

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Parks & Recreation Conference Room
Thursday, April 12, 2012

Members Present:

Andrew Barry	Molly Brummond	Justin Carlson	Jonathan Cook
Jim Crook	Susan Deitchler	Todd Fitzgerald	Karen Hand
Anne Pagel	Jane Raybould	Bob Ripley	Susan Rodenburg
Dennis Scheer	Joe Tidball		

Members Absent:

Keelan Chapman Jeff Schwebke

Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Anne Pagel announced that the Board follows the regulations of this Act, as posted.

*** APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *It was moved (Deitchler) and seconded (Scheer) to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2012, after corrections are made. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Hand, Ripley and Scheer abstaining. (A copy of the amended minutes will be kept on file at the Parks & Recreation Admin Office.)*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): There were several members of the Taylor Park neighborhood who attended the meeting to address the issue of the long and/or native grass areas that are being established in Taylor Park. Staff members of Parks and Recreation will continue to address their concerns but assured them that this is a 'work in progress' that will take at least five years to see the benefits.

There was one member of the Roberts Park neighborhood in attendance who asked permission to mow a part of the park himself in order to assist Parks staff. Jerry Shorney will work with him to accomplish this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- *** Recommendation re: updating guidance statement for new performance structure in Antelope Park:**

Parks and Recreation staff are recommending that the guidance statement for the proposed performance structure in Antelope Park be revised to provide direction for developing a new schematic plan for this project. Parks and Recreation Dept. staff have met with reps of the Lincoln Municipal Band (LMB) and have recommended that a plan be developed that could be accomplished in phases over time. Staff also recommends that consideration be given to utilizing a pre-manufactured structure to reduce construction costs. An excerpt from the Guidance Statement (adopted by PRAB in 2008 and amended in 2009) is as follows:

Antelope Park and Auld Pavilion are historically significant within Lincoln's parks and recreation system. The design character of a future proposed performance structure should be respectful of and complimentary to the classic architectural features of Auld Pavilion and the Nebraska Liberty Bell Pavilion. Auld Pavilion is the signature architectural feature of this area of Antelope

Park. The proposed performance structure should be subordinate to Auld Pavilion in size, scale and architectural detailing.

The current bandshell is reportedly the 3rd performance structure constructed in Antelope Park. The architectural appearance of earlier structures was reflective of traditional park bandshells and gazebos constructed in the late 1800's and early 1900's. It is recommended that the design and appearance of a new structure be guided by the architectural appearance of traditional park bandshell structures and also that use of a pre-manufactured structure be explored as a cost savings measure.

The proposed bandshell covered stage should be designed to accommodate a 40-member band or orchestra. Accessory spaces include storage space for electrical and lighting operations and sound system, and restrooms accessible to performers and spectators. The project should be designed so that it can be developed in phases with the structure(s) appearing as a completed project upon completion of each phase. The order of phased development should be as follows: 1) covered stage; 2) storage space; and 3) restrooms.

It was moved (Committee) to accept the recommended revisions to the guidance statement for development of a replacement performance structure in Antelope Park. Dean Haist, Executive Director and first trumpet player with the Lincoln Municipal Band (LMB) testified on behalf of the Lincoln Municipal Band and said that for the last five years they have worked with the City to help create a new performance structure in Antelope Park that the citizens can be proud of. They have raised and spent about \$30,000 on the project thus far. The current proposed design, created by Bahr Vermeer Haecker, has been approved by the PRAB and one of the approved documents indicates that it is possible for an allied organization to serve as fiscal agent for fundraising purposes in a project such as this. Haist feels this is crucial for the LMB as they wish to raise funds both for necessary equipment and to help build an endowment for the LMB. He said he's attending this meeting (of the PRAB) to see action taken on what LMB views as significant changes to the project that they received less than a week ago. He said LMB feels it is critical for fundraising purposes that their donors be able to give their support for this project to the LMB and not to the Lincoln Parks Foundation.

Without changes to the proposed documents being considered at this meeting, LMB feel that the result will be a structure that is only marginally better than the current one and something that will be ridiculed for its design and shortcomings almost immediately after it is built. Haist said if these proposed documents are accepted in their current form, then LMB is no longer interested in being a part of this project. (A copy of Mr. Haist's complete presentation will be attached to the file copy of these minutes). ***Chairperson Pagel asked that the previous motion be tabled for the time being in order to discuss the next agenda item which may help clarify the LMB agenda item.***

*** Recommend adoption of a process for facility development and fundraising by allied organizations for park and recreation facilities :** The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board adopted Guidelines for Facility Development and Fundraising by Allied Organizations for Parks & Recreation Facilities in December of 2009. These guidelines were developed and adopted in tandem with the Lincoln Parks Foundation Board of Directors and describe roles and responsibilities of partners in capital projects that involve fundraising activities by an allied organization. There is interest in having an accompanying document that provides a step-by-step sequence for projects involving fundraising activities by an allied organization. A copy of the adopted guidelines and proposed process document were included in the Board members packets. ***A copy will also be included with the file copy of these minutes.*** The process document is parallel to the adopted guidelines for capital projects involving fundraising by an allied organization. Staff recommended approval of this process. Lynn Johnson explained that this does not change the way these issues are currently handled but the Department wanted it to be put on paper so everyone can see it and so that they can work through the process. Both groups (Parks Dept. and Parks Foundation) have had conversation about what the role of each is and who should serve as the fiscal sponsor for these projects. Both Boards agreed that when it's a facility constructed on Parks & Recreation property, they felt it really should be the Parks

Foundation Board who holds and manages those funds. Johnson explained that the Department is trying to accomplish two things at this meeting: 1) look at revising the guidance statement to provide guidance to updating the schematic master plan for the performance structure in Antelope Park, and, 2) adoption of the process (these two issues are related since the performance structure is the current project that is working it's way through the process). There being no further discussion, ***it was moved (Deitchler for the Committee) and seconded (Carlson) to approve the adoption of a process for facility development and fundraising by allied organizations for parks and recreation facilities. Motion passed unanimously by members present.***

Chairperson Pagel asked for further discussion on the agenda item regarding the performance structure in Antelope Park at which time Mr. Haist left the meeting stating that Lincoln Municipal Band was not interested in pursuing any further discussion. Some concern was expressed about continuing to pursue a new performance structure in Antelope Park without the assistance of the LMB.

As a reminder it was pointed out that at a previous meeting, the Board approved only the conceptual plan and not the final design of the structure which means changes can be made before it comes back to the Board in it's final form and the possibility of some type of prefabricated structure can be discussed further. ***Karen Hand moved that this item be tabled for further discussion until everyone's positions can be clarified; Susan Deitchler withdrew her previous motion regarding recommendation for updating guidance statement for new performance structure in Antelope Park.*** Susan Rodenburg asked that the Department follow up with the LMB to reinforce the fact that the Department is interested in working with them but let them know that LMB needs to follow the guidelines and process. Susan Deitchler said she would also like to include in the communication the fact that the Department and Board value the relationship with LMB and what they have offered the citizens of Lincoln.

Kevin Keller, a member of the LMB Board, said he feels there has been excellent history between the Band and the Parks Department and he feels the Band is definitely not 'married' to any plan, and that they are willing to work with the Department to accomplish the construction of some type of a new performance structure.

*** Recommendation re: declaring certain properties at 21st & M Streets and at 23rd and N Streets as surplus:** If this item is approved, it will be forwarded to the Planning Commission and then to the City Council. Lynn Johnson said the action before the Board at this meeting is to recommend that a couple Park properties be declared surplus in order for the Department to initiate a couple different actions. Johnson referred to a map of the area that was included in the members Board packets. One of the areas on the map is the Parks & Recreation Department's Maintenance facility which is two different parcels - Lot 2 includes a building that contains two maintenance shops and a building that houses Community Forestry and Public Gardens. The outlot area includes outdoor parking, storage, fuel storage area and the Muny Bathhouse that contains the (P&R) Planning & Construction Division. The intent behind this proposal is that the two maintenance shops and the Forestry section will be relocated at the new Municipal Service Center on West Bond Street (old Experian bldg.) by the end of the year. The Public Gardens section will be relocated somewhere in the area of Sunken Gardens. Lot 2 and the west portion of Outlot 1 are identified as part of a redevelopment area that includes Lot 1 which is the old Williamson Honda building that is now owned by LPSNRD and People's City Mission rents it on a month-to-month basis and Windstream is the owner of property to the south that is an old warehouse building. As an option for a developer who is interested in this area, they could also acquire the eastern part of the lot which contains the Muny Bathhouse Building and a parking lot.

The first action before the Board is a recommendation that the entire area of Lot 1, Outlot 1 west portion and Outlot east portion be declared as surplus but it's the Department's wish to retain ownership of the east portion. If a developer wants the entire area then it would have already been declared surplus and it would not have to come back to the Board. The second action is on a piece of property located along "N" Street (Lot 3) that was the location of the old Kuklin

Pool which was displaced when Antelope Valley went through the area. In the interim, Elliott School has constructed a new greenspace area and parking lot on this property. The recommendation on Lot 3 would be to declare it surplus with the intent of working through a purchase/sale agreement to transfer ownership of the property to the School District. There is an intent to get an 'Invitation for Redevelopment' out by the end of April to see if a developer is interested in this property.

Bob Ripley expressed concern about the timing of this and asked if it could be delayed by a couple months. He said he doesn't have a problem declaring the properties as surplus but he does have a problem with Parks & Recreation being displaced from facilities that are perfectly located and adapted for their use but also realizes that this is a decision to be made by the Department. Ripley also said he would like to see both the Muny Bathhouse Building and the old Telephone Co. building excluded from this action because they are both exceptionally good pieces of architecture. He feels that the land could still be surplus but when a developer makes a proposal it should be known to them that these two buildings should be identified as "required integral components" of any redevelopment plan.

Ripley read a letter that he wrote to Mayor Beutler expressing his concerns - it's only a draft and has not yet been sent to the Mayor. A copy of the letter will be included in the Department copy of these minutes.

Lynn Johnson said the Board could do one of a couple options: 1) they could recommend action on the 21st & N Street property go back to Fees & Facilities Committee for review; 2) make a recommendation that only a portion of the property be declared surplus; or 3) recommend that all of it be declared surplus with the recommendation that significant effort be made to retain the Muny Bathhouse and Telephone Co. building. Delaying this action for a month would not have a significant effect on procuring land in the Stevens Creek area for a future park site.

After further discussion it was moved (Fitzgerald) and seconded (Carlson) that the Board recommend approval of surplusizing the property at 21st & N (Lot 3) but delay action on the east portion of 21st & "M" Street property. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of members present. This will not go to the Planning Commission until the Board has taken final action.

It was then moved (Cook) and seconded (Scheer) to defer the remaining properties (Outlot 1 and Lot 2) back to the Fees & Facilities and/or Futures Committees for further review. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

Lynn Johnson said that due to the length of this meeting he would like to bypass the Golf Rounds and Revenue Report, table the Recommendation re: guidelines for planting of trees in park areas by private parties, move on the Behavior Policy for Parks & Recreation facilities and programs and table the rest of the agenda items.

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

- No report.

Golf Report:

- Dale Hardy distributed a copy of the latest report on Golf Rounds and Revenues and reported that the golf program is having a great year thus far!

Executive Committee - Anne Pagel (Chair) - 570-9194

- * **Recommendation re: guidelines for planting of trees in park areas by private parties:** Tabled.

Staff Report:

- *** Recommendation re: Behavior Policy for Parks and Recreation facilities and programs:** Lynn Johnson introduced Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney who is assigned to work with the Parks and Recreation Department. Johnson distributed an updated copy of the Behavior Policy for Parks & Recreation Facilities/Programs. The proposed City of Lincoln Parks & Recreation Department Behavior Policy: Disruptive and/or Prohibited Conduct establishes policy guidelines across all facilities and programs managed by the Department. The proposed policy establishes definitions for inappropriate behaviors that are detrimental or disruptive to other patrons, participants and facilities, and establishes a stepped approach of warnings followed by restrictions from a facility or program for individuals violating the policy. Individual sections have established guidelines over time for managing inappropriate or disruptive behaviors. The proposed behavior policy provides a standardized approach across all Department programs and facilities. Similar policies are being used by the City Libraries and Aging Division.

Jocelyn briefly went over the policy and she and Sandy Myers (P&R Recreation Supervisor) responded to questions asked by Board members. This policy will get final approval by a mayoral Executive Order and then it will become a public document and staff will be trained accordingly. ***It was then moved (Crook) and seconded (Scheer) that the Board recommend approval of the conceptual P&R Dept. Behavior Policy with modifications as agreed to by the Parks Director. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

- **Status report of Holmes Golf Course Clubhouse replacement project:** Tabled
- **Status report on Nebraska's Centennial mall Phase I construction** - Tabled
- **Report on process to seek a new regional park site in the Stevens Creek basin** - Tabled
- **Planning for Union Plaza and Jayne Snyder Trails Center dedication** - Tabled

Announcements:

- Nature's Market at PPNC - Saturday, April 21st - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Volunteer Rose Pruning Event/Seminar at Hamann Rose Garden - April 14th, 1:00 p.m.
- Arbor Day Tree Ceremony at Kahoe Park, April 25th - 9:00 a.m.
- Spring Volunteer Tree Planting at Densmore Park - April 28th - time TBD
- 10th Anniversary Open House at "F" St. Community Ctr., April 29th, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- Public Opinion Survey on tobacco use in outdoor parks and recreation facilities - www.lincoln.ne.gov survey is available in the "hot box" on main page through April 30th.