

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks & Recreation Department

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Members Present:

Andrew Barry
Susan Deitchler
Karen Hand
Dennis Scheer

Justin Carlson
Curt Donaldson
Ann Pagel
Jeff Schwebke

Keelan Chapman
Todd Fitzgerald
Bob Ripley
Joe Tidball

Members Absent:

Molly Brummond Jonathan Cook Jane Raybould 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 (Hand) and seconded (Carlson) to approve the minutes of the Sept. 8, 2011, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting as mailed. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS (other than those listed on the current Agenda): Tom Alexander, 1909 So. 77th St., attended the meeting and shared his concerns about the long grass in Trendwood Park. Jerry Shorney said he would work with the Trendwood neighborhood next summer to see if they can reach a workable solution for at least a portion of the park. Jerry responded to questions asked by Board members regarding this issue.

Shorney then went over the table of "Mowable Acreage Reduction 2003-2011". There are about 850 acres of long grass areas in neighborhood, community, and regional parks - the Department's goal is to transform about 20-25 acres a year (of the long grass areas) to native grasses and wildflowers. Currently there about 100 acres of parkland that have been converted to native grass. Part of the reason for the long grass is that over the years, the Department has had to reduce both resources and labor, so they can no longer take care of parkland the same as they have in the past. *(A copy of the handout will be attached to the file copy of these minutes).*

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- *** Recommendation re: lease of parkland (Wilderness Park) for pasture at approximately SW 2nd and Calvert Street:** Recently, Chuck Kuhnel, owner of a commercial horse stable at 200 W. Calvert St., approached the Parks & Recreation Department about harvesting hay off of the subject parcel, and about leasing an area of about 3-5 acres of the property as pasture. The subject parcel is managed as long grass with annual mowing to control invasive tree species. The predominant vegetation is brome grass. The Department has no plans to develop this particular part of Wilderness Park and money received from the lease could be used to refurbish parts of Wilderness Park. ***After brief discussion it was moved (Committee) for the Parks & Recreation Department to establish an agreement with Mr. Kuhnel to allow for hay to be removed from the subject parcel, and to lease an area adjoining his property for use as pasture/exercise areas for horses stabled at his facility. Motion carried by***

unanimous vote of members present. This item will now go to the County Commissioners for their approval because the parcel is located in Lancaster County.

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

- *** Recommendation re: Recommendation to the Mayor re: continuation of funding for repair and replacement projects within the FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 budgets:** The adopted budget for the current fiscal year included appropriation of an additional \$1 million in general funds for parks and recreation facility repair and replacement projects. On October 3, 2011, the City Council approved allocation of these funds to 13 projects. Bob Ripley reported that the Futures Committee strongly endorses this recommendation to the Mayor that this funding continue at least for the next two budget years, but he would really like to see it continue for many more years. A letter to this affect will be signed by Joe Tidball and forwarded to the Mayor. ***It was moved (Committee) that this letter of recommendation be sent to the Mayor regarding continuation of funding for repair and replacement projects within the FY 2012-13 and FY 2013-14 budgets. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***

Golf Report:

- Steve Hiller updated the Board on recent changes made within the Golf Program. The Department is making Golf Pro changes both at Mahoney and Holmes Golf Courses. Denis Vontz will now oversee both Highlands and Mahoney courses and Tim Rowland will oversee Pioneers and Holmes courses. Hiller also gave an update on the proposed new clubhouse that will be built at the Holmes Golf Course. The new clubhouse will be placed just east of the current one which will enable the clubhouse to remain open during construction of the new one which should save the program about \$40,000 - \$50,000. The new clubhouse will be approximately 7,000 sq. ft.
- Rounds and revenue were both up the month of September and beginning of October and the rollback promotion was well received and has been quite successful.

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

- Lynn Johnson reported the Parks Foundation met on Wednesday (Oct. 12) and made a commitment of \$75,000 for the Centennial Mall project. They also passed a resolution recognizing that they will be a Lincoln Cares project sponsor next year. Bill Woito, who has served as the Foundation's Treasurer for over 16 years will be stepping down the end of this year. ***It was moved (Ripley), and seconded (Scheer) that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board extend their most sincere appreciation and thanks for Bill's many years of tireless effort on behalf of the Parks Foundation. Motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.***
- Johnson also reported the Foundation Board approved increasing Danielle Conrad's role with the Foundation and she will now be working 3/4 time for the Foundation on an on-going basis.

Staff Report:

- **Pool operations report for summer, 2011:** Lynn Johnson said the Department made some changes last year in evening hours at the pools but, in general, it was a pretty good year for pools. Sandy Myers distributed the 2011 Swimming Pool Operations Report and went over attendance, subsidized swim numbers, gate revenues, concession revenues, expenses to revenues, safety statistics, pool closings, special programming, rentals, admission reimbursements, donated admissions, aquatic staff numbers and costs per swim at all pools and responded to questions asked by Board members. *(A copy of the entire report will be attached to the file copy of these minutes.)*
- **Project status report for Union Plaza:** JJ Yost reported that Union Plaza construction is going full force. He showed several power point pictures of the progress and pictures of some of the art pieces that are either already installed in the park or will be installed soon.

The Jayne Snyder Trails Center is beginning to take shape and will serve as the backdrop to the amphitheater. The Active Living Center is also progressing. The Community Health Endowment will occupy the second floor and the retail space (2100 sq. ft.) in the Active Living Center is still available. The building should be completed on schedule by next May and the final landscaping will be installed after the contractor is done.

- **Project status report for Sherman Field:** JJ Yost said construction has begun on the final phase of improvements at Sherman Field. The maintenance storage area and the new dugouts were completed last year in the first phase. Last week the old ticket and concession buildings were demolished and new buildings will be under construction shortly. The pre-fabricated restroom building will be shipped the end of next week from Texas. The project is on schedule to be completed by the middle/end of March (2012).

Announcements:

- Lynn Johnson reported that on Tuesday, Oct. 18th, at 4:00 p.m. there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the EduCare project located at Belmont Park.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.