
MINUTES
LAKE WICHITA REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

September 8, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stephen Garner, Chair
Clayton Lane, Vice Chair
Penny Miller, Secretary
Sam Bownds
Kathie Forehand-Chaddick
Daniel Fitzwater
Pete Gill
Larry Scott
Ford Swanson
Jake VanDonge

■ Members

Tom Lang, Ex-Officio

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

■ Staff

Jack Browne
Tina Henderson, Fundraising Committee
Josh Jacobs
Utah Robertson, CEO, The Phoenix Theatre
Sheldon Clanton, COO, The Phoenix Theatre
Carl Watson, Proforma
Gene Pepiton, The Phoenix Theatre Board Member
Sharon Pepiton, The Phoenix Theatre Board Member

■ Guests

ABSENT: Brian Hooker, Michael Chapman

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Stephen Garner called the meeting to order. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Pete Gill, a regular attendee as a guest, was introduced as a new alternate member of the committee.

II. Approval of Minutes

Penny Miller moved that the minutes of the August 11 meeting be approved. Daniel Fitzwater seconded. The motion passed.

III. Presentation

Utah Robertson and Sheldon Clanton gave a presentation on The Phoenix Theatre Project. Both have a background in professional theater. The project focuses on providing a professional arts venue with a focus on providing/encouraging jobs in the arts. There is a potential for 100 jobs and \$41M in economic impact. The group proposes a “green” building. They cited the positive impact of art on educational achievement scores and graduation rates. The group is working on a 501(c)3 designation and is interested in space in Lake Wichita Park.

IV. Fundraising

Daniel Fitzwater set up the Crowd Rise site and successfully made a donation. There are still some tweaks to be made on the backside. We will receive a check each month on the 15th. Crowd Rise takes 5% off the top as their fee.

Kathie Forehand-Chaddick advised that December 1 is Giving Day—perhaps we can integrate the Crowd Rise campaign.

Jake VanDonge suggested a disc golf tournament in March/April timeframe in Lake Wichita or Lucy Park. Jack Murphy reminded all that the City ordinance mandates a share of the proceeds to the City: 16% of gross food sales, 10% of admission and 5% of merchandise sales.

The PSAs by Hoegger Communications are running.

Tom Lang reported on a number of conferences he has attended recently where he spoke to fisheries and reservoirs experts on our project. Some of those conferences included: The National Fish Habitat Symposium, National Reservoir Habitat conference, the Inland Fisheries Staff of Texas. He has also received an invitation to the Association of Official Wildlife Agencies. Lake Wichita is the 3rd oldest lake in Texas. There is a lot of interest in what we are doing because other lakes will be where we are at some point in the future. Dr. Andre W. Norris, Senior Scientist, from Queensland, Australia will be visiting Lake Wichita on October 30 to see what we are doing.

Kathie Forehand-Chaddick reported we will apply for seven grants due October 1. They are to be presented to City Council next week for approval. These grants are for boat ramps, the bridge and amenities, fish jetty. These are municipal grants, so the city has to apply. If we receive these grants, we will have four years to use the money. The city will get credit for 10% - 12% of the match in administration support. We will need to raise the rest of the match through Friends of the Reservoirs. The TPWD grants total \$7.9M: \$3.1M in TPWD dollars. We would need \$4.7M in matching funds (\$800K could be administrative overhead from the city.) Between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and TXDOT grants, we would have funding for all of the amenities in the plan except for the paddling trail and ??????. Steve Garner stated we need to be able to tell the City Council we can get the matching dollars needed. Jack Murphy said this is on the City Council agenda for the 15th—he still has to find out how complete the grants have to be before the Council to vote.

Tom Land reported that all of the numbers needed have been given to Dr. Martinez at MSU. He expects to have the economic impact by the end of the month.

Tom Lang has t-shirts and polos for committee members who wish to purchase them.

Jake VanDonge reported interest in a Lake Wichita Art Show. Steve Garner told him to pick a date.

Friends of the Reservoirs has a \$20k grant for fish habitat.

The TO Fair is 15 – 19 September. Someone needs to coordinate volunteers.

The Hotter 'n Hell booth resulted in about \$500 in donations.

TXDOT will meet 24 September to determine their grant awards.

Tom Lang reported that the project has received over 150 individual donations. The Facebook page has over 1500 likes.

Kinley Heggland reported that the October water bill will have information on how to make a donation for the project.

Clayton Lane suggested a regatta for the spring.

Josh Jacobs (a guest) would like to see better use of the MSU student resource. He suggested a booth in the student union or on the square. He is willing to assist in putting together an action plan. Steve Garner invited him to make a 10 minute presentation at the next meeting to discuss his recommendations.

Daniel Fitzwater made a \$300 donation to sponsor his son's football team—the Lake Wichita logo will appear on the uniforms.

V. Other Discussion

Steve Garner reported that the City Council approved Corolla Engineering for finalizing the 404 permit application. Marcus Ware at the Corps of Engineers reiterated 90 – 120 day turn around once they receive an approvable application. We will be meeting with them about 60 days prior to application submission for a pre-approval meeting to ensure everything necessary is in the application.

Davis Powell reported that the City Manager has signed the contract. They are waiting for the schedule of work from Corolla.

Tom Lang recognized Davis Powell and Jeff Hill for their hard work getting the information together for the Corolla statement of work.

Steve Garner visited the Little Elm wake board park. He will send pictures to the committee. The owner has two parks (Little Elm and Allen). He is open to a site visit and is willing to discuss financials.

Steve Garner and Tom Lang will work to put timelines and deadlines in a place everyone on the committee can see.

Tom Lang asked Kinley Heggland if there is an ordinance or agreement about taking water from Lake Diversion to keep Lake Wichita at a certain level. Mr. Heggland answered that there is no agreement. The city has made it a practice in order to keep the lake full due to businesses centered on the lake. Tom Lang said he is asking due to the perceived waste of water if we drain the lake once the permit is received.

Steve Garner mentioned there will be a meeting of some members of the committee with city staff on 5 October to discuss staffing going forward.

Pete Gill mentioned the Lakeside City Citizen's Appreciation Day on this coming Saturday from 11:00 – 3:00. There will be a booth to promote Lake Wichita.

Kathie Forehand-Chaddick thanked Tina Henderson for providing financials. Tina asked for a list of invoices to help with the financials.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Stephen Garner, Chairperson

Date

DRAFT