

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks & Recreation Department

Thursday, Nov. 10, 2011

Members Present:

Andrew Barry

Susan Deitchler

Ann Pagel

Susan Rodenburg

Joe Tidball

Keelan Chapman

Todd Fitzgerald

Jane Raybould

Dennis Scheer

Jonathan Cook

Karen Hand

Bob Ripley

Jeff Schwebke

Members Absent:

Molly Brummond

Justin Carlson

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:** *It was moved (Deitchler) and seconded (Rodenburg) to approve the minutes of the Oct. 13, 2011, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Cook abstaining.*

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- no report

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

- no report

Golf Report:

- no report

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

- no report

Staff Report:

- **Presentation by Brian Baker, LLCHD, re: smoke-free/tobacco-free parks and recreation facilities:** Lynn Johnson introduced Brian Baker and Judy Halstad from the Health Department. Brian shared some of the ideas the Health Dept. has in their effort to work with the Board of Health to eliminate smoking in most of the Parks & Recreation outdoor facilities. Judy Halstead (Health Dept. Director) reported on other states (Colorado and California) who are working on the outdoor smoke-free and tobacco-free issue. The Health Department is also currently working with hotels, apartment complexes etc. to up their no-smoking numbers on a voluntary initiative basis. These are all voluntary initiatives. The Health Department still gets smoking complaints on outdoor

children play areas, trails and parks. Judy said the Board of Health is interested in visiting with a couple of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members to look at the smoking complaints and get ideas that the PRAB members may have to look at some changes in the current policies.

Lynn Johnson said the Parks Department has a regulation that Pinewood Bowl entertainment area and all public swimming pools are currently designated as smoke free. But beyond that, the Department hasn't talked about trails, athletic facilities etc. being designated smoke-free. Part of the discussion will be: are there other Parks & Recreation facilities that should be designated as smoke free?. Lynn said that he will initiate a users satisfaction survey of some type to see what the community's reaction would be to making trails and outdoor play areas smoke free. The Park Board members willing to meet and work with the Board of Health members are Todd Fitzgerald, Keelan Chapman, Jane Raybould and Susan Larson Rodenburg.

- **Presentation re: Lincoln 350 marketing plan prepared by Active Network:** Lynn Johnson reported that the Mayor's Office has been looking at opportunities for the City to generate revenue through some type of sponsorship program. They hired Active Network out of California to develop programs to seek private funds to help support City government. Active Network visited Lincoln several times to look at facilities and what we currently do and came back with a report and suggestions for about eight types of things that could be done. Lynn briefed the Board on the four of these suggestions that directly pertain to the P&R Department: (1) Beverage and Snack Vending; (2) Public Recycling; (3) Daily Deal Program; and (4) Proud Partners / Naming Rights. Johnson said there is a staff working committee and a joint City-County working committee who will be looking at these suggestions.

After discussion it was moved (Rodenburg) and seconded (Deitchler) that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board go on record stating they are open to look at the Active Networks suggestions as long as they don't decrease current revenue and that any extra revenue generated would go back to the Parks Department and not to the General Fund - simply put "the Department is willing to collaborate as long as it doesn't decrease revenue (preferably it would increase revenue)". Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

Jane Raybould said that the joint City-County working committee will be meeting on November 15th at noon in the Mayor's Conference Room to discuss this issue further.

- **Presentation of FY 2010-11 Parks & Recreation Department Annual Report:** Lynn Johnson shared the Department's Annual Report with Board members. He said the Mayor has asked departments to think about what directions or initiatives that they would have an interest in working on over the next four years. The presentation was built around the City outcomes. Highlights of the report that Lynn discussed were: Safety and Security (Parks & Recreation's school-age program falls under this category); Healthy and Productive People (Therapeutic Programs, Team sports and Golf fall under this category); Liveable Neighborhoods (Community Forestry, Parks, Parks & Open Spaces, Outdoor Public Pools and Recreation Centers fall under this category) and Environmental Quality (Pioneers Park Nature Center all fall under this category). Lynn went over the number of participants, cost recovery and goal objectives for each of the above categories. Lynn responded to questions asked by Board members.

The above complete presentation will be put on the City's website soon.

- **Presentation re: traditional public forum provisions as related to parks and public right-of-way:** Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney, reported on the Occupy Lincoln citizens who are camping on Centennial Mall. The Law Department was contacted by Occupy Lincoln several weeks ago that they wanted to set up their tents on the Mall. All entities involved met with the group and found them to be very cooperative. The

questions was raised about how to treat Centennial Mall - as park land (that's never been dedicated) or City right-of-way?

Since the Mall has always been treated as right-of-way there are no hours of operation listed (as they are with all other parks). The City did not want to infringe on the group's first amendment right of free speech which could have possibly led to a lawsuit, so they decided to continue to treat the Mall as public right-of-way since there's really no ordinances that prohibits anyone from camping on City ROW or public spaces.

Jocelyn said the other issue that she is working on is the ACLU contact re: parks permits and they are still working on that process with ACLU to make sure everyone is on the same page. The Occupy Lincoln group were told they would not be required to have a permit to camp on the Mall; however, they will need to have a permit for the parades that go through downtown Lincoln on Saturdays and one from the State Capitol whenever they want to use the steps of the Capitol. Jocelyn said the entire group is very cooperative and very respectful and have not presented any type of problem on the Mall.

After Occupy Lincoln moves on, the City plans to work on enacting an ordinance that would prohibit camping on Centennial Mall but they can't do it right now. Such an ordinance will be necessary to protect the Mall in the future. Any new policies will be brought to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their review and approval.

Announcements:

- None

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.