

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Room 113 - County City Building

Thursday, June 11, 2009

Members Present:

Rod Confer	Jonathan Cook	Susan Deitchler	Curt Donaldson
Karen Hand	Jolanda Junge-Kuzma		Anne Pagel
Bob Ripley	Susan Rodenburg		Dennis Scheer
Jeff Schwebke	Ray Stevens		Joe Tidball

Members Absent:

Alex Paine

Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Karen Hand announced that the Board follows the regulations of this Act, as posted in the City Council Offices.

*** APPROVAL OF MINUTES :** *It was moved (Deitchler) and seconded (Scheer) to approve the minutes of April 9, 2009, meeting as mailed. Motion carried by majority vote of members present*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fees & Facilities Committee - Jolanda Junge-Kuzma (Chair) 488-4032

- **Discussion re: master planning Boosalid Park:** Lynn Johnson went over the map of Boosalid Park and the proposal to build an indoor archery/shooting sports facility in cooperation with the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, Lincoln Trap and Skeet Club and the Prairie Bowmen. In the proposal, the new archery/shooting range would be located in the southern portion of the site out of the floodplain and Lincoln Trap and Skeet is interested in expanding their facilities on the west side of the park and would add three additional shooting stations. The discussion with the Board is for their approval to move ahead with a master plan of this site that would develop Boosalid Park as a shooting sports facility and partnering with the above entities to do so. Once the master plan is completed it will be presented to the Board for their input and discussion.
- **Discussion re: replacement of Sherman Field support facilities:** Lynn Johnson reported that Sherman Field was built in 1947 consisting also of a maintenance building, an old restroom, concession stand and a ticket dispensing area. For a number of years the restrooms have been in a deteriorating condition and are now virtually unusable (currently there are 3 portable restrooms at this site). A concept to integrate all these support facilities into one or two new buildings began approximately three years ago. There is a Request for Proposals out now to design a two-part structure where the restrooms would be in one building and the ticket area, concessions, umpire space and meeting room space would occupy the other building. A new plaza area would be constructed around the new two-part facility. Later on the Department will need to address the cleaning up of the parking area, further expansion to the south, and additional space for midget football. Additional play field grading work would also be addressed. The Mayor has identified \$500,000 in next year's CIP for this project and a fund-raising campaign would take place for the additional funding to complete the project. Later on there will be master planning, development of schematics and a cost estimate for the buildings that will be brought back to the full Board. A fund-raising campaign would also include the creation of an

endowment for the care and maintenance of the facilities.

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

- * **Recommendation re: naming of the park shelter and public picnic area at the Jamaica North Trailhead north of Saltillo Road in memory of Bryan Backhaus:** Ripley reported that the Department was contacted about this naming process by the family of Bryan Backhaus. Bryan was owner of Bike Pedalers and died in April, 2008, at the age of 22. His family would like to honor Bryan by naming this public picnic area after him. The family and friends would provide funding for the development of this picnic area at the Jamaica North Trailhead. ***It was moved (Committee) to approve the naming of the park shelter and picnic area at the Jamaica North Trailhead in memory of Bryan Backhaus. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*** Lynn Johnson said an endowment is not required for facilities that are basic to the location, such as the park shelter and picnic area planned for this area.
- * **Recommendation re: placement of interpretive signage at Lintel Park recognizing Delores Lintel:** Lintel Park is located at No. 21st & Holdrege Streets. The park is the western anchor of the Dietrich Trail and both facilities were developed as part of the NE Radial Reuse Project. Lintel Park was named in recognition of Delores Lintel's involvement in the organization of the Clinton Neighborhood Association and citizen activism in opposition of the former NE Radial Roadway Project. ***It was moved (Committee) to approve the placement of an interpretive marker at Lintel Park recognizing Delores Lintel. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*** (A copy of the verbage for the plaque will be attached to the file copy of these minutes). The plaque will be funded by NeighborWorks.
- * **Recommendation re: artwork and landscape project at Irving Recreation Center:** Members of the Irving Recreation Center's Metal and Landscape Design Club did a presentation describing the artwork and landscape project they will construct at the entrance of Irving Recreation Center. The students did a lot of background work for this project including a field trip to TMCO (Total Metalworking Company) to study metal and see some of the things metal was capable of. They wanted to chose a design with fun/exciting colors that would describe the recreation center and school as the building blocks and foundation of their success as individuals. The end result was an amazing structure of metal and stained glass plus a landscaping design that incorporates plants appropriate for our environment which would compliment the sculpture. The club members worked with Mark Canney from Parks Planning/Construction Division to choose the proper plantings. ***After the presentation, it was moved (Committee) to approve the artwork and landscape project at the Irving Recreation Center. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Golf Committee - Rounds and Revenue

- Steve Hiller reported that May was a very good month for golf - rounds and revenue were both up between 5% -8%. The numbers for the month of June, thus far, have also been good. Some renovations are being made at the clubhouse at Highlands to prepare for the Special Olympics, including restructuring a berm and other landscaping improvements around the clubhouse. Hiller invited members to go out and see the positive improvements!

Executive Committee - Karen Hand (Chair) - 423-1244

- **City Council Report** - Lynn Johnson reported that the Memorandum of Agreement with the Abel Foundation for funding of improvements at Hazel Abel Park has been approved, and the piece of surplused property at 41st & Greenwood will go before the City Council on June 15th for their action.
- **County Commissioners Report** - no report
- **Lincoln Parks Foundation Report** - Lynn Johnson reported that the master plan for Antelope

Triangle (done in 2000) showed parking to be a significant challenge for the area. The plan asked that the Department look at the "A" Street Antique Store as a possible solution for parking issues. There would be a surface parking lot that would serve all the activities that take place in the triangle, as well as parking for the Zoo and the band shell. That piece of property recently came up for sale with an assessed value of \$300,000 and is on the market for \$195,000. The Parks Foundation submitted a proposal to buy the property and if their bid is accepted and after the closing of the sale, the City would come up with strategies to purchase the property from the Foundation. The building itself will need to be demolished to prepare for construction of a parking lot. The funding strategy for the parking lot has not been established yet. Bob Ripley suggested that a meeting be held with the Children's Zoo to see what their long-term (5-10 years) parking needs consist of before design and construction of the parking lot takes place.

At a special meeting the Foundation Board authorized the hiring of Danielle Nantkes who will focus on donor relations and marketing for the Foundation. She will be an employee of the Foundation and will work approximately 20 hours per week.

Staff Reports:

- **Resource development activities including enhanced volunteer program, and cooperation with the LCF re: planned and legacy giving:** Lynn Johnson said on May 21st a new logo, website and tag-line for the Department were launched. The website is still a work-in-progress to make it more interactive and user friendly. The goal is by the end of the year to have on-line reservations and registrations for parks facilities on the website.

Parallel to the above, the Department also launched an awareness campaign and one piece of that was to insert a one-sheet annual report in the Neighborhood Extra. There will be also be a number of public service announcements and ads placed in the Journal Star. There will also be an on-line banner with the newspaper, advertising on Star Tran buses, cinema slides at the Grand Theater and Ross Theater all meant to help citizens recognize the new website for the Parks & Recreation Department. There will also be program sheets available at the main Parks Administration Office as well as all recreation centers.

The department is also ramping up its volunteer programs that provide approximately 30,000 hours of time each year. There is now a new software program that will help manage volunteer contacts and time. With State Farm's assistance, the department is launching a new program called "Adopt a Lincoln Landscape" where volunteers are able to adopt landscape planting areas in parks. There's also a new volunteer program at both the Sunken Garden and the Rose Garden called "Garden Gab" where volunteers gather every Tuesday and Thursday morning and learn what they can do at these two locations and then working with Parks Dept. staff to complete these tasks.

There will now be brief infomercials shown on Channel 5 that will explain what's going on and what the current programs are within the Parks & Recreation Department.

The Mayor's budget process this year was done using an outcome based system. The Department organized the annual report around the outcome areas of youth development, families and neighborhoods, active living, environmental stewardship, environmental quality, economic development, and special places and events. The awareness campaign was also organized around these areas.

- **Future nature-based play area in Belmont Park:** Lynn Johnson showed the Board pictures of the current Belmont Park, Belmont Recreation Center and Belmont School. Last year the Department did a lot of dirt filling and regrading of the site to prepare it for a play area. The Department worked with the Lower Platte South Natural Resource

District, Healthy Families Play Outside, Belmont Elementary School, and Belmont Recreation/Community Center to develop a new playground on this site. JJ Yost said this site was selected as a trial site after meetings with Healthy Families Play Outside. A master plan was developed and cost estimates were established so that a funding strategy could be developed and go forward with the construction documents to build a nature based play area. The Natural Resource District will provide some additional funding next year and the City will need to seek some additional funding to make this project happen.

Yost said he feels it's very important to involve both the school and recreation center in the planning and development of the City's first nature-based play area. Yost said the community involvement is necessary as there are concerns how the area will be used and how it will be maintained. The City will engage a public process yet this summer to get the community involved. Ideally, this fall the first piece of the play area would be constructed and continue to build upon it as funding and interest allows. The southwest corner of the Belmont site has been designated as the new play area. A community garden may also become a part of this project.

Announcements:

- **Options for July Joint Tour with Lincoln Parks Foundation:** The Board agreed to schedule the meeting/tour with Lincoln Parks Foundation for July 16th, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. For those interested in doing so, Bob Ripley will conduct a brief tour of the State Capitol after the conclusion of the formal meeting.
- **Uncle Sam Jam** will be held at Oak Lake on July 3, 2009. Many of the family activities this year will be hosted by Parks & Recreation staff beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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