

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Pioneers Park Nature Center

Thursday, August 8, 2013 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Jonathan Cook
Kelly O'Hanlon
Joe Tidball

Jim Crook
Anne Pagel

Susan Deitchler
Bob Ripley

Todd Fitzgerald
Jeff Schwebke

Members Absent:

Molly Brommond
Cleo Mullison

Justin Carlson
Kathi Wieskamp

Larry Hudkins
Vacant Position

Peter Levitov

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director
Jerry Shorney, Asst. Director of Parks Operations
Jim Portis, NW Parks District Supervisor
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Administrator
Angela Chesnut, Executive Secretary

Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Anne Pagel announced that the Board follows the regulations of the Open Meetings Act, and called the meeting to order.

Anne re-introduced the new student member Kelly O'Hanlon, attending her first 'official' meeting at the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Admin office.

* **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY:** A motion was made by Bob Ripley and seconded by Susan Deitchler to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2013 meeting as written. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of members present.***

* **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE:** It was noted that Jim's last name should be corrected from Cook to Crook. A motion was made by Jim Crook and seconded by Bob Ripley to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting as corrected. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of members present.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda):

None.

PRESENTATION BY ANGLERS OF THE BLUE MOON:

Anne introduced Wes Sheets, representing Anglers of the Blue Moon, who reviewed the recent undertaking of the Bowling Lake fishing pier project for special needs individuals. The group worked with Lincoln Parks & Recreation, Lincoln Parks Foundation, and Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, and has conducted numerous fundraising events. They continue to move forward in an attempt to add picnic tables, restrooms, and perhaps a sunshade. The Anglers would like to coordinate a dedication at the area, possibly in October. Jerry Shorney agreed to work with the group to coordinate an event. He also noted that there have been pump issues that have now been remedied, so the water level in Bowling Lake should continue to be

maintained. Discussions also mentioned placement of picnic tables, signage, and oversight and maintenance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

*** Fees & Facilities Committee – Susan Deitchler (Chair) 488-4224**

Susan presented a recommendation from the Fees & Facilities Committee for proposed fee changes for Woods Tennis Center (attached to minutes). Kevin Heim from Woods Tennis gave explanation of the minimal increases, and reviewed specific increases with historical changes. Jim Crook asked when the last raises were made, with a response of two to three years. Susan Deitchler asked for a definition of “Passholder Special Drop-In”. Kevin explained that this is 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, which is a down-time for the courts.

Kevin also gave an update on the Irvingdale Tennis Courts, noting the groundbreaking dedication ceremony held this morning, with professional tennis player Jack Sock from Lincoln in attendance. Lincoln was selected by American Express and the USTA, for resurfacing and restructuring of the Irvingdale courts for dedicated youth courts. Completion is anticipated this fall. The entire project is funded completely by American Express.

Returning to the Woods Tennis Center fee change proposal, Susan asked what the time frame was for the changes. Kevin explained that the fees are reviewed annually, in order to review expenses each year, specifically utility costs. A motion was made by Susan Deitchler and seconded by Jim Crook to approve the proposed fee structure at Woods Tennis Center for 2013-14, as presented. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of members present.***

Susan next presented a recommendation regarding a new model and categories for use of Parks & Recreation facilities, with proposed permits, fees, and insurance (attached to minutes). Nicole Fleck-Tooze with Parks & Recreation and Jocelyn Golden with City Law Department provided the purpose for the changes and updates, in order to simplify and streamline the use or rental process. The four types of uses are rentals, special use permits, licenses, and permit to conduct business on park property, which were reviewed by Nicole and Jocelyn, responding to Board member questions. Jocelyn explained that the next step, if approved by the PRAB, the recommendation would be presented to the City Council for approval. Lynn Johnson contributed that the new cost recovery system will lead to more fees for some events and less for others, but ultimately it will end up as a wash overall. The larger groups that use facilities have been contacted as a courtesy so that they are aware of the potential increases.

Todd Fitzgerald arrived at 4:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Susan Deitchler and seconded by Bob Ripley to approve the new rate structure for facility rentals, special use permits for parks and recreation facilities, licenses for use of parks and recreation facilities, and permits to conduct business on park property, as presented. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of member present – Jonathan Cook abstained from the vote, all others voted in favor.***

Susan then introduced a recommendation to amend the Lincoln Municipal Code proposing to allow alcoholic beverages to be served in conjunction with fundraising efforts in designated parks and recreation facilities to benefit any City Department, and not limit to only Parks & Recreation. Discussion revolved around past practices and current policies, and most recently changes with the expansion of the West Haymarket area. The Parks & Recreation designated parks and

facilities for this proposal would include Sunken Garden, The Haman Rose Garden, Hazel Abel, Pioneers Park Nature Center, and Pinewood Bowl.

The motion to approve the amendment to the Municipal Code was brought forth by the Fees & Facilities Committee. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of member present – Jonathan Cook abstained from the vote, all others voted in favor.***

Joe Tidball and Susan Deitchler left at 5:15 p.m.

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

Bob requested that Lynn provide the review of the proposed survey and public engagement for the 10-year facilities plan. Lynn reported that the survey would be posted on the website for on-line completion, with paper copies available at recreation centers and the admin office, as well as a news conference to promote the survey. Lynn distributed a copy of the survey for review (attached to minutes), and outlined the various sections. The community will be asked what their expectations are for repair and replacement of facilities and then how they feel the Department is doing. The survey will not be available publicly until September or October, in coordinating with other City department surveys being conducted. Toward the end of the survey period a public meeting would be conducted, with results returned to the PRAB for recommendation and approval. The intent is to update the 10-year facilities plan every two years. Lynn noted that this is a draft at this point, and if there are any suggestions or comments, to contact himself or Nicole Fleck-Tooze by the end of the month. The survey should be as clear and simple as possible.

Golf Report – Golf Administrator Dale Hardy

Dale Hardy provided rounds information for the month of June compared to the last fiscal year as being down 20%; comparing to two years ago it is down 3.9%, and three years ago, down 5.8%. Preliminary figures through July appear to be as 15% down, with anticipated numbers for August to be good as well. Dale also distributed graphs through the month of June for rounds, precipitation, and temperature comparisons.

A Golf Advisory Committee meeting was held the previous week. Landscaping around the new Holmes clubhouse is being planned for September 8th, with volunteers being recruited, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The week of September 22nd through 28th will be a 50th anniversary celebration at Holmes, with daily specials and drawings.

The golf sustainability study should be available within the next week. Lynn explained the process of the study being released. NGF representative Richard Singer will be in Lincoln for one day, and it is anticipated that he will give a presentation in the morning to the golf staff, Golf Advisory Committee, and the PRAB members if interested, then at Pre-Council in the afternoon, and a public presentation in the evening. The Golf Advisory Committee would then likely hold a public meeting perhaps a week later, for public comment. The Golf Advisory Committee will make a recommendation to the PRAB, who would then make a recommendation to the Mayor and City Council. The proposed public meeting was further discussed, regarding timing, location, who should be in attendance as far as the board, committees, staff, and NGF. The meeting will be well structured and centered around the NGF recommendations. It is intended that the study will be released to the PRAB, Golf Advisory Committee, staff, and on-line for public review all on the same day.

Executive Committee – Anne Pagel (Chair) 540-9194

Anne reviewed the various committees to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, with Lynn noting declining attendance. Anne observed that reminders in advance requesting RSVP's from the committee members may help with increased attendance. With recent turnover on the PRAB, there are also vacancies which need to be filled. Anne will contact individual Board members regarding their interest in serving on a committee. Meeting times were also discussed, and it was decided to move the committee meetings to 4:30 p.m., instead of 4:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORT:

Lynn provided additional information to the draft of the outcomes and indicators for the Community Forestry related items (attached to minutes). The tree pruning cycle changes were explained regarding size of trees, and time differences between smaller and larger trees, as well as the ratio of requests for service in relation to the number of trees. In response to questions, Lynn noted that 2010-11 had three back-to-back storms, which drove that number up. It was also suggested to segregate calls as to requests for trimming versus questions on planting.

Todd Fitzgerald left at 5:50 p.m.

With the sale of the maintenance facility at 21st & N Street which currently houses four maintenance divisions, Lynn explained that three of those divisions will be moving to the MSC by the first part of October. With the area of the majority of the Public Gardens section priority locations causing excessive travel time from the MSC, a closer facility option has been sought. The recommendation is a maintenance facility just south of the water reservoir on the west side of Antelope Park, which has an old metal storage building. The proposal is to construct a one story 4,500' square foot building, combining office space, staff area, restrooms, lockers, and indoor storage for trucks and equipment. Lynn provided an on-line GIS map for the board to view the specific location proposed, parallel to the Rock Island Trail. The old metal building will be removed, the fence line adjusted slightly, and an approximately 50' x 90' single story maintenance facility constructed, as well as a shade house structure that will need to be relocated from the current 21st & N location. The estimated cost of construction will be \$450,000, plus approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 for the shade structure. With Public Gardens needing to be out of the 21st & N facility by the end of October, they will temporarily relocate to the house south of Auld Pavilion, previously used by the Child Advocacy Center, and then move to the new facility when finished. TIF funds are currently being generated from the proposed redevelopment project, so a majority of the funds for the new facility will be from TIF, and the shade structure is currently in the CIP funding.

Bob Ripley left at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.