

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks & Recreation Conference Room1

Thursday, September 13, 2012

Members Present:

Justin Carlson

Jonathan I Cook

Jim Crook

Susan Deitchler

Caitlyn Do

Todd Fitzgerald

Peter Levitov

Cleo Mullison

Anne Pagel

Jane Raybould

Bob Ripley

Jeff Schwebke

Joe Tidball

Members Absent:

Molly Brummond

Karen Hand

Dennis Scheer

Anne Pagel asked the two new student members, Caitlin Do and Cleo Mullison, to introduce themselves and the Board members to introduce themselves.

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 (Tidball) to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2012, meeting as mailed. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): Jo Tetherow introduced herself and stated she was in attendance if anyone had questions re: the agenda item pertaining to the community garden in Neighbor's Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- *** Recommendation re: exploring development of a community garden in Neighbors Park, So. 37th & "C" Streets:** Susan Deitcher introduced this agenda item and Lynn Johnson said the department had met with the Woods Park Neighborhood Association and several of the Occupy Lincoln representatives were also there. If the Board approves this agenda item, the Department will work with the PRAB to develop guidelines, policies and procedures regarding development/management of community gardens in public park areas. The issue of access to water was discussed briefly and Lynn Johnson said the Department is getting a cost estimate of what it would cost to establish water service with a backflow venter and a meter. *It was moved by the Committee, seconded by Carlson, to approve exploring development of a community garden in Neighbors Park at So. 37th & C Streets. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*
- *** Recommendation re: declaring the former RI Trail Corridor between 'M' and 'O' Street, westerly of So. 21st St. as surplus property:** Development of the Antelope Valley project included development of a new trail system along the east side of the new Antelope Creek channel. Upon completion, the Billy Wolff Antelope Valley Trail serves

as a replacement of the section of the RI Trail between 'J' and 'O' Streets. The section of the trail corridor between Capital Parkway and 'M' Street has been declared surplus as part of a current redevelopment effort. There is interest in initiating redevelopment efforts in the area between 'M' and 'O' Streets, westerly of 21st St. Therefore, a proposal is brought forward to declare the sections of the former RI Trail corridor as surplus property. ***It was moved by the Committee, seconded by Levitov to approve declaring the former RI Trail corridor between 'M' and 'O' street westerly of 21st St. as surplus property. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

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

- No report

Golf Report:

- Dale Hardy, Golf Administrator, distributed a two-part Rounds & Revenue report and a graph report comparing the last 20 years of rounds played.
- *** Discussion of proposed Lincoln Municipal Golf Advisory Committee, including possible designation of a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board representative to the committee:** Lynn Johnson stated that the department has been working with an ad-hoc golf committee this summer and one of the things he would like to do is to formalize that committee. At one time the golf committee was a sub-committee of the PRAB but when he proposed that to the ad-hoc committee, they were not in favor of being under the Board. They want to be an independent, advisory committee - they were concerned that their recommendations may get diluted working through the process. Lynn explained that this would not be an issue, but, at this point, they are not interested in being a sub-committee. Lynn is now proposing that a new Lincoln Municipal Golf Advisory Committee (LMGAC) be formed. There would be seven members: one member would be selected from the LMGA, the Lincoln Women's Golf Association and the Senior Men's Golf League; the other four members would be selected at-large. Johnson asked if the Board felt it would also be beneficial to have a member from the PRAB represented on the committee (Todd Fitzgerald was later appointed to serve on the committee).

The committee will be form by Executive Order, which means they will have one-year terms and may or may not be reappointed by the Mayor. The Department is currently working on a set of By-Laws for the committee. Johnson would like to see the committee be actively engaged in the budgeting process over the next couple years. In the next year the City will be bringing in an outside independent consultant to take a look at the golf program and help develop a sustainability strategy. The committee would also be involved in recommendations regarding rules and regulations and serve as a liaison between Parks Dept. staff, the golf professionals, and the golfing community.

Johnson said this issue was before the Board with two questions: (1) would the Board like to propose that they have a representative on the LMGAC, and (2) if so, is anyone willing to serve in that capacity? Johnson said the committee definitely will be formed and some of the things they could handle would be setting the golf fees, and facility development issues. Johnson said the other option would be that if there is a Board representative on the committee, they could report back to the PRAB on a regular basis. He said he would definitely like to have a connection between the Board and the new committee and feels that once the committee felt 'comfortable' working with the Board, they may also be comfortable becoming a sub-committee of the board. There was discussion (from the committee) that they would like to be more of an administrative group rather than an advisory group but that was never an option considered by the Department. Johnson said he now feels they know that they will be an advisory committee. He also said that if the Board feels strongly that the group should once again be a sub-committee under the PRAB, that's the message he will take back to the group. ***After lengthy discussion among Board members, it was moved (Ripley) and seconded (Cook?) to reinstate the golf committee as a sub-committee of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. The Advisory Board would like staff to bring forward a set of by-laws for this***

committee for the Board's review and approval. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

It was reinforced that the committee be set up by executive order and the rules as to how the members are chosen needs to come back to the Board for their approval. The group would serve as an advisory committee and it was suggested that the at-large members be chosen from the list of people submitted by the three main groups (LMGA, LWMGA and Senior Golf League).

This committee is currently meeting on the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at the Parks Admin Office.

Lynn Johnson reported that an appeal meeting had been conducted regarding banning of five members of a recreational softball league pursuant to the recently adopted behavior policy. The banning action was taken in response to aggressive and threatening verbal and physical actions that occurred during a Parks & Recreation softball league tournament in July. Johnson thanked PRAB member Susan Deitchler for participating in the appeal meeting.

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

- No report.

Staff Report:

- Lynn Johnson distributed copies of the new tobacco policy for designated park facilities that will go into effect November 1, 2012.

Announcements:

- Union Plaza Grand Opening Community Celebration, Sept. 13th, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Union Plaza.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.