MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Room 113, City-County Bldg..

Thursday, August 12, 2010

Members Present:

Curt Donaldson	Susan Deitchler	Todd Fitzgerald	Karen Hand
Bob Ripley	Susan Rodenburg	Jeff Schwebke	Ray Stevens
Joe Tidball			

Members Absent:

Jonathan Cook	Anne Pagel	Dennis Scheer

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 May 13, 2010, meeting:** ***It was moved (Rodenburg) and seconded (Fitzgerald) to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2010, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Hand and Stevens abstaining.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Holsteen were present to appeal the Parks & Recreation Department's decision not to allow their son (who will be 9 years old as of Sept. 1, 2010) to register and play on an NFL Flag Football team of 7-8 year old players. ***After the Holsteen's presentation and questions/discussion of Board members it was moved (Hand) and seconded (Ripley) to deny the appeal and recommend that the Holsteen's abide by the rules/regulations/guidelines as set forth by the Parks & Recreation Department's Athletic Division. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- *** Recommendation regarding naming green space generally located at East Summit Blvd. and Sheridan Blvd. and Sheridan Blvd. as the 'Jan Pitsch Green' in recognition of endowing care of the area:** Deitchler explained that Jan Pitsch lived in the area of this subject green space for many years. She adopted and actively cared for this area up until the time of her death a few years ago. Her estate planning included placement of funds with the LCF with the intent that a portion of the funds be used to care for and enhance green spaces along Sheridan Blvd. P&R staff have worked with LCF staff to develop a plan for landscape improvements to and on-going care of the subject area. ***It was moved (Committee) to recommend naming of the green space generally located at East Summit & Sheridan Blvds. As 'Jan Pitsch Green' in recognition of an endowment fund being established for care of the area. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

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

- No report.

Golf Committee - Rounds and Revenue: Steve Hiller reported that golf revenue is currently down approximately 14% and rounds played are down about 12%, due mostly to poor playing weather conditions. Hiller said this is the last month that the City will be making a payment for the Highlands Golf Course bond that they've been paying on for the last 19 years. The 20th year payment will be made

from the escrow money that was set aside when the bond payments began. Because of the bond payments, several golf program capital improvement needs have been put on hold such as the following (listed according to priority):

- replace clubhouse at Holmes Golf Course (approx. $1.3 million)
- replace irrigation system at Pioneers Golf Course ($850 - 900,000)
- build irrigation storage pond at Holmes Golf Course
- Reuse City water well at Ager Jr. Golf for irrigation
- install new irrigation system at Ager using well water
- replace parking lot at Pioneers Golf Course
- major tree planting at Pioneers, Holmes and Mahoney Golf Courses
- maintenance shop replacement at Pioneers Golf Couse
- irrigation system replacement at Holmes Golf Course
- irrigation system replacement at Highlands Golf Course

Discussion took place among Parks staff and Board members regarding the above list. Hopefully now that the Highlands bond has been paid off, some of the other needs can be addressed. Hiller said the contracts with the golf pros at each course will be re-evaluated this year and somehow new/more revenue sources need to be determined. When asked if any of the golf courses could be sold, Hiller responded that because three of the four courses (Pioneers, Mahoney and Holmes) were purchased with Federal Land and Water funds, they cannot be sold outright but could be converted to some other type of park use; however, since Highlands was paid for by the golf enterprise, it could be sold if it ever came to that.

Hiller and Board members discussed a proposed conceptual drawing of a new clubhouse at Holmes Golf Course. The new building would be approximately 7,500 sq. ft. and accommodate about 150 people so that events held at Holmes Golf Course would then be able to use the new clubhouse for a dinner and/or award ceremonies etc. The suggestion was made that perhaps a second floor on the new clubhouse (that could maybe be sublet to a restaurant) would be a good idea. Hiller said that idea would definitely be taken into consideration if a new building is constructed.

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

- **City Council Report** by Jonathan Cook: - Lynn Johnson said the biggest challenge in this year's budget is that approximately $4 million worth of 'one time' money was used which leaves that fund almost non existent. The options at this time for next year's budget are either finding some new revenue, which probably means an increase in property taxes, significant reduction in services to get the cost down, and reorganizations could all help a little. Possible changes within the Court of Industrial Relations (by the Legislature) was also discussed briefly.

- **County Commissioners Report** by Ray Stevens: Stevens reported:
  - the Board of Commissioners took part in a public tour of the new jail facility that is due to be completed in the summer of 2012;
  - the Public Hearing on the County Budget will be held on August 31at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.
  - the dedication ceremony of the historical marker in Wilderness Park commemorating an 1894 train wreck was very well planned and well attended.

Curt Donaldson reported that the Crawford Trust issue was settled in court about a month ago and that money will now go into an unrestricted fund and will continue to accumulate for 159 years. Lynn Johnson said the City was able to get the word "endowment" worked into the agreement so now not only will the proceeds be available to acquire and develop that park, but there will now be funds in an endowment for it's on-going care.

- **Lincoln Parks Foundation Report** - no report.

Staff Reports:

- None.

Announcements:

- the Fees & Facilities meeting on August 19th will be held at 5:00 p.m. rather than 4:00 p.m. and the presentation will by a group of UNL landscape architectural students who have developed a master plan for a tournament sports complex at Oak Lake Park.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Jeanne Bowling, Secretary to the Director
Parks & Recreation Dept.