

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Members Present:

Andrew Barry	Molly Brummond	Justin Carlson	Keelan Chapman
Jonathan Cook	Jim Crook	Susan Deitchler	Todd Fitzgerald
Karen Hand	Anne Pagel	Bob Ripley	Susan Rodenburg
Dennis Scheer	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball	

Members Absent:

Jane Raybould

Introduction of new member Peter Levitov: Mr. Levitov has lived in Lincoln for 40 years and is currently employed at the University of Nebraska in charge of International Programming and will be retiring next month. Peter also served on the Library Board for several years.

Recognition of service for outgoing member Susan Larson Rodenburg: Anne Pagel thanked Susan for serving 12 years on the Board. Lynn Johnson presented Susan with a tile to the Rose Garden that will have a plaque, with her years of service, placed on the back of the tile.

Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Anne Pagel announced that the Board follows the regulations of this Act, as posted.

*** APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *It was moved (Ripley) and seconded (Carlson) to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2012, meeting as mailed. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Levitov abstaining.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fees & Facilities Committee - Susan Deitchler, Chair - 488-4224

- * Recommendation re: updating guidance statement for renovation of Woods Park Tennis Center:** Susan Deitchler reported that the Woods Tennis Corp. is hoping to replace the tennis bubbles with hard-sided structures. Capital improvements in Woods Park are guided by a master plan adopted by resolution of the Lincoln City Council. The initial master plan was adopted in 1991, and updated in 2005. The current Woods Park Master Plan anticipates replacement of the air structures with hard-sided structures and includes the following statement:

"At such time as funding is available to replace the "bubbles" with permanent structures, community meetings should be conducted to discuss architectural building form, materials and details to be compatible with the character of surrounding residential neighborhoods. In addition, cost should be a consideration".

The Friends of Woods Tennis (FOWT) took over operation of the Tennis Center in 2011. The FOWT recognize the aged and deteriorating condition of the current air structures, and also added utility costs of operating the structures during winter months. The FOWT are proposing a renovation project that is anticipated to include replacement of the air structures with hard-sided

structures and would also like to explore opportunities to expand the number of indoor courts from six to ten. The renovation project is anticipated to occur generally within the footprint of the existing tennis center facility.

The cost estimate for future capital improvements to the Tennis Center should be accompanied by an endowment sufficient to provide for future capital repairs and replacements. A fundraising feasibility study should be conducted to explore the potential of securing private, foundation and grant funds for capital improvements and related endowment. It may be necessary to phase implementation of capital improvements over time. If additional courts are added to the complex, an analysis of parking demand for the shared parking lots in Woods Park should be completed. If it is determined that additional parking is needed, options should be evaluated with the first priority to extend pedestrian access to other existing parking lots in Woods Park, and then as a second priority to expand the eastern parking lot.

Lynn Johnson stated that the next steps for approval will be to bring forth proposed amendments to the Woods Park Master Plan that will go to the Fees & Facilities Committee and then to the full Board at the June meeting. They will then go to the City Council in July. Johnson also said that a fundraising feasibility study has been completed and a meeting will be scheduled between members of the FOWT, Lincoln Parks Foundation and Susan Larson Rodenburg to discuss organizing and initiating the fundraising effort.

Kevin Heim, from Woods Tennis Corp. was in attendance and went over the anticipated new plan and answered questions asked by the Board members. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Hand) and seconded (Carlson) to recommend approval of adoption of a 'Guidance Statement' for Woods Park Tennis center renovation project. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

*** Recommendation re: declaring the western portion of the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility, generally located at 21st & "M" Streets (Lot 2 and west portion of Outlot I) as surplus:** Lynn Johnson referred to a map of this area and stated that there are three parcels of land in question: 1) Lot 1 that's currently being used as the People's City Mission Distribution Center; 2) Lot 1 and west portion of Outlot I, east of 21st & "M" Streets, Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility; and 3) a privately owned parcel northeast of So. 21st St. & Capitol Parkway which is the former LT&T Maintenance Facility and warehouse owned by Windstream. Johnson said that the Planning and Urban Development Departments have been working on putting together an Invitation For Redevelopment Proposal (IFRP) for this area that will be out very soon. Nicole Fleck-Tooze (Planning Dept.) is currently working with Windstream for the sale of their building.

Bob Ripley said he objected to this plan because he feels a critical Parks function (Maintenance and Forestry sections) are being moved from a very strategic location to an area that is very inefficient (the old Experian Bldg. located at NW 12th & West Bond Streets). He would like to see a portion of the land in question devoted to keeping Maintenance and Forestry at their current location. He is also concerned with how the Department will fund the additional cost that will be incurred with getting vehicles to and from the Experian facility several times a day. Lynn Johnson stated that it's his understanding that additional money will be built into the Department's budget to cover these costs. Ripley suggested that perhaps the old LT&T building could be used to house the Parks facilities that are scheduled to move to the Experian Building. Nicole also said that language will be built into the IFRP regarding the City's strong desire to see the LT&T Building maintained in any new redevelopment plans. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Fees & Facilities Committee) to recommend approval to declare the western portion of the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Facility at 21st & "M" Streets (Lot 2 and west portion of Outlot I) as surplus. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Levitov abstaining.***

*** Recommendation re: declaring the former Muny Pool Bathhouse Bldg. and associated property, generally located east of 21st & "M" Streets (east portion of Outlot I), as surplus:** Lynn Johnson said the next step in this process will be for the issue to go to the Planning

Commission next week. The Planning Commission will be looking at Lot 2 and all of Outlot I. With this agenda item, the PRAB will be making a recommendation to the Mayor as well as the Planning Commission who will be looking at two different actions: 1) Comprehensive Plan Conformance with declaring Lot 2 and some or all of Outlot I as surplus; and 2) a change of zone associated with this parcel of land. Johnson said when he goes before the Planning Commission he will share the Board's recommendation that there were two different actions taken on this issue even though the Planning Commission will be looking at it as one action item. If approved by the Planning Commission this will go to the City Council for their approval for sale of the property and change of zoning. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Fees & Facilities Committee) that the Board recommend denial of declaring the former Muny Pool Bathhouse Bldg. and associated property (21st & "M" Streets / east portion of Outlot I), as surplus. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Futures Committee - Bob Ripley (Chair) 471-0419 or 488-5131

- *** Recommendation re: naming of the bird garden at the Chet Ager Building at Pioneers Park Nature Center in tribute to Irene and George Alexander:** Bob Ripley reported that Irene and George Alexander have been actively involved in activities at the Nature Center and have devoted many hours of their time (over 30 years) doing bird banding and other activities at the park. The staff at the Nature Center made this strong recommendation to honor the Alexander's and it falls within the perimeters of the Parks & Recreation Department Naming Policy. ***It was moved (Futures Committee) to recommend naming the bird garden at the Pioneers Park Nature Center in honor of George and Irene Alexander. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Golf Report:

- Steve Hiller distributed copies of the Golf Rounds and Revenue Report and stated that March was the greatest March ever recorded for number of rounds played. April has also been a good month - revenue is up 28.44% and rounds are 26% ahead of last year.

Executive Committee - Anne Pagel (Chair) - 570-9194

- *** Recommendation re: guidelines for planting of trees in parks by private parties:** Anne Pagel went over the guidelines that were included in members' packets: Current guidelines read: *"In order to achieve the desired benefits, public trees must be appropriately managed and located. Therefore, any trees proposed to (be) planted in park areas must be reviewed and approved by the Parks & Recreation Dept. Director or his/her designee. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to approve or reject any or all proposed tree plantings. Tree planting proposals should include the proposed location(s), the tree specie(s), the size of tree(s) at planting and a plan for establishment of the tree(s). The minimum size of the trees at planting will be 1-inch caliper, and approximately 6-feet in height. Tree specie(s) should be selected from the approved park tree list maintained by the Parks & Recreation Department. Plant locations should be verified by Parks & Recreation Dept. staff prior to planting of trees to avoid conflicts with or damage to underground utilities and infrastructure".* If trees proposed to be planted as a memorial or tribute, recognition will be in accordance with the Legacy Tree Grove Program jointly administered by the Parks & Recreation Department and the Lincoln Parks Foundation. These guidelines will be added to the Department's website under the Forestry Division.

Molly Brommond asked that language be added to the guidelines stating options whereby people can simply fund a tree and the City will plant it in a park, or citizens can actually purchase their tree and plant it themselves. Peter Levitov asked also that the language be added that the tree needs to be purchased from a licensed nursery. Bob Ripley would like to see language included that Parks staff be the ones who plant the trees to insure that they are planted properly. Jim Crook asked if perhaps Forestry could print up a one-page pamphlet with information on how to properly plant a tree to which Dennis Scheer said that a link is already available on-line that contains this technical information and people just need to know how to get to it.

After discussion it was moved (Executive Committee) to recommend adoption of guidelines for planting of trees in parks by private parties (adding clarification on who is planting the tree and to make sure the tree is purchased through a licensed nursery and that the Parks Director has the discretion to accept an alternative tree if it meets City standards). Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

Staff Report:

- Status report on Holmes Golf Course Clubhouse replacement project: JJ Yost reported that all bids for the new Clubhouse came in above the estimate and available budget. The bids were all rejected and the City is working with the architect and engineers to modify the plans. JJ thought the new package would be put out to re-bid in about two weeks and about the only change that people will see is that the lower level (cart storage area) has been taken out of the new plans. He said the City should still be able to work within the current construction season so the project itself will not be delayed. The hope is to have it completed before the 2013 golf season.
- Status report on Nebraska's Centennial Mall Phase 1 construction: JJ Yost reported that the bids for Centennial Mall came in within the estimate and available budget, so the City is moving ahead with the contractor, Sampson Construction, to begin construction. This project is being timed very carefully with the current street resurfacing projects that are currently underway. The first phase of construction will be the middle three blocks of the mall and will begin in the next few weeks and be completed in November. The next phase will begin in the spring of 2013. Fundraising for Centennial Mall is at approximately \$6.6 million which leaves approximately \$2 million yet to raise.
- Union Plaza and Jayne Snyder Trails Center dedication: Lynn Johnson announced that the Community Health Endowment has moved into the second floor of the Jayne Snyder Trails Center. Construction for the rest of the project will continue into mid-July. The big sculpture Colossus will be installed in August, the Discover artwork will be installed in July and the tentative date for dedication will be September 13th. The Department will send out a 'save the date' when the dedication date has been confirmed.
- Letter sent to reps of the Lincoln Municipal Band regarding the proposed replacement of the band shell in Antelope Park: Lynn Johnson reported that he sent a letter to Dean Haist and the LMB Board, suggesting they set up a meeting to discuss the guidance statement, and how to now move forward. Anne Pagel also met with Mr. Haist and they both feel that the biggest concern still seems to be the issue of a fiscal agent. Hopefully a meeting can be scheduled in the near future.
- Status report on Taylor Park: Jerry Shorney said he met with a couple of the residents of the Taylor Park area who were at the last PRAB meeting and told them some modifications to the mowing plan have been made and copies were sent out to the neighborhood. The City is working with the arboretum committee of Taylor Park to review tree species and locations.

Announcements:

- 'Wake up the Bed' volunteer planting event will be held at the Sunken Gardens on May 12th at 8:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.