree will be at the meeting to answer any questions the commission might have.

6. The owners of Prairie Belles have met all the requirements to have their cereal malt beverage license application approved.

7. Phil and I have been calling numerous people to fill the vacancies on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. We are submitting the names of Rochelle Kohlmeier and Brandon Palmer to fill two of the three vacancies on this board.

Charlie Caron contacted me about the foundation board and would like to be appointed for a three year term.

I am continuing my efforts to fill other advisory board vacancies.

8. This next list is for all three (3) Commissioners to review. I sometimes feel that the general public doesn't know or understand all that we do so thought it would be helpful to have an overview of what is scheduled for the next several months. I think it will also give Commissioner Cole a good idea of what is going on and provide her an opportunity to ask questions to become informed on what is going on. Rather than going into a lengthy explanation, I have prepared a list for your review. This information will also be provided in the next quarterly newsletter as this publication contains accurate and up-to-date information and goes to every household and business in the area. I will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. So here goes:

1. Sewer rehabilitation and replacement
2. Complete Walnut Street electric line project
3. Southbound turn lane by GES
4. Continue reviewing plans for water treatment plant
5. Outflow meter – Cedar Valley Reservoir
6. Installation of new line and odorant system – west town border station
7. Backstop and new fencing – Legion ballfield
8. Road repair – cemetery
9. Monument repair – cemetery
10. Street repair work
11. Curbs and sidewalks
12. Chemical feed system at the swimming pool
13. Replacement of bare steel gas pipes in city's system
14. New banners – veterans and active military personnel
15. Continue our program to replace street lights with LED fixtures
16. New lights – library
17. Install new crossing signals – Park Road and the trail
18. Working with all event organizers
19. Spring and summer recreation programs
20. Finish new concession stand at the swimming pool
21. Mowing, mowing, mowing
22. Tourism Marketing Plan
23. Clear trees and brush in easements and right-of-ways
24. Review and complete ADA transition plan
25. Analyze PRIDE program
26. Continue partnership with the Chamber
27. Install new street name signs – 3rd & 4th Wards
27. Complete computer conversion at City Hall

9. Last but not least is the construction of a sidewalk from Maple west to the Physician's Office Building.

I know that Mayor Gwin and Commissioner Blackie will confirm that I reported to the commission last fall that all of the **residential** sidewalks from Maple to the Physician's Office Building had been installed. I also said that Andy and I were working with the new owner of Front Row Sports and it might be a few months before their sidewalk was completed. This sidewalk was done this week and will be open to traffic next week. There is now complete sidewalk access in this area.

There are still some residential sidewalks that need to be replaced and curb cuts installed in other parts of town. But for the most part, a good job has been done by the city, business owners and residents in making our community handicap accessible. For the most part, everyone was willing to cooperate even though for some, it was a considerable expense for them.

If anyone doesn't agree with this statement, I would ask them to contact me or one of the commissioners directly.

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