

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Room 113, City-County Bldg..

Thursday, February 11, 2010

Members Present:

Jonathan Cook

Susan Deitchler

Curt Donaldson

Todd Fitzgerald

Karen Hand

Anne Pagel

Bob Ripley

Susan Rodenburg

Dennis Scheer

Jeff Schwebke

Ray Stevens

Joe Tidball

Members Absent:

Ian Chapo

Alex Paine

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

* APPROVAL OF MINUTES December 10, 2009 meeting: *It was moved (Stevens) and seconded (Hand) to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2009, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*

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: fees for rental facilities in park locations: Susan Deitchler reported that periodically, fees for park facilities are amended as necessary. She went over the revisions that the Committee made to this year's fees. *It was moved (Committee) that the adjusted fees be approved by the Board. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.* A copy of these fees will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.

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

- * Recommendation re: sustainability plan for Pioneers Park Nature Center: Bob Ripley said the committee has been working on how to handle the expenses associated with the Nature Center so that most of the cost could be recovered and an admission fee would not be necessary. Lynn Johnson asked that this be a discussion item and not an action item at this meeting. He said the cost recovery for the Nature Center two years ago was about 21% and this last year it was approximately 25%. One of the things proposed during last year's budget was to implement a admission fee to the Center. The Mayor and City Council, however, granted a one-year reprieve to give the Department time to work on developing an over-all business plan and sustainability plan. The Department has had a consultant look at the Nature Center from the perspective of what other programs could be offered, what could an hourly rate be set at, and how much entertainment/recreation value was being provided by the facility. Staff has also looked at other surrounding comparable facilities to see how they are supported and if they have a fee structure, what it is. The feasibility study that is being done by a contractor has not been completed. This study will include results of talking to residents getting a sense if they would support some type of sponsorships and if the Department/Foundation were to initiate a fund raising effort to build an endowment fund for the Nature Center, how would the community react? Since this study was not ready for the meeting, after brief discussion the Board took no action and it will be deferred to the March meeting. Johnson said that the staff's

recommendation is, at some point, to set a cost-recovery goal and also set a reasonable number of years to attain that goal. A suggestion was made that perhaps this could also be made a part of the Lincoln Cares Program whereby a portion of the Lincoln Cares proceeds could go directly to the Pioneers Park Nature Center.

- *** Recommendation re: utility billing check-off program with Lincoln Water System:** Lynn Johnson reported that the Mayor has asked if it would be possible to enroll Lincoln Water System into a program very similar to Lincoln Cares whereby citizens could add a dollar to their water bills. When presented to the Futures Committee, they thought it was a great idea to give the community this opportunity. Johnson would like it to be a true 'check-off' option that would be designated for environmental issues rather than parks programs. The Board felt this agenda item should also be tabled until the next meeting so they would have a chance to look at the feasibility study before taking any action. In the meantime, Lynn will also be meeting with the Water Department to further discuss this issue.

Golf Committee - Rounds and Revenue

- No report

Executive Committee - Joe Tidball (Chair) -730-5638

- **City Council Report** - Jonathan Cook reported that the Council voted to put the arena issue on the ballot and they've also passed an ordinance that would allow for artwork to be created on residential streets.
- **County Commissioners Report** - Ray Stevens reported that their annual mid-year Board Budget Retreat will be held on Feb. 18th. It's an open meeting and will be held at Bryan/LGH West.
- **Lincoln Parks Foundation Report** - Lynn Johnson said the Foundation is currently working finalizing the acquisition of the "A" Street Antique property. The Foundation will also be working with Speedway Properties to sell them a portion of the property prior to selling the remainder back to the City. The Speedway portion may be used to relocate the Dial House which is currently located just north of 16th & South Street. The house has been determined to be a historic landmark and Speedway has been looking for a new location for this house in order to free up the lot.

Staff Reports:

- Lynn Johnson introduced Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney. Jocelyn is the attorney who now works on all Parks & Recreation Department issues that need to go through the Law Department.
- *** Recommendation re: creating a condominium space for retail use in conjunction with the Great Plains Trails Center in Union Plaza:** Lynn Johnson reported that the Great Plains Trail Center is proposed to be constructed in Union Plaza on the southeast corner of 21st & "Q" Streets. The project is being done in two pieces with Clark Enersen Partners doing the design work. There will be a large (1200 sq. ft.) public meeting/gathering/multi-purpose room located in the southern portion of the building and a public restroom will be adjoining. The Great Plains Trails Network (GPTN) is fund raising for this portion of the building. There is also a proposed larger rectangular-shaped area that is intended to be retail space. The hope is that a private partner will come to the table who will be a trails-related retailer who would fit into this 'condominium' unit. ***After brief discussion it was moved (Ripley) and seconded (Stevens) that the Board approve recommendation regarding delcaring surplus a condominium space on the north end of the Great Plains Trail Center that would be sold/used for private retail use. Motion approved by majority vote of members present with Scheer abstaining.***

The Community Health Endowment has also expressed an interest in being a part of this building. Their Board has not taken any formal action yet but the Endowment may wish to build office space over the restroom and retail space. One other entity who has expressed some interest in the building is UN-L Campus Recreation. Johnson went over the process that will be followed now and will report more on this at a later date.

Announcements: None

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jeanne Bowling, Secretary to the Director
Parks & Recreation Dept.