

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Members Present:

Molly Brommond	Justin Carlson	Jim Crook	Susan Deitchler
Todd Fitzgerald	Peter Levitov	Cleo Mullison	Anne Pagel
Trent Reed	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball	

Members Absent:

Jonathan Cook	Caitlyn Do	Karen Hand	Larry Hudkins
Robert Ripley			

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director	Jerry Shorney, Superintendent
Terry Genrich, Outdoor Education	Nancy Furman, Pioneers Park Nature Center
Dale Hardy, Golf Administrator	Angela Chesnut, Executive Secretary

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:** A motion was made by Susan Deitchler and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2012 meeting with the additional notation under the Golf Report section, that Jane Raybould also volunteered to serve on the Golf Committee, however she is now no longer a member of the Advisory Board. ***Minutes were approved by unanimous vote of members present, with no additional corrections or additions.***

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

Chairperson Anne Pagel introduced Trent Reed as a new member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, who replaces Dennis Sheer. Larry Hudkins is also a new member who will replace Jane Raybould from the County Board. Chairperson Pagel announced that Caitlyn Do has resigned as a student member. The Department will look into a replacement for her.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- * **Review of proposed fees for wedding sites, rental facilities, and pools:** Susan Deitcher brought forward, from the Committee, a recommendation for adoption for fee schedules for the pools, wedding locations in parks, Auld Pavilion, the cross country course at Pioneers Park, labor charges for special events in parks, the community room at the Jayne Snyder Trails Center, and the Union Plaza amphitheater. At certain intervals the fees and facilities programs are reviewed and updated. Specific facility fee increases were reviewed with an annual revenue increase of \$17,125. Questions and discussion was held between board members and staff regarding various facilities and rates.
- Director Johnson noted that the Department attempts to stay at market rate or at the lower end of market rate range, with labor costs at a cost recovery. Fee increases for pools are proposed every other year, with a 3% to 5% increase for cost recovery. Star City Shores, University Place, Highlands are about at 100% cost recovery, while neighborhood pools last

year were around 55%. Eden is the most attended neighborhood pool which comes closest to cost recovery, while Airpark on a cost recovery per swim costs the most typically due to the large size of the facility and the subsidy to run. Cost recovery over all pools combines to approximately 85%.

- Centers fees for after school recreation are typically increased annually in order to avoid a significant increase on budgets on a biannual basis. Other school age program providers in the community were surveyed, which shows Parks Centers typically toward the bottom for fees. Due to the areas of Center location it is felt that they should be made affordable. Most of the programs are close to 100% cost recovery, which is the goal for the school age programs.
- Gym fees, adaptive recreation, class fees, facility rentals, fitness fees, and program fee schedules were reviewed and additional details were provided for clarification. It was requested that future presentation of fee increases are more clearly identified with detailed explanations for programs and specific uses per unit.
- Additional discussion was held regarding pool fees, coupons, and attempts at improved cost recovery and attendance. Lynn Johnson noted that the pools have historically been priced using a three-tier scale, with Star City Shores at one price, Woods, Uni, and Highlands have another price, and the neighborhood pools have all been priced the same. The three lesser attended pools are Ballard, Belmont, and Airpark. Discussions were also held regarding pricing for earlier or later swim time fees in an effort to increase attendance, tracking any changes for a period of time for determination of future fee proposals.

A motion was made by Susan Deitchler and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the new fees as proposed and discussed for wedding sites, rental facilities, and pools. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

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

No Report.

Golf Report:

- **Rounds and Revenue:** Golf Administrator Dale Hardy reported that there were 1,233 rounds during the month of January, which seems high although the 10-year average is actually over 1,600. In February through the 14th, there have already been 941 rounds. Fiscal year rounds are still down approximately 9%, with revenue down by 5.5% from one year ago.
- The special that began in early November for \$100 ten-round punch cards, have sold 127. The Golf Committee approved the sale of \$50 five-round punch cards due to golfer concerns regarding expiration of March 31st. Sales of the new card have reach 28.
- All 62 leagues are returning this season. Golf Pros and the committee are currently working on filling vacant times, with tournaments coming in as usual. The new Holmes clubhouse is scheduled to open in late April, with promotions being planned for tournament scheduling.
- The Golf Committee recently created three sub-committees consisting of Marking & Promoting, Grounds & Facilities, and Budget & Finance. Each sub-committee has met once, with good representation from all of the golfing organization.

- *** Review of Proposed Golf Fees:** Administrator Hardy informed the Board that there is actually no fee increase, although new fees are being proposed for an 18-hole twilight fee for weekends beginning three hours before sunset, and a 9-hole spectator fee and rider fee. It was noted that the Golf Committee chose to forgo fee increases until the sustainability study has been completed, with any increase proposal to be considered next year at this time following recommendations from the study. The final addition to the fee structure included authorization for the Director of Parks & Recreation or designated representative to create unique pricing for specials or tournaments based on market value.

A motion was made by Todd Fitzgerald and seconded by Susan Deitchler to approve the recommended adoption of the 2013 fee schedule for Lincoln City Golf Courses. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present. Golf Committee Fitzgerald added that this is a very active committee and sub-committees, and suggested that there would be a lot of correspondence to the Board as they are dedicated to making the golf program relevant in the city. Pioneers will be celebrating 83 years this summer, and Holmes will be celebrating 50 years with a celebration in conjunction with the opening of the new club house; Highlands is also celebrating 20 years, and Ager 46(?).

With the departure of Jane Raybould from the Board, Chairperson Pagel asked if there were any volunteers to take her position on the Golf Committee. Trent Reed stepped forward and was welcomed and thanked for his support.

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

- It was noted that Iron Horse Park has been renamed Bill Harris Iron Horse Park. Mary Sue Harris and Bill Harris' family worked with Mayor Beutler for the outcome. Lynn Johnson reported that work is underway to modify the archway sign, along with an addition of a bronze plaque in recognition of Mayor Bill Harris. The family will be making a contribution that will establish an endowment for future repair and replacement of the site. A dedication is being planned for either May 11th or May 12th for a rededication and an unveiling of the plaque and/or sign with the family in attendance.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board representatives on the Golf Committee are Todd Fitzgerald and Cleo Mullison, and now with the addition of Trent Reed.

Staff Report:

Bowling Lake Accessible Fishing Pier Project:

- Lynn Johnson provided an update on the Bowling Lake project as a partnership between the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department for several years. NGPC made a significant investment to the lake with dredging to add depth and fishing amenities to create an urban fishery. The City Council has now approved an agreement with NGPC to provide \$250,000 for an accessible fishing pier on both the north and south side of the existing walkway, along with an ADA shelter and restroom. When the lake was redesigned, a structure was installed to keep rough fish out of the lake, however, with a large storm event and silting of pumping system causing the pump to burn out. Part of the provided funds will allow for additional valves and minimize the down time of the pump.

Pioneers Park Nature Center 50th Anniversary:

- Director of the Pioneers Park Nature Center Nancy Furman discussed Lincoln's well known treasure of Pioneers Park, adding that in 1963, 40 acres was designed for the Nature Center, at the time a bird sanctuary. This year will celebrate 50 years, growing from the original 40 acres to 685 acres now. The celebration will also bring more awareness to the public of the Nature Center and all that is offered, with over 12,000 school children annually. The April newsletter will highlight the activities.
- April 27th will be Natures Market, with 20 booths selling plants, food, crafts, etc., along with entertainment, an outdoor handmade bench auction and watering can silent auction.
- May 18th is Coffee House on the Prairie cosponsored by the Meadowlark Coffee House, with music provided.
- June 22nd – an herbal festival with a workshop presenter from Handover, Mass., with 10-12 tables for tasting and sampling various ways for using herbs.
- July is on hold pending the Pinewood Bowl concert schedule, with hopes for a free time to hold a small Concert in the Pines for an evening of music.
- September 27th will be Beer, Brats, and Bison, as a fundraiser.
- October is the annual Spook-Tacular Event, with families and children in costume attending skits that are nature related.
- November will be the very first Prairie Run, with a path through the prairie for a children's run and an adult run.
- Social media will be used for promotion of all events, as well as flyers in numerous locations.

Idylwild Master Planning:

- Lynn Johnson reminded the Board of the action before the City Council last fall accepting a donation on behalf of Valentino's for improvements to Idylwild Park and the boulevard on Idylwild Drive. In March or April, a master planning effort will be initiated with the East Campus Neighborhood to develop plans for improvements to Idylwild Drive and Park. Several residents of the neighborhood have shown concern regarding a name change to Valentino's Park. A renaming recommendation may be forthcoming in recognition of the gift. A recommendation to the neighborhood may be Valentino's Park at Idylwild or something similar, in order to ease concerns over losing the historic reference to Idylwild.

Near South Park:

- Parks & Recreation staff are in the process of removing the brick artwork at the Near South Park. Jerry Shorney noted that a call was received from an individual who had previously purchased a donor brick in the park, and he reassured that the plaza area bricks will not be removed. An agreement was signed by the artist for removal of the piece of public art that was structurally jaded, and remove it from service. Columns will then be restructured to rebuild the fence. The neighborhood has been very patient with the Park being closed for nearly a year while this project was being prepared, and it is hoped that it will be reopened by April.

Calendar of Events:

- Danielle Conrad has put together a calendar of events for the Department and the Foundation for 2013, with encouragement to attend whenever able. Highlighted by Lynn was the April 17th rededication of Sherman Field with recent improvements.

Announcements:

- Peter Lavitov complimented the Winter/Spring Program Guide recently published, with a job well done. Also, an article in the January issue of Prairie Fire was somewhat critical of the plantings in Union Plaza and that it was not, and encouraged members to review. A final comment was in regard to initiating discussion for having lights on the Union Plaza trail, due to safety issues for walkers and bikers. Lynn offered to take the item to the Fees & Facilities Committee. He also concurred regarding the Prairie Fire article and noted that the Union Plaza plantings were very much prairie inspired, and perhaps the author did not recognize the young prairie plants and the fact that they are spaced accordingly for appropriate growth, and will look more like prairie as they mature and fill out. A response was suggested, with Lynn acknowledging that perhaps Dennis Scheer or his staff may be working on something. The same article author had submitted a letter to the editor after the Union Plaza was opened, with a response presented at that time.
- Anne Pagel reminded of a November request for individuals to attend an evaluation program for Open Studios, which Anne and Bob did attend. Center Pointe also had staff program participants in attendance, which all determined to be a success and learning opportunity.
- Todd Fitzgerald updated members that the Golf Sustainability Study would be starting soon. Some of the concerns heard from the community is that the study was to eliminate courses, however as a clarification, the study is to evaluate efficiency and how to improve the golf courses, and ultimately how to compete with public courses.
- A question was posed regarding the Civic Plaza project and the 57' art glass tower. Lynn Johnson reported that the construction documents should be completed in the next two to three weeks and the site improvement should be out to bid soon after. The goal is to have the project finished by late summer. The P Street streetscape enhancement project, which may interface with the Civic Plaza improvements, could potentially slow the project, but it is still hopeful for a completion by the end of summer. Lynn also mentioned that the Futures Committee will be working on a ten year facility and program strategic or master plan, and will begin talking about programs and facilities on a quadrant by quadrant basis, then will bring back a ten year plan for the Board to review.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.