

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks and Recreation Conference Room

Thursday, April 9, 2015 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt	Justin Carlson	Jonathan Cook	Jim Crook
Todd Fitzgerald	Larry Hudkins	Peter Levitov	Sherrie Nelson
Robert Ripley	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball	

Members Absent:

Susan Deitchler Emily Graul Olive Martin Anne Pagel Kathi Wieskamp

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director
Jerry Shorney, Assistant Director
Terry Genrich, Assistant Director
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Adm.
JJ Yost, Planning Design & Const. Manager

Call to Order & Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Peter Levitov announced that the Board follows the regulations of the Open Meetings Act, and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda):

None.

PRESENTATION BY ARNOLD YOUTH AMBASSADORS:

The Arnold CLC Youth Ambassadors and their coordinator made a presentation to the Board on a project that they had been working on. Each pair of Ambassadors provided information regarding how they determined what their neighborhood project would be, through brainstorming different ideas, voting on the old Arnold School site as a park, and then putting together their various thoughts for what they would like the park to look like. However, after discovering that the City of Lincoln Parks & Recreation does not own the land at the old school site, they moved their focus to Bowling Lake Park. The Ambassadors took on the task of surveying fellow students third through fifth grade, asking what they would like to see at the park, as well as what they currently like at the park, and then provided their version of what they would like the park to look like in the future.

The Board thanked the group for the presentation, and Lynn Johnson informed that a Bowling Lake Park playground is in the planning stages, and that staff would like to reach out to the Youth Ambassador group to include their ideas.

Todd Fitzgerald arrived at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Larry Hudkins and seconded by Bob Ripley to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2015 meeting as presented. ***Motion was approved by unanimous vote of members present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Executive Committee – Peter Levitov (Chair) 488-2742**

Peter informed the group that the two Student members of the Board have agreed to continue in their role for another year, with their new term to expire in May, 2016.

Peter also reported that there were no requests from Board members to move to a new sub-committee, which will therefore remain the same. He also noted that he would like the chair of the sub-committees to provide monthly information to the full Board regarding what they are currently discussing whether or not there is a current action item on the agenda, in order to keep the Board apprised of possible upcoming items.

From the Futures Committee agenda item, it was also conveyed that the next meeting of the Futures Committee will also include a Lincoln Children's Zoo tour and question/answer session on April 21st at 5:00 p.m. Lynn Johnson provided additional information on the proposed Zoo expansion which seeks to include additional land use in the Antelope Park Triangle area. The initial intent would be for the Zoo to first conduct a planning study prior to fundraising efforts. A number of additional conversations and meetings will occur prior to any future approval action.

Peter Levitov left at 4:45 p.m., and Todd Fitzgerald presided.

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

Lynn and JJ Yost reported that the Pinewood Bowl Master Plan is in process at this time, with additional meetings to be held prior to finalizing a complete plan. Jerry Shorney also informed that a grant was received from the Visitors Improvement Fund to help with parking during renovations.

The Dog Facilities Master Plan is also in process with an on-line community survey near the end of completion. An additional survey will then be produced from the initial responses which will include more specific questions on design and location. A draft plan is anticipated to be ready for Futures Committee review at the June meeting, with a recommendation to the full Board possibly in July.

Bob reminded members of the April 21st Futures Committee meeting and the tour and question/answer session at the Zoo afterwards, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

- **Fees & Facilities Committee – Susan Deitchler (Chair) 488-4224**

In Susan's absence, Lynn informed the Board that staff has been working with the City Landfill and a number of community organizations to develop a vision for the N. 48th Street Landfill. The topic will be discussed further at the Fees & Facilities Committee at their April meeting. Another topic that will be revisited by Fees & Facilities will be the yarn bombing guidance.

JJ Yost left at 5:00 p.m.

- **Golf Report – Brad Brandt (Chair) 473-9619**

Brad reported that the Golf Committee held a special meeting on March 19th, with Steve Hubka from the City Finance Department also in attendance. Discussions were held regarding budget development, capital improvement development and the process, 2014-15 and 2015-16 budget, and the organizational chart and staff positions.

Wade Foreman was recently introduced to the Golf Committee as the new Player Development Supervisor. Forward tees were also again discussed by the Committee, with golfing groups identified to walk the course and provide input of proposed locations.

Jerry Shorney noted that an open house was held on Saturday, April 4th, at Holmes Golf Course and was well attended with an estimated over 200 individual throughout the day. A number of vendors were also present with many services and products.

A brief discussion was also held among Board members and staff regarding the number of Ash trees on golf courses and the financial effects of EAB.

Todd Fitzgerald left at 5:30 p.m., and Brad Brandt presided.
Justin Carlson left at 5:45 p.m.

STAFF REPORT:

- Lynn Johnson provided an overview of the strategic planning process currently being undertaken by the Parks & Recreation Department staff, presenting a power point showing current indicators and performance measures, as well as new indicators and future goals. A copy of the power point presentation is attached to the official minutes on record.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Wake Up the Beds volunteer planting at Sunken Gardens, Saturday, May 16th, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- Arbor Day Celebration will be held at Saratoga Elementary School with tree planting and program on April 27th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Wild Adventure at Pioneers Park Nature Center on Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.