MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Room 113, City-County Bldg..

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Members Present:

Ian Chapo	Jonathan Cook	Susan Deitchler	Bob Ripley
Susan Rodenburg	Dennis Scheer`	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball

Members Absent:

Curt Donaldson	Todd Fitzgerald	Karen Hand	Anne Pagel
Alex Paine	Ray Stevens		

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 February 11, 2010, meeting:** ***It was moved (Ripley) and seconded (Deitchler) to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2010, 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: establishing Boosalis Park as a shooting sports facility:** Steve Hiller said the Parks Department has been working with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission for approximately 3 years on development of an archery range which has now become a shooting range for the Boosalis Park area. Up to this point a stationery target range and a field course within the southern area of the park have been developed. The City is also working with Lincoln Trap and Skeet Club to expand their operation to the west into Boosalis Park and they would also like to develop a sporting clay target area in the northwest corner of the park. The City is currently working with the Skeet Club on a lease agreement for this area and also with State Game & Parks and a number of potential funders on the possibility of building an indoor archery range. Hiller said there's also a possibility of teaming up with ISCO TelDyne to make some type of land swap/lease agreement for a rectangular piece of land located just northwest of their plant that they are not using. This land could be used for an extended period of time for additional parking and there would still be room for ISCO to expand (if needed) just west of their current property and share the additional parking area.

  Another part of this could possibly be the development of an outdoor pistol/rifle range. The City is having conversation with Public Works regarding the area of the old landfill that is just north of the current range. Currently there is a 30' berm on this land that would ideally serve as a backstop for some type of future pistol/rifle range.

  Hiller said there is a lot of use of the current rifle range - a good number of archers as well as a fairly large archery program in the school system of approximately 500-600 middle school students. He said it's becoming a very popular site and the Lincoln Trap/Skeet Club's attendance numbers are also as high as they've ever been and they are very interested in working with the City to bring in regional and national shotgun events which would be an

excellent economic development tool for the City. Hiller answered questions from Board members and ***after brief discussion it was moved (Committee) to endorse the proposed master plan for Boosalis Park and adjoining properties. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*** Future agreements with the NGPC and LTSC related to implementation of the master plan will be brought to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for their review and recommendations.

- * **Recommendation re: granting of an easement to Windstream for utility cabinets at the pocket park on northwest corner of 27th & South Streets:** This small pocket park is located on the northwest corner of South 27th & South Street was reportedly acquired in conjunction with street improvements to the adjoining intersection. The site is planted with low maintenance turf and ornamental landscape plantings. Earlier this year Windstream approached the City with a request to establish a pad with utility cabinets on the site. Parks & Recreation Department staff worked with Windstream representatives to identify a location of the pad and utility cabinets, and to develop a plan for landscape plantings to screen the utility cabinets and to enhance the visual appearance of the site. There would also be a 6' wide easement (for access to the pad/cabinets) that would come off of 27th Street running parallel to the north property line. The easement would be wood chipped rather than hard surface. As part of the agreement with Windstream they would provide an allowance to the Parks Department for purchase of the landscaping materials to establish the landscape plan. The pad would be flush with the ground and have one 4.5' and one 6.25' tall cabinets. Windstream would like to start their construction as early as June which would work for a fall landscaping planting by the Parks Department. Susan Rodenburg suggested Windstream be contacted to see if they would like to adopt this park and landscape. JJ Yost said at this point the City has a legal description created for the proposed easement, a pending draft agreement with Windstream stating that if they abandon this location at any time in the future, they would be responsible for removing the equipment, restore the site to original condition and that the easement would revert back to City property. ***After lengthy discussion it was moved (Committee) to recommend approval of granting an easement to Windstream for the proposed pad and utility cabinets with a provision that the easement revert to the City and that the site be cleared of the pad and utility cabinet if use is discontinued. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

  After brief discussion, it was moved (Rodenburg) and seconded (Cook) that verbage be added to the original recommendation encouraging Windstream to adopt the landscape project at 27th & South Streets. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

  Discussion took place regarding maintenance of the area and the actual height of the utility cabinets. ***It was moved (Cook) and seconded (Chapo) to amend the original recommendation to state that any equipment on the site be limited to 6' tall. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

  After further discussion the above amendment was amended by motion (Cook) and second (Chapo) stating that the equipment on the site be limited to 6.6' in height. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

- **Update on Centennial Mall Master Plan:** Tom Laging presented a block-by-block update on the master plan for Centennial Mall. This master plan will ultimately go to the Capitol Environs Commission for approval. Susan Rodenburg said the City is hoping to announce a fund raising campaign for Centennial Mall in the next 6-8 months. ***It was moved (Cook) and seconded (Deitchler) that the Board send a recommendation to the Capital Environs Commission showing their support of the conceptual plan of Centennial Mall as presented today. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Scheer abstaining.***

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

- * **Recommendation re: new Mission Statement for the Parks & Recreation Department:** Lynn Johnson presented the following proposed new Mission Statement for Parks & Recreation

Dept.

Lincoln Parks and Recreation is:

- ***fun***damental to youth development;
- ***fun***damental to active living;
- ***fun***damental to livable neighborhoods and family life;
- ***fun***damental to environmental stewardship;
- ***fun***damental to special places and events;
- ***fun***damental to economic development.

This new mission statement will be strategically placed in all parks and recreation facilities so members of the community will become aware of it.

Following concerns expressed by some Board members, it was moved (Committee) to adopt the above proposed new Mission Statement for the Parks & Recreation Department. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present. (A copy of this Mission Statement will be attached to the file copy of these minutes).

- **Overview of process and time frame associated with updating Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan:** Lynn Johnson explained that the Lincoln/Lancaster Comprehensive Plan undergoes updates/revisions every 10 years so the last time it was updated was in 2000 and adopted in 2002. The Planning Dept. is initiating the process to update the plan to be a vision of the blueprint of the future up to the year 2040. The following are sections from the current plan that relate to Parks & Recreation responsibilities that will be reviewed during the update process.

Environmental Resources:

- Urban Forest
- Core Resource Imperatives
  - Saline and Freshwater Wetlands
  - Native Prairies
  - Riparian, Floodplains and Stream Corridors
- The Greenprint Challenge
  - Greenways and Open Space: Salt Valley Heritage Greenway

Mobility & Transportation:

- Trails & Bicycle Facilities
- Anticipated new - complete streets

Parks, Recreation & Open Space:

- Regional Parks
- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Recreation Centers
- Swimming Pools
- Indoor Ice Arena
- Open Space and Greenway Linkages
- Urban Forest

New - Sustainability

The Futures Committee will be involved in these revisions over the next year.

Golf Committee - Rounds and Revenue

- Steve Hiller reported due to the long winter weather, golf revenue is down approximately 5% from September - May and rounds are down about 12%. He reported that the last payment towards the Highlands bond debt retirement will be paid the end of August,

2010. This will free up approximately $36,000 a month that can hopefully be used to address some of the following future golf capital improvement needs:

- Replace clubhouse at Holmes Golf Course
- Replace irrigation system at Pioneers Golf Course
- Build irrigation storage pond at Holmes Golf
- Reuse city water well at Ager Jr. Golf Course
- Install new irrigation, system using well water, at Ager Jr. Golf Course
- Replace parking lot at Pioneers Golf Course
- Major tree planting at Pioneers, Holmes and Mahoney Golf Courses
- Maintenance shop replacement at Pioneer Golf Course
- Irrigation system replacement at Holmes Golf Course
- Irrigation system replacement at Highlands Golf Course

Lynn Johnson said the Department is exploring the option of getting a shorter term bond in order to complete the first four items listed above relatively soon.

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

- **City Council Report** by Jonathan Cook: The Council approved the funding agreement with Assurity for their gift of $250,000 for Union Plaza. They have also authorized the acceptance of a $600,000 from the Lincoln Community Foundation on behalf of the Sheila Dickenson Densmore Graf and Burket Graf fund, also for Union Plaza.

- **County Commissioners Report** by Ray Stevens: no report

- **Lincoln Parks Foundation Report** - Lynn Johnson reported that the Foundation has finalized the purchase of the "A" Street Antique Store and parking lot. Plans for this lot will include an overflow parking lot for the Children's Zoo and the Parks & Recreation Dept.

  Lynn said the Foundation and Department are working through the issues of: 1) vacating some right of way for the relocation of the Dial House to approximately 29th & Washington Streets; 2) getting historic designation on the lot itself; and 3)obtaining a special permit that would allow the Dial House, a historic landmark structure, to be moved onto the lot.

  The Lincoln Community Foundation, who has managed LPF funds, recently closed out it's agency accounts. The Foundation went through an RFP process and have selected Smith-Hayes to now manage these funds. The Foundation will now do all their own investing and, at their last meeting, they formally established the Union Plaza endowment fund which will be managed as a separate fund.

  The Foundation has also received the feasibility study back for the Pioneers Park Nature Center. The report basically said "do not do an endowment campaign for the Nature Center". It said the Department could possibly generate about $100,000 per year in sponsorships for the different elements at the Nature Center.

Staff Reports:

- **Update on Active Living Center Condo in Union Plaza:** Terry Genrich said the Department continues to work through plans for the Active Living Center to be located at 21st & "Q" Streets. The facility will contain a large gathering place/meeting room, public restrooms, a retail space on the first floor and the Community Health Endowment will occupy the second floor. There will be green elements incorporated into the building such as a green roof over the public gathering area, energy efficient window coverings, and a geothermal heat system. The project will be going out for bids on June 9, 2010.

- **Update on Hudson Cabin:** The City will be moving Hudson Cabin to Pioneers Park on June 22nd. Two companies are donating their services to move the cabin: Midwest House Movers are moving the cabin and Embury Construction Co. will be refurbishing the cabin and replacing the roof.

Announcements:

- Recognition of gift to Union Plaza from the Lincoln Community Foundation, Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 1:30 p.m. at Amphitheater in Union Plaza.

- LES is beginning a study, Central Lincoln Reliability Project, to identify new transmission line route from 17th & Holdrege St. to 21st & "N" St. to 30th & "A" Street to 56th & Everett St. The project will replace aging cables, meet the growing demand for electricity and improve system reliability. There be an open house on Thursday, May 20th at the Auld Pavilion in Antelope Park from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

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