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Press Release

Beautification, Northwest Community Center boards meet

Advisory board picks Steamy Joe for Nelson Award; NWCC talks donation

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (October 21, 2015) — The Arkansas City Beautification and Tree Advisory Board met last Thursday afternoon at City Hall to discuss several items.

Board members picked the Nelson Sensation Award and Yard of the Season award winners for the months of October and November. The recipients will be announced each week on Facebook and in the Traveler. The extra yards were selected because the board did not meet in September.

October features the return of the business-oriented Nelson Award, which was given to Steamy Joe, a new coffee shop and eatery that opened last month at 216 W. Central Ave. The board wished to recognize owners Randy and Ruth Ryel for their efforts in restoring the property and starting a business.

Citizens may nominate a yard for the board's consideration for either award by emailing the address — and, if they like, a photo — of the yard to board secretary Terice Watts at twatts@arkansascityks.gov.

The board also discussed efforts to encourage volunteerism locally, especially concerning park maintenance. Board member Jill Wineinger gave members some links to online resources for new tree board members, including a "Tree Board U" training program offered by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Prior to five new citizens' being appointed to the board by the City Commission in May, the Beautification and Tree Advisory Board had just one member and had become largely inactive.

Board members present last week were Michelle Dykes, Candace Stephens and Wineinger. Bob Foster and Steven Walker were absent. Kammy Downs has resigned from the board. The board's next meeting will be in mid-November or early December in the city manager's office at City Hall.

Northwest Community Center

For immediate release

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The Northwest Community Center Advisory Board met Monday afternoon to discuss how best to spend funds donated earlier this month by Apex Clean Energy.

The Virginia-based energy company, which is overseeing construction of a new wind farm in Kay County, Okla., donated \$5,000 to the community center to use for whatever projects it sees fit.

Board members decided to purchase a new large-screen television for the main meeting room, and expressed that they would like to see the Parks and Facilities Department construct some sort of large cabinet to support and secure the TV. It potentially could be accessible to building renters, with a deposit.

The TV was a popular choice for the center because the children who frequent the facility would like to watch sporting events and other programming. It also will free up the center's current projector so it can be dedicated to the Nintendo Wii that the children enjoy playing.

Other potential uses for the money that were discussed, but not decided upon, include new pool cues, wainscoting for the Diane Carter Learning Center, upgrades to make the building more energy efficient and possibly a jukebox.

NWCC director Cindy Bennett asked board members to submit their "wish lists" to her before the board's next meeting on Nov. 16. The board meets at 4 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

Board members present Monday were Ray Berry, Ruben Garcia, Gary Hale and Charella Jennings. Tyler Henderson was absent. This was the board's first meeting with a quorum since early summer.