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**MINUTES**  
**LAKE WICHITA REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE**  
April 14, 2015

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Stephen Garner, Chair  
Penny Miller, Secretary  
Sam Bowns  
Daniel Fitzwater  
Donna Rust  
Larry Scott  
Tom Lang, Ex-Officio

■ Members

Jack Murphy, Director Parks and Recreation  
Kinley Heggland, City Attorney  
Davis Powell, City Engineer  
Jeff Hill, City Engineer

■ Staff

Brian Hooker

■ Council Liaison

Pete Gill, Lakeside City Homeowner's Association  
Katherine Smith, Wild Bird Rescue, Inc.  
Kathie Forehand-Chaddick

■ Guests

**ABSENT:** Michael Chapman, Clayton Lane

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**I. Call to Order and Introductions**

Stephen Garner called the meeting to order and all members and staff introduced themselves.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Action on the minutes for the March meeting were tabled until next month as approval was not part of the agenda.

**III. Presentation—Wild Bird Rescue, Inc.**

Katherine Smith, President of the Board of Directors of Wild Bird Rescue, Inc., made a presentation to the committee. Wild Bird Rescue leases its property from the city. Currently they are housed in an older building with many issues. They would like to construct a new building on the property but feel they are constrained without a long-term lease on the property. The location is accessible and being on the shore of Lake Wichita, it is also an excellent location for release of rehabilitated birds back into the wild.

The current building has no classroom space or other inside area suitable for their educational programs. Ms. Smith indicated indoor classroom space would be a great addition to their programming.

Steve Garner stated he felt this would be a wonderful complement to the Lake Wichita project. It would appeal to donors and provide additional grant opportunities.

Ms. Smith provided an aerial photo of the property with a proposed layout for the improvements. Steve Garner suggested there may be an opportunity with Midwestern State University, which is looking for classroom space in the area.

Dennis Powell indicated the trail will be north of the lakeside. Tom Lang stated that if parking is an issue, it will be an even bigger issue once the boat ramp is refurbished. Jack Murphy stated parking should be a first priority for plans. He suggested working closely with Pat Hoffman in Property Management.

Mr. Heggund stated that the city could do a 30-year lease if City Council approved.

#### **IV. 404 Permit**

Davis Powell reported four companies have submitted a response to the city's Request for Qualifications to prepare a successful 404 permit application. There will be a meeting on April 16 to discuss the RFQs. Steve Garner reached out to references and received responses (so far) from only one company. He also reached out to two dredging companies to see if they have worked with any of the companies submitting RFQs and got a good report on one of the companies. TXDoT also had good things to say about one of the companies. Mr. Powell will arrange one-on-one interviews with the companies. A decision should be made by the end of the month. A selection will need City Council approval.

Tom Lang asked about background work the companies may need to prepare the permit application. Mr. Powell indicated the city staff hasn't worked on the Lake Wichita project much in the past month due to other demands. However, the city will help as the more the contractor has to do, the higher the cost. The contractor will not be selected on cost. The best qualified company will be chosen and the cost negotiated.

#### **V. Publicity/Fundraising**

Tom Lang introduced Jackie Hoegger of Hoegger Communication. Ms. Hoegger showed the project logos. The project logo ties in the city blue and gold theme.

Tom Lang and Hoegger Communication worked together to put together booth materials and the new website. The booth materials are on hand and ready for upcoming public events. Currently, the website redirects to the Facebook page while the actual page is finalized.

There are several events coming up where the committee will have a booth. Tom Lang asked that committee members help by signing up to man the booth and talk to people about the project.

The committee discussed purchasing the domain name LakeWichita.com. Ms. Hoegger felt it was important to have the domain for protection, if for no other reason, but the price tag is \$2000. Daniel Fitzwater also felt having the .com domain was important. The group discussed purchasing the domain through the Friends of Reservoirs chapter.

## VI. Other Discussion

Tables 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda were tabled.

Tom Lang reminded committee members of the business luncheon on May 14 at the Wellington from 11:30 – 12:50. Invited guests include business owners, potential donors and media representatives. We anticipate 200 – 300 attendees. The event will be underwritten. We will be soliciting donations and asking businesses to help us advertise the project to the community at large. The Chamber of Commerce is on board with the project.

Brian Hooker stated that personal phone calls and personal invitations will ensure people come. Kathie Forehand-Chaddick asked committee members to spread out and sit at different tables to answer questions. Tom Lang thanked Ms. Forehand-Chaddick for her work putting this event together.

Tom Lang will be meeting with Teresa Pontius Caves of the Community Foundation to discuss fundraising and pledges. The committee discussed the utility of pledges. Pledges may provide some surety for matching dollars for grants.

Tom Lang and Daniel Fitzwater discussed crowdsourcing as a way to raise money. Daniel Fitzwater has some experience in this area and will pursue the idea. Brian Hooker said donation needs to be easy. If it is too hard, the donation won't be made. Being able to donate by cell phone would be a great benefit.

Tom Lang sent committee members an invitation to Google Drive so everyone will have access to documents related to the project.

Tom Lang discussed a site visit by representatives of Ducks Unlimited and Texas Parks and Wildlife. Ducks Unlimited has an interest in projects in Texas. He believes the site visit will take place on May 27. Tom Lang told Ducks Unlimited we are looking for \$2 million for a boat ramp off Barnett Road and an aquatic plant nursery in Lakeside City. He also reported that \$18 million in federal duck stamp monies have been tied up in Texas and have to be spent.

The committee again has two vacancies. Encourage interested people to apply.

Davis Powell said that as part of the application for the trial project, the city needs some sort of statement of public support. Tom Lang volunteered to write it. Kathie Forehand-Chaddick asked that the letter be put into Google Docs in case it can be used in future grants.

Committee members who have pictures or videos of the lake, especially historical ones, please send to Tom Lang for use on the website.

## VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Stephen Garner, Chairperson

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Date