



**MINUTES OF THE
MAY 14, 2024
LENEXA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W 87th STREET PARKWAY
LENEXA, KS 66219**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sayers called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Karlin, Eiterich, Charlton, Nicks, Arroyo, Williamson, Denny, and Herron were present with Mayor Sayers presiding. Councilmember Karlin was absent.

Staff present included Beccy Yocham, City Manager; Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager; Scott McCullough, Community Development Director; Sean McLaughlin, City Attorney; Jennifer Martin, City Clerk; and other City staff.

APPROVE MINUTES

Councilmember Denny made a motion to approve the April 23, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting draft minutes and Councilmember Eiterich seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION

1. Lenexa Arts Council Annual Report

Judy Tuckness, Arts Council Chair, presented the annual report of the Council. She talked about the volunteer efforts provided for events, which was over 795 hours and valued over \$22,000. She reported that 4,000 people attended the outdoor concerts and 600 people attended gallery receptions.

Ms. Tuckness said that the 33rd Lenexa Artist Show, which is in August, is currently accepting applications.

The Lenexa Community Orchestra will be playing three free concerts this summer, according to Ms. Tuckness. She said Lenexa is the only community orchestra to perform during the summer, which allows musicians to participate when they otherwise might not be available to. She reported that there were 960 attendees at orchestra concerts in the summer of 2023 with 3,400 hours volunteered at a value of \$97,000 and \$30,000 of in-kind donations. She said the Shawnee Mission School District lends instruments, stands, and other essentials to help make these concerts happen.

Ms. Tuckness talked about City Center Live, which is held on the second Saturday night of cold-weather months, and said one of the productions from last year - It's a

Wonderful Life – would be done again this year with an additional matinee performance.

The Peace Poles Community Art Project is currently on display at Black Hoof Park through September, according to Ms. Tuckness. She also said the Lenexa Arts Council (LAC) is excited about the mural that will be on the Lenexa Old Town Activity Center (LOTAC) building later this year.

Ms. Tuckness discussed the relocations of three art pieces - Windswept, Curoos, and the Bison.

Ms. Tuckness went over the LAC process for reviewing and annually making the recommendation for public art locations. She added that no new art was acquired in 2023.

Councilmember Nicks thanked Ms. Tuckness and the LAC for their work and City staff for its support and leadership. He also recognized Ms. Tuckness's decades-long work with the LAC.

Councilmember Arroyo talked about the book, Your Brain on Art, where she said she learned that public art is a public health issue. She concurred with Councilmember Nicks comments and said she appreciates the work the LAC does.

Councilmember Denny agreed with the other councilmembers and asked for the status update on the repair of the damaged art piece at Sar-Ko-Par Trail Park.

Logan Wagler, Parks and Recreation Director, said that repairs of the vandalism are in progress, but that the mosaic glass tiles were also likely failing. He said they may have to do something different to fix it, which will take more time.

Councilmember Charlton asked if that piece is illuminated and Mr. Wagler said it is lit from the ground, but the pieces itself is not illuminated.

Mayor Sayers said she really enjoyed the Calvin Arsenia concert.

Councilmember Herron asked for the status of the last proposed art piece at Black Hoof Park, to which Mr. Wagler responded would be a good segway into item 2 on this agenda.

2. Lenexa Arts Council Public Art Priority Locations Discussion

Mr. Wagler reviewed the public art policy and the requirement for annually presenting a public art priority list to the Governing Body for approval. He went over the different procedures for making art purchases and said the final decision rests with City Council.

Mr. Wagler reviewed the list of existing public art pieces by zone and location, noting there are no pieces in Zone 3. He presented a map reflecting the current and future locations of public art.

Mr. Wagler reviewed the approved public art priority list from 2023 list and the 2024 list, which only had minor changes. He talked about removing the LOTAC and Lenexa Justice Center (LJC) locations from the list because those installations are in progress for completion in 2024. He said they have added one new location 2024.

Mr. Wagler talked about public art funding using the three Parks and Recreation Impact Fee (restricted locations), Capital Improvement Fund dedicated funds (unrestricted locations), Lenexa Foundation funds (unrestricted locations), and fundraising.

Mr. Wagler said that there may be a joint LAC and Governing Body meeting scheduled for a Public Art discussion later this year to talk about purpose, policy, best practices, and goals/objectives.

Mr. Wagler presented the recommended priority location list:

1. Black Hoof Park (zone 2)
2. Cedar Station Park (Mize Lake) (zone 3)
3. Ad Astra Park and Pool (zone 1)
4. Centennial Park (zone 3)
5. Fire Station #3 (zone 3)
6. Little Mill Creek Park (zone 1)

Councilmember Nicks asked when the new Ad Astra pool would open and Mr. Wagler said in 2026. Councilmember Nicks said that Cedar Station is a beautiful park, but the playground needs to be put in, and suggested that art not come before that. Mr. Wagler said that phase 2 of Cedar Station Park is not currently funded, but they will consider bringing the playground and art on at the same time.

Councilmember Williamson asked how artists are found and Mr. Wagler said that policies are open on the direction to find artists and it depends on the project.

Councilmember Denny asked if the Team Illusion piece is in the right location. Mr. Wagler said that piece has been in multiple locations and it was in storage for many years before being refurbished and painted. The LAC selected that location for several reasons.

Councilmember Eiterich said she likes where Team Illusion is on 95th Street and said it is visible there.

Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager, said staff is excited about integrating Windswept at the LJC.

Councilmember Charlton asked for the estimated time of completion of the playground at Buffalo Meadows Park and Mr. Wagler said it would be two to three weeks, barring weather.

Councilmember Nicks asked if the map and photos of the art is on the website and Denise Rendina, Communications Director, said yes, with a photo and description.

Mayor Sayers inquired about planning for an art piece in the Public Safety training room at the LJC and Mr. Wagler said they could discuss that.

3. Property Tax Rebate Pilot Program

Kyle Glaser, Economic Development Analyst, said that the purpose of the Property Tax Rebate pilot program is to provide relief to eligible homeowners by lessening their tax burden resulting from rising home values. Through this program, he said, eligible homeowners would receive a rebate of the City's share of property taxes. He added that \$100,000 has been budgeted in the FY 2024 budget for this program.

Mr. Glaser talked about previous discussions had regarding the creation of a rebate program such as local programs, income verification, target population, percentage of rebate, estimated applicant pool, and the application period.

Mr. Glaser said that the eligibility criteria are:

- owner-occupied homes
- 65+ years old OR disabled veteran
- Household income at or below the previous year HUD very-low income limits
- appraised value at or below previous year city-wide median

Councilmember Denny asked if applicants have to meet all of the criteria and Mr. Glaser said yes.

Mr. Glaser said the rebate payments would be a pro rata share of the available funds, up to 75% of the total City tax bill and he provided an example.

Mr. Glaser said that all applicants meeting the eligibility criteria will receive a rebate and the rebate amount is dependent on other variables such as the number of applicants and the home's appraised value.

Mr. Glaser reviewed the program timeline for 2024:

March 23, 2023 – resident's received their notice of valuation from the County

December 23, 2023 - First half of the tax bill was due

May 24, 2024 - Second half of the tax bill is due

August 1, 2024 - application period opens

October 31, 2024 – application period closes

November 30, 2024 - rebates mailed to eligible applicants

Mr. Glaser went over the next steps, which include revising the draft policy based on feedback from this meeting, scheduling approval of the policy for a June City Council meeting, and advertising the program over the summer. He said he would report the results to the City Council in early 2025.

Councilmember Williamson asked how many residents are at or below the poverty level and Mr. Glaser said he expects the total pool is about 150-200 people, which he believes half of which would apply. Councilmember Williamson asked if code violations would exempt owners and Mr. Glaser said no.

Councilmember Williamson asked who will administrate the program and Mr. Glaser said it would be him with the Finance Department's assistance. Councilmember Williamson asked how much time this will take to administrate and Mr. Glaser said he anticipates being able to review applications and do it without additional burden.

Beccy Yocham, City Manager, said this is considered a pilot program, staff expects there will need to be improvements made in the future, and they want to be flexible.

Mayor Sayers said this has established good guidelines and is ready for moving forward.

Ms. Yocham said that on Thursday May 16th at 3:45 PM there will be a dedication of the garden at Christa McAuliffe Elementary in memory of Nolan Davidson, a third-grader who passed away, which Parks employees helped create. She said there will be a ribbon cutting for the Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center next Tuesday. She announced that there would be no Committee of the Whole meeting on May 28th.

ADJOURN

Mayor Sayers adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

/s/ Jennifer Martin
City Clerk