

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Location: Parks and Recreation Conference Room

June 13, 2013

4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Anne Pagel	Larry Hudkins	Bob Ripley	Molly Brummond
Jonathan Cook	Peter Levitov	Joe Tidball	Susan Deitchler
Justin Carlson	James Cook		

Members Absent:

Jonathan Cook	Cleo Mullison	Kelly O’Hanlon	Jeff Schwebke
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Staff Members Present

Lynn Johnson, Director Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Project Administrator
Jerry Shorney, Asst. Director of Park Operations Dale Hardy, Golf Administrator
Mary Johnson

Guests: Jordan Pascale, Clancy Woolman

Recognition of “Open Meets Act” acknowledged.

Approval of Minutes for May 9th Meeting. Molly Brummond said her last name was misspelled. “Brummond” is the correct spelling – not Brommond. On Page 2 of the minutes, the #2 category should be modified to say: modify Article IV to require the Chair of the Golf Committee be selected by the PRAB Chair. A motion was made by Bob Ripley to accept the minutes as amended, and was seconded by Larry Hudkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Fees & Facilities Committee – Susan Deitchler, Chair

Susan talked about parking at surface areas and the rotation of parking in Pioneers Park.

JJ Yost gave a brief presentation showing the proposed construction for Pioneers Park new road segments to serve as grass parking areas. He showed three potential road segments. The focus was on Segment #1 coming off Elk Circle, Segment #2 is an area around the loop by the Nature Center. The idea is to open up Area A and Area B – Segment #3. When Area C is opened up it will create up to 500 parking stalls on a dry day. Area D will create up to 200 stalls, and Area E will create up to 500 stalls. JJ said we want to create availability in the lots so rotation can be created for parking vehicles. Pathways will be 12 feet wide and constructed of road bed, which consists of asphalt grindings or hard surfaced asphalt. A copy of the proposed plan is attached to this meeting summary.

Jerry Shorney said Area C is located in a large valley. The plan is to adjust drainage so it will have the least amount of damage on the park. Lynn Johnson said they are reviewing the large events that take place in the park with SMG. Large events could have about

5,000 for attendance. A multi-year agreement for the Bowl and the Arena are tied together.

Alternate areas are needed for easy departure of vehicles and large portable lights are also necessary.

Jerry Shorney said that Area C runs off toward the north, there would be drainage on the east and west side of the pathway. We want to have the least amount of footprint on the area as possible. Jerry said by having an all-weather surface, traffic can be diverted. If a wet rain event occurred, we would need emergency access for first response vehicles. They plan to update the existing path so there is better access for parking. All traffic comes through the north gate. Jerry said at this time it takes 20-30 minutes for people parked to exit the park.

Larry Hudkins made a suggestion to provide pedestrian travel areas between Segment B and Segment C. Larry said to try for at least three (3) people per car and look into the cost ratio analysis of parking at Roper School and shuttling to Pioneers Park. Jerry said a roundabout is being installed on South Coddington and West Van Dorn that may make operation of a shuttle difficult.

Mr. Ripley asked about topography in Area C. He is opposed to altering the topography of the park. JJ will make sure a topographic survey is completed.

Anne asked if there was more discussion on proposed turf parking areas at Pioneers Park. A motion made by Susan Dietchler to approve the turf parking areas. Robert Ripley made an amended motion. He would like to see the topographic study before turf changes are made. The amended motion was seconded Larry Hudkins. The motion passed unanimously.

Fees and Facilities Committee

A report was given for potential projects, identified as the draft 10-year Plan. Lynn Johnson said they have been looking at facilities on a quadrant-by-quadrant basis. We are developing a plan for replacement of facilities and also looking at developing new facilities. He said they are looking at funding sources and which of these might include capitol campaigns.

On July 11th the City will be starting the process of engaging the community to review the budget process and seek the public's assistance to prioritize budget items. The public will be asked to review and comment on the draft 10-year Plan. Lynn is proposing to issue news release. Information may be posted on the website and we may have an open house to invite the public.

Lynn said the draft 10-year Plan would be a living document and will need to be updated every two years. One of the things the Mayor wants for the budget is to reassess capital improvement funding through Parks and Recreation. Some of the items listed have been

identified on the department's "Wish List". Priorities can be shifted if the plan changes. The projects listed are comprehensive.

Lynn asked if the Board would be interested in participating in an open house. We could have the meeting so that each quadrant of the City is invited for budget discussion or we could have one meeting. Nicole said sometimes you get people involved in on-line dialog.

Lynn said he would like to advertise as far wide as possible especially with Neighborhood Associations and community groups. Lynn said they have identified six potential (6) projects that might be funded through capital campaigns:

1) Woods Tennis Center - the air structures are at the end of their useful life. Organizers would like to expand to nine outdoor courts and ten indoor courts. They are operating at capacity at this time. Expansion needs to take place to attract tournaments. Mr. Ripley asked if we are growing beyond the capacity of Woods Park. Lynn said that two different master plans are being looked at. Some discussion took place about the master plans. Kevin Heim from the Woods Park Tennis Center has been reaching out to neighborhood associations for further input.

2) Renovation of the Teacher's Fountain. The fountain was built about 40 years ago. There are major issues with the cast iron water supply pipes rusting. An engineering study will be taking place this fall.

3) Oak Lake Park Sports Complex.

4) Fencing for the bison pasture at Pioneers Park and animal shelters.

5) Replacement of the Antelope Park band shell.

6) Plant Oasis indoor plant conservatory – we have been in contact with the zoo. The zoo is involved in a strategic planning effort and department staff has suggested that the two groups discuss a possible opportunity for collaboration.

7) Holmes Clubhouse – kitchen equipment. About \$180,000 will be needed for this equipment.

8) Irrigation system at the Ager Golf Course. The system is beginning to fail, and the system is not automated. The original system was installed about 1965. There is an irrigation source in the golf course. Dale Hardy estimated that the irrigation system would be about \$180,000.

9) Haines Branch Corridor.

10) Stevens Creek Greenway and south Beltway Trail Corridor

Lynn Johnson said that they would talk about the list at the Futures Committee meeting next week.

Anne said what are the next steps for the 10-year Plan? Lynn said that it would be beneficial for the Board to take action today. Lynn said the idea was to take the working document to discuss at the July 11th joint meeting with the Lincoln Parks Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Ripley said he would make a motion to have the projects discussed as a tentative priority list for fund raising until there is further discussion with the Foundation Board, or more information from staff about shifting project priorities. At the October 11th Advisory Committee meeting, we will likely ask the Board to adopt the 10-year Plan. This will allow us to move forward with the development of the Capital Improvement Program for the upcoming budget. Lynn said we need to sit down with Friends of Woods Tennis to define their project and discuss out how it will be funded.

The Foundation is looking to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks & Recreation Department for advice and direction on the next capital campaigns.

A motion was put forth by Bob Ripley to adopt the six items listed plus the Holmes Golf Clubhouse, the Ager Irrigation system, Haines Branch Prairie Corridor plus trails, Stevens Creek Greenway and South Beltway Trail corridor. The amended motion was seconded by Peter Levitov. The motion passed unanimously.

Golf Report – Dale Hardy

Dale said that rounds were down by 27%, and revenue is down by 22% from last year. This may have started with the May snow storm. Last year was a banner year for revenue.

Golf Membership

A new golf membership option is proposed for college students for the months of June, July and August. The fee will be \$70 for the month or \$140.00 for all three months. Dale said they have sold eight of these memberships already. Advertising has been done through the paper and e-mailing, and through signs posted in the clubhouses.

Mr. Ripley asked if there is a better way that college students can be reached. A suggestion was made to advertise memberships at end of the second semester throughout the colleges in Lincoln.

Dale said there were good responses to the survey associated with the Golf Sustainability Study. He has talked to the National Golf Foundation and they have received good responses for all four 18-hole golf courses. One more e-mail blast will be done before the end of the day, and there are several more days for responses to the survey. Mr. Ripley asked when the National Golf Foundation would get back to us. Dale said we should be hearing back from NGF about the middle of July. The results will be shared

with the Mayor, City Council, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the Golf Advisory Committee.

Lynn said one of the recommendations is to focus on getting more play time from women. Two areas to focus on will likely be marketing to women and marketing to families. Lynn said another likely recommendation will be to stratify the golf fee structure. Peter Levitov said the results should go for a public hearing or a public event.

Clancy Woolman said after the information is reviewed by the Golf Advisory Committee, its recommendations should be forwarded to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for their review. After the Advisory Board looks at the information it will then be presented to the City Council for a public hearing. Clancy said the results should be implemented by March or April. We have a good golf program. At one time the program generated about \$1 million in net revenue.

Lynn said with the by-law change that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has made within the last few months, the recommendation was that the PRAB chair appoint the chair for the Golf Advisory Committee. The Golf Advisory Committee is making a recommendation that Clancy Woolman be appointed as chair to the Golf Advisory Committee. The Committee elects the vice-chair, which is Tom Nesbitt.

Lynn said that he wanted the Board to meet Clancy Woolman. Clancy gave some background information about himself. Clancy said he wants to be on the agenda after the golf sustainability study report is received.

Anne Pagel said that Clancy Woolman is hereby appointed as chair of the Golf Advisory Committee.

Lynn said that the recording of the May PRAB meeting was inconclusive and we need further clarification. Lynn said he wants the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to clarify the number of members that will serve on the Golf Advisory Committee. The recommendation from staff and the Golf Advisory Committee was that at least one member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board serve on the golf committee, and the Mayor would appoint six to eight additional members, depending on how many members of the Advisory Board are serving.

Jonathan Cook said to look at the minutes and see how it reads. Lynn said we may be several board members short. Jonathan said that does not mean that there will always be nine members.

The by-law amendments as contained in the May meeting summary were affirmed. Lynn said that there is one vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The Mayor needs to make an appointment and it would be a good idea to have a person that is interested in golf.

We have two (2) new members to the Advisory Board. Kathi Wieskamp will be replacing Karen Hand. Kathi will be stepping in as Athletics Director for LPS. The Executive Committee interviewed seven students, and Kelly O’Hanlon was selected.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last year a grant was written to the National Endowment for the Arts and we received funding to develop an arts performance series for Union Plaza and Civic Plaza. We have been working with Brendan Evans, Jeremy Buckley, Michele Tilly, and Susan Larsen-Rodenburg to develop a performance series and also to develop a sustainability strategy, and the marketing plan. The event will be called “Party in the Parks”. An event will be held in June, July and September and maybe one date in October in Union Plaza. There will be a visual arts activity, a theater arts performance, a spoken word presentation, live music performances, and food trucks. The first event will be held on Saturday, June 29th from 4:00p-9:00p.m. Next year the idea will extend into Civic Plaza. We will be working on developing a sustainability strategy. Lynn said the idea is to have programs at Union Plaza and Civic Plaza. In the future, the program may extend into Centennial Mall.

Civic Plaza will be out for bid by the end of June. The “P” Street streetscape project and Civic Plaza project will move forward in tandem. Both projects will move forward together and the projects will be “tied” and awarded to one contractor. The Civic Plaza should be completed by May or June of 2014, and the “P” Street streetscape will be completed in August.

The Parks & Recreation Department, NRD, and UNL received the Mayor’s Art Award for the Antelope Valley project and Union Plaza. Anne said it is nice to have the recognition.

The next meeting will be held on July 11th. Members interested should meet at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Participants will be loading up on buses to look at the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor project. They will be stopping at Spring Creek Nature Center and will have discussion and a light lunch and then return to the Nature Center. Please let Angie know if you plan to attend.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Ripley and seconded by Larry Hudkins. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Mary Johnson.