

LEAWOOD METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
Meeting April 9, 2025

The Leawood Metropolitan Recreation and Park District (LMRPD) Board meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Attendees: Carole Gottlieb (President); Judy Anderson (Vice President), Amanda Halbert (Treasurer); and Carrie Dupree (Secretary). Future board members Mike Shaw, Logan MacMillan and Marci Turaga were present. Park Manager Ken Leaf was also present. Other community members included Tom Bryant, Steve Wall, Dave & Lauri Sarno, and Jesse Opgenorth.

Director Kyle Sargent was unable to attend.

Location: Leawood Elementary

Approval of Agenda – There were no objections to the amended Agenda as presented via email on April 8, 2025.

Minutes – Edits for the March 12, 2025 minutes are in-process.

Park Manager Report – No actions were voted upon.

- Ken emailed a narrative recap of his work to board members and provided hourly project details to the Treasurer. He expressed that he was open to any feedback the board might have on the monthly Park Manager report.
- Weaver Park has a bridge with lag bolts backing out. Upon closer inspection, the timbers are rotting, and they require replacement. (The bottom of the bridge is in good shape per Tom Bryant, and the top is the issue.) Brief discussion ensued about who can do the work, and Ken will need to investigate further.
- The split rail fence on the path up to Vintage Reserve needs repairs. Ken purchased supplies and will complete soon.
- Ken cleaned the storage area at Weaver Park.
- Creekside indicated a preference for us to remove the trailer stored on their property.
- Judy suggested we coordinate a clean-out of our shared storage space with LCA. LCA is paying for their annual community dumpster event on 6/7, so this would be a great opportunity to discard some items.
- To address the rat issue, Ken cleaned out dirt/debris/etc. from the area under the dumpster at Racoon Hollar, which was attracting the rodents.
- The board discussed replacing the broken BBQ pit at Leawood Park, which Ken removed. We decided to hold off on purchasing a new pit, as we aren't sure if anyone uses it. We can wait to see if we get community feedback on this item.
- Ken contacted Recreation Plus about the damaged slide and is awaiting a quote.
- The thistle growing along Dutch Creek was discussed. Leawood residents and board members have expressed a desire to clear it out. A multi-step approach using the Park

Manager, Cox Landscaping, and community volunteer clean-up events were identified as potential solutions.

- The board briefly discussed the beavers, and Carole suggested we get some volunteers together to break up their dam during the summer (June-September), as it is becoming more problematic. We can't remove the beavers ourselves, but we can attempt to break up their dam; this is more challenging than it seems as beavers are excellent engineers. The board also plans to address thistle and willow overgrowth and dead branches, as thinning back material will hopefully make the area less habitable for the beavers.
- Weed trimmer damage at tree bases were discussed, and the board decided to have Cox leave the grass alone around tree trunks to protect the bark, and see if this is acceptable. Another option is weed killer, which is more expensive and is poisonous.
- Ken and the board briefly discussed what type of mulch we should use near the bridge entrances (free chipped tree mulch or nicer but costly mulch). Carole suggested we use ground cover instead that will grow back each year. Ken will research options and we will revisit the topic at a future meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Amanda presented the Treasurer's Report. Invoices and documentation were provided in advance of the meeting. After discussion, the report was accepted unanimously by the board.

- Bills paid or to be paid this month include Coberly Web Creations, Denver Water, Waste Management, Doggie Bags, reimbursement to Judy for the trailer registration, reimbursement to Amanda for purchase of new QuickBooks-compatible checks, invoices for Dave Padilla, Rich Alarcon, and Ken Leaf.
- LMRPD received some money back from primary insurance carrier after we properly put Workers Comp Insurance in place.
- LMRPD received \$800 in safety grant funds (available funds that went toward reimbursement of the recent swing repair).
- Tom Bryant stated he had photographic evidence of sidewalk damage that Weston was responsible for, so we will hold off on paying the Weston invoice until we work through this issue.
- Judy was unable to get ahold of Emma Leiker to discuss the Keeperly LLC invoice. We will hold off on paying it until discussion with Emma.
- Amanda recapped cash balances and total expenses.

Amanda also provided hard copies of the AnderKobes report (audit exemption) to each board member. The exemption is filed with the state auditor every year. Amanda mentioned that we can get QuickBooks a lot cheaper through TechSoup (discounts tied to not-for-profit entity). She briefly talked about documentation she prepared that shows annual dates for Treasurer-related responsibilities (for future board reference), and the extensive chart of accounts prepared in collaboration with Carole. DropBox or another data storage solution is also still needed.

Website Update – No actions were voted upon.

- We need full access to documents to provide additional needed items. DropBox or other data storage solution needed and is currently an impediment. Some documents

are also not accessible (like the park boundary map) so we will need to work on a solution.

- Carrie received an email with the info needed to request access for other board member(s) to be able to directly post items to the website. Since Carrie is leaving board, she will pass this along to the next Secretary. The new contact can also get training on making documents accessible (from Trish Coberly).
- Trish submitted an invoice for the second payment, due now. There will be one more final payment after completion of project.
- Carrie sent a brief informational blurb with QR code to the Rapporter contact (for April issue) and will also send out for inclusion in the May issue. She also sent the statement out to Bill Davis in Vintage Reserve (President of the VR Metro District as well as HOA). He will share through avenues available to him.
- Carrie got an email from a community member in VR expressing appreciation for the new website!
- The new board needs to update contact info on Website. Currently Carrie's email is included as a contact email.
- Judy requested that Trish (Coberly Web Creations) provide a direct link to documents from the website home page. Currently, you have to select 'Board' to then access specific document categories.

Public Comments – No actions were voted upon.

- Jesse shared the following observations: there is graffiti under some bridges and on picnic tables within our parks, the trash can lids have multiple shades of brown and are unsightly.
- Jesse shared an idea of creating a painted rock garden at Weaver (in the open area where the dead tree used to be) geared toward community engagement and fun for kids. Jesse is willing to help with a rock garden project. We can coordinate this with LCA (Jesse is part of LCA, along with the Sarnos).
- A suggestion was made to name the bridges (there are 4 total) – we could have a community contest to generate ideas on this topic, which is another great way to build community engagement.
- Tom spoke about concrete work needed in the parks. He has met with someone employed by Jefferson County, and they have standard specifications they use for concrete work. These specifications could be helpful to use for future LMRPD concrete work to ensure a high-quality standard. Our sidewalks don't currently have expansion joints, which has resulted in a lot of cracking over the years. Trees have also done damage. Tom suggested providing the specifications to multiple concrete contractors and get bids on the set scope of work. There is a section of concrete that is legally Jefferson County's responsibility. Of note, Cox does concrete repairs. Honey Bucket has done some damage to concrete during service calls.
 - Concrete replacement season is coming up, and LMRPD has a modest \$10k budget for sidewalk grinding or replacement in 2025. We will need to decide how best to use this budget and use quotes to more precisely budget for future work.
- Jesse also shared an idea to have a general maintenance email address so that residents can easily share maintenance-related feedback and requests.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Carrie Dupree
Secretary

Future Meetings:

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m., at Leawood Elementary

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m., at TBD

Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 6:00 p.m., at TBD