MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Room 113, City-County Bldg..

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Members Present:

Andrew Barry	Molly Brummond	Justin Carlson	Keelan Chapman
Jonathan Cook	Susan Deitchler	Curt Donaldson	Todd Fitzgerald
Karen Hand	Ann Pagel	Jane Raybould	Bob Ripley
Dennis Scheer	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball	

Members Absent:

Susan Rodenburg

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 (Pagel) to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2011, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Hand abstaining.***

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

* **Recommendation re: modifications to the Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Program for additional expenditures totaling $1,000,000:** Susan Deitchler thanked Jonathan Cook and other Council members for their action that resulted in an additional $1 million being added to the Parks & Recreation Department's Capital Improvement Program this year to be spent on repairs and replacement items that have been delayed for a number of years. Lynn Johnson reported that a parks and recreation facilities finance study was prepared in 2005 that determined the replacement value of Lincoln's parks and recreation facilities, not including land, was about $130 million. It also showed that about $1.3 million was needed annually for repair and replacement of facilities to keep them in good condition and accessible to visitors and users. Due to economic conditions, funding for facility repair/replacement projects has declined dramatically over the past 10 years and this reduction in funding has resulted in deferred repair and replacement of all types of facilities. With the additional $1 million appropriated by the City Council many of these repairs/replacements can be made. JJ Yost went over the current 2011-2012 CIP proposed list of repairs and replacements and responded to questions asked by Board members. JJ also reported on the new ADA requirements for swimming pools. ***After brief discussion, it was moved (Fees/Facilities Committee) to approve the Department's recommendation regarding modifications to the Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Program for additional expenditures totaling $1,000,000. The proposed expenditures will address proposed priorities for repair and replacement of parks and recreation facilities. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

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

* **Recommendation re: amendments to guidelines regarding inscribed bricks and pavers:** Lynn Johnson reported on the issue of inscribed bricks and pavers. Some of the engraved bricks (located in Sunken Gardens, the Rose Garden and soon to be at Sherman Field) are beginning to show wear and tear and are becoming rather difficult to read. Currently the bricks are engraved by sandblasting. A stain is applied to the letters after sandblasting. Over time this stain can fade and become difficult to read. In some instances, donors have asked what the policy is re: furbishing/replacement of the pavers. The Department is recommending a proposed amendment to the P&R Dept. Policy. ***After discussion it was moved (Futures Committee) to recommend approval of the following language as an amendment to the existing policy: Longevity: concrete unit pavers are anticipated to have a useful life of more than 50 years. Inscriptions in concrete pavers should be of a font and depth that will allow the letters to be visible and legible for the life of the unit paver. On occasion, inscriptions in unit pavers may become difficult to read. When a concern re: the legibility of an inscribed paver is brought to the attention of Parks and Recreation Dept. staff, options for addressing the concern should be taken in the following order: 1) clean the paver and inscription in place, and reapply paint or stain the inscribed letters; or 2) replace the inscribed paver. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*** Lynn noted that all the bricks and their location are kept by the Department in a data base to make it easier for the bricks to be located.

* **Recommendation re: proposed revisions to the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Chapter and the Environmental Resources Chapter of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan in conjunction with the LPlan 2040 update re: neighborhood pools:** Lynn Johnson reported that the Planning Commission has some concerns about the current language in the Comp Plan as it relates to neighborhood pools. The PRAB recommended adoption of a series of revisions to the Comp Plan in conjunction with the LPlan 2042 update, including significant revisions to the Aquatic Facilities section. The direction for neighborhood pools included in the current draft plan states: *Evaluate five neighborhood pools (Air Park, Ballard, Belmont, Eden and Irvingdale) for major renovation or replacement with a sprayground. Air Park, Ballard and Belmont may be considered for replacement with sprayground facilities due to cost recovery.* The Alternative Proposed Strategy Statement for Neighborhood Pools is as follows: *Renovate the five neighborhood pools (Air Park, Ballard, Belmont, Eden and Irvingdale) to bring the pool basins and bathhouses into compliance with accessibility guidelines, contingent upon adequate funding for annual operations and for repair/renovation costs.* The current LPlan 2040 shows five pools - one in each quadrant of the City and one in Air Park. It also calls for a Star City Shores type facility to be built somewhere in northeast Lincoln, perhaps in the Stevens Creek Basin, if it would recover all its operating costs. The Board felt that swimming pools are very important and they would like to be able to keep the pools that we currently have - that the ability to "swim" would be lost in a sprayground facility. ***After further discussion, it was moved (Futures Committee) to recommend approval of the proposed revisions regarding neighborhood pools to the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Chapter of the 'Draft' Lincoln-Lancaster County Comp Plan in conjunction wit the LPlan 2040 update. Motion carried by majority vote of members present with Cook abstaining.***

Golf Report:

- Steve Hiller distributed copies of the "Rounds by Fiscal Year" report that shows the decrease in rounds played over the last 18 years. Rounds for last season were down approximately 2.2% and revenue was up about .2%. Pioneers Golf Course continues to have the most rounds played. Rain conditions at Holmes Golf Course played a large part in the decrease of rounds played there and the national economy is also a factor in people playing less golf as rounds are down across the entire country.

- The final payment on the bond for Highlands Golf Course was paid on August 1, 2011. Some of those funds will now shift to help pay for the new clubhouse at Holmes Golf Course. Hiller reported that an architectural contract has been signed for the new clubhouse.
- In honor of paying off the Highlands bond debt, today (Sept. 8th) the Golf Program is

kicking off a "roll back in fees" promotion that you can play 18 holes for a $12 greens fee or $8 for 9 holes. The promotional will go through the end of September. Hopefully it will encourage golfers to play more golf!

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

- No report

Staff Report:

- No report

Announcements:

- The Volunteer Tree Planting Project at Pioneers Park will be held on Saturday, October 1, 2011. Plans are to plant 200 new trees.

- Keelan Chapman briefed the Board on the upcoming first time LPS Student Serve (Day of Service) that will take place all over the City of Lincoln on October 1st. Projects will be performed by all grades of LPS students for both government and public/private entities. They will also be helping with the planting of 200 trees at Pioneers Park.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.