

# MINUTES

## *Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting* Parks and Recreation Conference Room Thursday, May 14, 2015 ~ 4:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Bradley Brandt	Jonathan Cook	Jim Crook	Susan Deitchler
Emily Graul	Larry Hudkins	Peter Levitov	Olive Martin
Sherrie Nelson	Anne Pagel	Jeff Schwebke	

### **Members Absent:**

Justin Carlson	Todd Fitzgerald	Robert Ripley	Joe Tidball
Kathi Wieskamp			

### **Staff Members Present:**

Lynn Johnson, Director  
Jerry Shorney, Assistant Director  
Terry Genrich, Assistant Director  
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Adm.  
JJ Yost, Planning Design & Const. Manager  
Chris Myers, Park Operations Maintenance Coordinator  
Jocelyn Golden, City Law Department

**Call to Order & Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act':** As per law, Chairperson Peter Levitov announced that the Board follows the regulations of the Open Meetings Act, and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

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

None.

**\*APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Sherrie Nelson and seconded by Jim Crook to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting as presented. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of members present.***

Anne Pagel arrived at 4:05 p.m.

Jeff Schwebke arrived at 4:07 p.m.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Peter Levitov informed that the Futures Committee will be meeting next on Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, to discuss the proposed Antelope Park Triangle land use plan being requested by the Zoo, prior to being brought to the full board for action in June. He encouraged all members of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to attend the Committee meeting in order to hear the issues and be more informed of the proposal. Peter questioned the number of issues to be addressed within the short time frame, specifically noting the issue of loss of green space in central Lincoln, Administrative office parking for staff and customers as well as future Zoo patrons, the use of the Ager Play Center building, Zoo entrance, street crossings, and bike trail traffic, the Liberty Plaza statue and commemorative wall placement, the fountain and gardens to the north and east, and the potential of a new Zoo entryway and plaza area. Peter again suggested that any Board members with questions or interested in additional information, are invited to attend the Futures Committee meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m.

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

The yarn bombing proposal for temporary installation at Union Plaza was revisited by the Fees & Facilities Committee. Previous Board response to the request from the February 12, 2015 meeting was that requests would need to follow guidelines with temporary installation for a specified period of time, to be accompanied by signage, with the applicant responsible for installation and removal, and that the yarn bombing only be applied to non-living objects, and per Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development (LPPAD) advice, could not embellish outdoor structures that are currently art. A request for further consideration suggested that yarn bombing be allowed on the “Discover” sculpture in recognition that both the artist and donor have approved, and that yarn bombing be allowed on a limited number of specified trees at Union Plaza. Lynn Johnson suggested a couple of other alternative areas at Union Plaza and the Children’s Discovery Garden that may be appropriate for yarn bombing such as a large climbing boulder and a number of round bollards. Discussion was held regarding specifying locations and providing suggestions for yarn bombing, as well as providing only specific prohibitive areas. It was proposed that permission for yarn bombing should fall under the parameters of a license for public art. The motion from the Fees & Facilities Committee was to rescind the previous response from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and allow the yarn bombing on public art one time only per this request. ***Motion was denied by unanimous vote of members present, thereby maintaining that yarn bombing may only be applied to non-living objects and cannot embellish outdoor structures that are currently art.***

Larry Hudkins arrived at 4:30 p.m.

A proposed recreational end use plan (attached to official minutes on record) for the North 48<sup>th</sup> Street Solid Waste facility was presented by Lynn Johnson, noting proposed future recreational activity areas that could be included, in addition to the existing transfer station remaining on-site and a potential household hazardous waste site being added. Lynn also referred to the first master plan that was proposed in 1978, pointing out variations in the current proposed plan. Terry Genrich offered additional information regarding elevation, marsh areas, trails, parking, and cross country proposals. Public-private partnerships are anticipated for improvements, maintenance, and operations in implementation of the proposed plan. The location of the current Lincoln Trap & Skeet shooting range was also questioned regarding shooting noise level and gunfire concerns. Terry noted that there is adequate distance between the areas, and that no concerns were conveyed at the public hearing. Larry Hudkins added that the gunfire from the Trap & Skeet area is pointed in the opposite direction and also maintains a sound barrier from existing trees and water. Phases of development of the proposed end-use plan will be in phases as private groups and fundraising efforts are determined. The motion from the Fees & Facilities Committee to endorse the proposed end-use plan was ***approved by unanimous vote of members present.***

- **Golf Report – Brad Brandt (Chair) 473-9619**

Golf Committee Chair, Brad Brandt, provided highlights from the May 7<sup>th</sup> Golf Committee meeting and noted that the monthly golf report was included in packets to Board members. Rounds for the two previous months were reported at above monthly projections, although they are still down for annual projections. Point-of-Sale was discussed with new servers to enhance data speeds now completed. Lynn provided that the four 18-hole courses do not have fiber for connectivity. Brad also reported that the new golf website should be going live in the near future, with pages dedicated to each individual course. PRAB and Golf Committee member Sherrie Nelson added that course conditions and greens have improved tremendously and a number of patrons have commented positively.

- **Executive Committee – Peter Levitov (Chair) 488-2742**

Chairman Levitov commended Jonathan Cook for his number of years' service to the Parks & Recreation Department and the Board. Lynn presented a plaque to Board member Cook as a token of appreciation from the Board and the Department, with individual Board members providing additional comments. Jonathan thanked the Board members and staff, and expressed his enjoyment from the experiences in his tenure.

**STAFF REPORT:**

- Chris Myers provided an overview of the 2015 Big Idea project by the Cornhusker Boy Scout Council that was held at Mahoney Park and Mahoney Golf Course. 477 volunteers planted 124 trees and 2,757 pollinator plants, mulched approximately 525 trees and edged around 390, with an approximated value of just under \$16,000 for the Parks Department. These events are typically held on an every other year basis.
- Jocelyn Golden from the City Law Department provided basic information regarding public meetings and public records guidelines, offering to answer any questions and provide training if desired. Jocelyn will be preparing a memo to address open meetings and open records laws to assist with any future items, including e-mail or telephone communication between members. Questions asked from Board members will be addressed in the memo, with a short training session offered to address any additional items for clarification. By-laws will also be reviewed for any necessary updates.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- The Sunken Gardens “Wake up the Beds” event is scheduled for the upcoming Saturday, although with continuing rains staff are currently watching the weather pattern with anticipation of more storms. The first Party in the Parks of 2015 is also scheduled for Saturday afternoon and evening, which could be impacted by severe weather as well. Lynn Johnson announced that a determination for both events will be made on Friday afternoon, with an anticipation of cancellation.
- Brad Brandt informed that the Arbor Day Celebration was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Saratoga Elementary School, which was well attended by the public, staff, and students.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.