

## MINUTES

*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting*  
Room 113 - County City Building  
Thursday, October 8, 2009

### **Members Present:**

Jonathan Cook	Todd Fitzgerald	Robert Ripley
Curt Donaldson	Karen Hand	Susan Rodenburg
Susan Deitchler	Anne Pagel	Dennis Scheer
Ray Stevens	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball
Ian Chapo		

**Members Absent:** Rod Confer                      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 (Stevens) to approve the minutes of the Sept. 10, 2009 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)

The committee met regarding the recommendation for the naming of Eden Pool in memory of John Reta. They received a letter from Robert Adams asking that the pool be named in memory of Mr. Reta. Mr. Reta managed the Eden Pool from 1962-1966, coached for Southeast High School, and he later coached for UNL. He has been recognized as having a positive influence for swimming in the City of Lincoln and the State of Nebraska. Mr. Adams was not present.

Lynn Johnson said the issue was discussed at the staff level and by the committee. He said the committee felt Mr. Reta had an impact on swimming within the City and on the State level but at the staff level they did not feel that his accomplishments reached the level of civic accomplishments required to name the pool after Mr. Reta. It was the staff's recommendation to place a plaque at the bathhouse at Eden Pool recognizing Mr. Reta's achievements. The plaque would be funded by donations.

***The Committee motion regarding Mr. Adams' request was to place a plaque recognizing Mr. Reta's accomplishments at the Eden Pool bathhouse. Mr. Reta's supporters will be asked to pay the costs for the plaque. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

### Futures Committee - Bob Ripley (Chair)

A group has proposed donating Tour de Lincoln artwork "Rest Area" for permanent display in Antelope Park in memory of Greg Dunbar. Lynn Johnson stated the Board will be making a recommendation to the City Council regarding a resolution for accepting the art work. The art work was created and displayed during the Tour De Lincoln public art project. During the auction at the end of Tour de Lincoln, GPTN tried to purchase this piece but bidding went above what they had been able to. The owner is interested in donating the artwork in honor of Mr. Dunbar.

***A motion was made (Committee) to recommend acceptance of the Tour de Lincoln art work for permanent display in Antelope Park in memory of Greg Dunbar. The motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Community Crops is a Lincoln independent, non-profit organization, responsible for managing garden plots in Lincoln. The community gardens are currently on private property. Community Crops has approached the Parks Department regarding the opportunity to establish community gardens within park area(s).

Lynn Johnson said the intent is to move forward by setting up guidelines and policies for establishment of community garden areas within parks. The guidelines need to be established and forwarded to the Futures Committee for their review and discussion. After the Futures Committee approve guidelines, they would then bring the guidelines to the Advisory Board for adoption. Ian Chapo asked if Community Crops would be paying for the use of public land for community gardens. Bob Ripley said he did not think that one certain area of land was targeted for the gardens. Todd Fitzgerald has been reading material about models in other cities and said the recreation centers could support the effort for community gardens. Ray Stevens said there may be issues with insurance.

***A motion was made (Committee) to initiate a planning process with Community Crops to develop guidelines/rules for establishment of community garden areas within the parks. The motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

### Golf Committee

No Report

### Executive Committee - Karen Hand (Chair)

Karen Hand reported the next Foundation meeting would be Friday, October 16, 2009, and she would have more to report at the next meeting. She also announced the Board's joint meeting with LPF Board will be held on November 12, 2009, time to be determined.

**City Council report** by Jonathan Cook - The City Council recently passed a resolution authorizing submittal of a grant to upgrade the Billy Wolfe Trail between South 56th Street and the Holmes Lake Dam.

**County Commissioners Report** by Ray Stevens - No Report

### Staff Report

Mr. Johnson said he wants the Executive Committee to provide input on the indicators on fees and facilities. Also how to coordinate the process of fund raising with the Parks Foundation and coordinate fund raising efforts for parks and recreation facilities by allied organizations.

Lynn asked what process could be established.

### **Sherman Field Support Facilities Master Plan - J. J. Yost**

The team of BVH, The Clark Enersen Partners and Olsson Associates have been hired to develop a master plan for phased renovation efforts. Primary elements of the master plan include the following:

- New/replacement support facilities consisting of a restroom building, storage/umpire/training building and ticket office/concession building.
- Renovated stadium concourse and new entry plaza
- Grandstand upgrades and renovation of the dugout structures..
- Infield re-grading.
- Electrical transformer relocation
- New ADA parking and access walks
- Parking lot improvements including area/security lighting.
- Re-lamping outfield lights.
- Landscaping.

Much of the complex is located within the Salt Creek 100-year flood plain and the requirements associated with a development in a designated flood plain will need to be addressed.

The first priority is to construct the new restroom building to replace the old restroom structure which is past the point of repair and was discontinued from service last year. A new restroom building will probably not be ready for use at the beginning of next season but we remain hopeful it will be completed in the spring of 2010 and available for use for the majority of the season.

There is currently \$500,000 available in the CIP for priority renovation needs and a plan for additional fund raising is being developed.

Bob Ripley asked about electrical service. JJ said they are looking into the possibility of going to a pole mounted panel to eliminate the large berm currently situated near the front entrance. The estimated cost for this relocation could range from \$60,000 to \$105,000.

The master plan will be reviewed with stakeholders and the Mayor over the next couple of weeks.

### **Centennial Mall Major Renovation Project - Lynn Johnson**

The design consultant selection process has been completed and the team will be The Clark Enersen Partners, (TCEP), BVH Architects and Olsson Associates. Joanne Kissell of TCEP is currently meeting with focus groups interested in Centennial Mall including UNL, Pershing Auditorium, State Office Building employees, downtown businesses and residents. The renovation will be designed around green criteria as much as possible. In two weeks there will be a meeting of the Centennial Mall Task Force to discuss the project. Anne Pagel will serve as the PRAB representative on this task force.

Lynn Johnson stated the initial concepts for the mall include essential elements of trees, green landscaped areas and walkways, enhancement of fountains and seating factors will be added through donations. An open house is planned for November 10, 2009, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Center.

A legislative study report will be completed by early January. The final approval of the Mall Renovation Master Plan will be obtained from the Capitol Environs Commission.

Jonathan Cool asked if there was some way the Foundation could help get initial construction started. There was discussion about the relationship of beginning construction of the initial phase of mall improvements and the Special Olympics 2010.

**Update on Pioneers Park Nature Center Sustainability Plan Development - Terry Genrich**

A steering committee has been put together to develop a sustainability plan. The committee is looking at short-term and long-term plans to address the revenue issue. The short term plan calls for raising \$40,000 in the next year to avoid charging an admission fee in the next budget cycle. Then the committee wants to conduct a feasibility study to determine if there is enough support in the community to raise funds for a million dollar Endowment Fund to help with Nature Center expenses in the future.

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Curt Donaldson asked that Wells Fargo be requested to provide a letter indicating how Winnett Trust funds will be managed and distributed in consideration of new IRS regulations affecting private trust funds.

Ian Chapo asked about the Antelope Valley Artwall project. Johnson suggested that the Advisory Board, in consultation with the Lincoln Arts Council, review the proposed guidelines contained in the document prepared by the Bemis Center, as well as discuss the art work proposed within the document. The Bemis Center proposal was recently recognized by an AIA award.

**Announcements**

Centennial Mall Major Renovation Project Open House, November 10, 2009, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Temple, 332 South Centennial Mall.

Submitted by:

Mary Johnson, Senior Office Assistant  
Parks & Recreation