

LEAWOOD METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
Special Meeting January 23, 2025

The Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Special Board meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

Attendees: Carole Gottlieb (President); Judy Anderson (VP); Amanda Halbert (Treasurer); Carrie Dupree (Secretary); and Ken Leaf (resident and Park Manager candidate).

Location: Leawood Elementary

Approval of Agenda –There was no objection to the Special Meeting Notice and Agenda as presented via email on January 18, 2025. A formal vote was not taken.

New Business:

Approval of Letter to All Homeowners – Review and discussion occurred on the proposed letter to be sent out to property owners within the park district community. Two documents were sent to the Board in advance of the meeting: a letter communicating the election process, and a flyer to communicate information about the park district and projects.

- There was limited discussion on the draft letter communicating the election process (prepared by Seter, Vander Wall & Mielke, P.C.); the board consensus was that the letter was concise and informative with no concerns expressed.
- There was discussion about changes needed to the flyer that Judy is drafting. Colin Mielke had feedback to address compliance issues. The board also discussed having the new website referenced in the flyer (under construction). Possible changes to the website name previously communicated to CO SIPA (leawoodparks@colorado.gov) was briefly discussed, but no changes were voted upon and the proposed website address will be retained. Carole will also set up a general correspondence email address to include in the flyer, and the board will need to closely monitor and respond to emails received. We also discussed that once the flyer edits were complete, it would be sent via email for review, and suggestion for revisions should go to Colin only.
- Discussion of distribution options of the communications included hand delivery or mail. Amanda is looking further into options. She is also working to get the mailing list for the Rapporter distribution. Carole moved that we allow Amanda up to \$1,000 to distribute the letter and flyer with a goal of late January/early February; Carrie seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Beaver Dams and Park Condition – though not on the agenda, we had a discussion about the status of the Beaver Dams in our parks, park overgrowth, concrete issues, and information collected by the Board and Park Manager.

- Pictures were shared of the beaver dams. Beavers can be euthanized, relocated, or left alone. There is a rescue group in Boulder that we can consult with. No actions were voted upon related to beavers. Research in process.
- A walkthrough of Weaver Park occurred between the Park Manager and two board members, who met with Darrin Bradshaw with Mile Hi Drainage. Darrin explained that we will need to get on the schedule for 2026 for clearing debris from the streams. Pictures were shared to demonstrate overgrowth in the park, and concerns about dead tree branches, leaning trees, and low-hanging branches. Financial data was also collected and organized into a pivot table to show project spending by the Board throughout the years. A board member expressed concerns that not enough money has been spent to trim and maintain park trees, and that we should pursue grant funding to catch up on trimming (there is also a SIPA Grant training class upcoming). The Park Manager is working to get quotes on tree trimming. No actions were voted upon related to park overgrowth.
- The board also briefly discussed shaving down lifted edges of concrete to improve path safety. No actions were voted upon.

Park Manager Position – Introduction of Ken Leaf as potential candidate for Park Manager position.

- Ken introduced himself to the Board. He provided a resume and talked about his experience and qualifications. Ken has lived in Leawood for about 20 years. He is now retired and looking for part-time work and feels the Park Manager position could be a good fit.
- Ken asked several questions about the expectations for the position, and board discussion occurred. Ken remains interested in the position and will join us at the next regular meeting. No actions were voted upon. This will be added to the agenda for action at the February meeting.

Miscellaneous Topics – Brief discussion occurred about getting volunteers to help with cleanup and related liability issues for the Board if someone gets hurt; cost for filing 1099's; Amanda's efforts to correct minor financial inaccuracies that occurred when Emma Leiker was helping with the books; and shifting to QuickBooks Online at some point. No actions were voted upon.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.