

**City/University Special Projects Fund Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 29, 2012**

Members Present: Chair Becky Ballard, Betsy Cauble, Dolly Gudder, Grant Hill, Jeff Koenig, Jonathan Mahorney, Eileen Meyer, and Justin Scott

Members Absent: Stormy Lee Kennedy

Kansas State University: Mark Taussig, Cindy Bontrager

City Administration: Lauren Palmer

Other: Karen Hibbard, Manhattan Convention and Visitors Bureau

Chair Ballard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

*Note: A brief orientation session was held for all members.*

Introductions were made.

The agenda for the meeting and the minutes from the March 28, 2011, meeting were reviewed. Mahorney moved approval (second by Koenig). The motion was unanimously approved.

Cauble nominated Meyer for Vice Chair (second by Gudder). No other nominations were made. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bontrager provided the Committee with information about the process and details about last year's projects, current projects, and the 2013 funding request. The Committee discussed the projects and asked questions.

**Intersection Improvements at 17<sup>th</sup> St. & Anderson Ave. and Bluemont Ave. & N. Manhattan Ave.**

Palmer gave a brief overview of each project, and Taussig offered additional explanation about the bicycle lane improvements planned for the intersection of Bluemont Ave. and N. Manhattan Ave. Koenig asked if the project could be delayed due to ongoing deliberations about the design from Bluemont Ave. to 11<sup>th</sup> St. Ballard questioned the installation of a median on Bluemont Ave. Palmer responded that the City Commission had already approved the design concept and that final design is being completed. Scott asked about the timing of the 17<sup>th</sup> St. & Anderson Ave. project. Palmer responded that it would be completed in 2013, likely in the late spring or early summer after classes adjourn at Kansas State University.

**Replace Turf and Track in Memorial Stadium**

Taussig introduced the project and explained that the stadium is very popular and is heavily used by both campus and community groups. The turf was designed for a 7-year life, and it is now over 10 years old and showing signs of wear. Gudder asked if the new turf would shed rubber particles. Taussig responded that the new product would be very similar but that the blades are designed to bend better, which should reduce that problem.

Cauble commented that all of the Memorial Stadium improvements are an important project, and noted that the new improvements would house the Purple Masque Theatre. Koenig asked if campus or community groups are charged a rental fee for the facility. Taussig responded that rental fees are not charged because of the use of City-University funds and the desire to keep the facility accessible to the community. Cauble asked about the use of student fees, and Taussig responded that student fees funded the original facility. Koenig suggested considering charging rental fees for the space in order to sustain the operation and maintenance of the facility.

### **Sidewalk Construction on College Heights Rd.**

Cauble agreed that this project is a good idea since students regularly walk in this portion of the street. She asked about the impact of pushing the on-street parking farther into the street. Taussig responded that the street is wide enough to adjust the parking to accommodate the sidewalk. The narrower street is also a traffic calming method that may reduce vehicle speeds.

### **Crosswalk Improvement at Denison Ave. north of Platt St.**

Taussig explained that the current crosswalk generates numerous complaints. The University desires to correct the diagonal crosswalk and make it perpendicular to the roadway.

### **Aggieville Business District Improvements**

Koenig suggested having provisions in place to repair any potholes that may be created by power washing on weak or damaged sections of the streets or alleys.

### **Visitors Center**

Hibbard provided an update from the Flint Hills Welcome Center Core Committee, including an executive summary of the feasibility study. The feasibility study identified the intersection of I-70 (exit 313) and K-177 as the preferred site. The Core Committee is currently searching for a private development partner, likely for a fuel station. Cauble asked about the future of the manufactured home lot on the northeast side of the intersection. Hibbard said it is not in the immediate plans to attempt to purchase the property. Gudder asked if any environmental mitigation is required for the site. Hibbard responded that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has reviewed the site and there are no current issues, but additional mitigation may be required depending on what is developed. Bontrager asked if the feasibility study addressed the lack of water infrastructure for the site. Hibbard responded that the feasibility study anticipated extending either rural water or City of Manhattan water to the site. The \$9 million budget projection includes \$1 million to extend water access. Gudder asked who owns the observation area on K-177. Hibbard responded that the site is part of the Konza Prairie Biological Station. The hope is that the welcome center will peak the curiosity of visitors and encourage them to visit other regional attractions like Konza of the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Hibbard emphasized that the welcome center has a very different mission from the Flint Hills Discovery Center and that the two projects are complimentary, not competitive.

Meyer moved to recommend all projects to the City Commission for inclusion in the 2013 budget (second by Scott). The motion was unanimously approved.

For other business, the committee agreed to have the City and University provide two mid-year reports (one in mid-late summer and one at the end of the year) instead of continuing with quarterly reports of all active projects. A third report will also be provided as part of the annual meeting each year. Palmer also provided a reminder that the City Commission will consider the committee's recommendations at the outside services budget work session on June 26, 2012.

Koenig suggested that the City and University consider future projects that promote multi-modal transportation options.

Ballard adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lauren Palmer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "P".

Lauren Palmer  
Assistant City Manager

*Minutes approved on 3-27-2013.*