

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Auld Pavilion, 1650 Memorial Drive (in Antelope Park south of A Street)

Thursday, March 10, 2016 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt	Justin Carlson	Roy Christensen	Susan Deitchler
Emily Graul	Larry Hudkins	Peter Levitov	Sherrie Nelson
Anne Pagel	Robert Ripley	Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball

Members Absent:

Jim Crook	Todd Fitzgerald	Olive Martin	Kathi Wieskamp
-----------	-----------------	--------------	----------------

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director	Sara Hartzell, Parks Planner
Terry Genrich, Assistant Director	Chris Myers, Maintenance Coordinator
JJ Yost, Planning & Const. Manager	Christie Dionisopoulos, Parks & Rec Foundation
Jocelyn Golden, City Law Department	Angela Chesnut, Executive Secretary

Call to Order & Recognition of ‘Open Meetings Act’: As per law, Chairperson Anne Pagel announced that the Board follows the regulations of the Open Meetings Act, and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Roll was called by Angela Chesnut.

Anne opened the meeting by providing information to members of the public in attendance: “The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board provides advice and recommendations to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Mayor, and the City Council. The Board welcomes comments from fellow citizens. We ask that comments be limited to an item on today’s agenda during consideration of that item. There is also an opportunity to speak on a topic not specifically on the agenda after approval of the minutes. We ask that comments and presentations be limited to three minutes. Those speaking are encouraged to focus on presenting new information, rather than repeating prior points or information. Speakers may note their support for comments presented by a preceding speaker. Please state your name and address at the beginning of your comments for the record of this meeting. A podium is provided for speakers.”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Peter Levitov and seconded by Justin Carlson that the minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting be approved as presented. Sherrie Nelson requested an amendment for clarification on page 2 under Golf Report, sentence 5, to read “While everyone agrees that change is needed, what that new model is remains in question.” A motion was then made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Brad Brand to approve the minutes as amended. ***The motion was approved by unanimous vote of members present.***

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Anne Pagel discussed meeting protocol and procedures (attached to official minutes on record) that she will plan follow as the Board Chairperson, and reviewed with attending members. Susan suggested an addition to the first line of paragraph 2, by adding “or committee members”, should a chairperson be absent from a Board meeting. With no other requests for changes, the procedures will stand.

- **Futures Committee – Jeff Schwebke (Chair) 261-6328**

No report.

Larry Hudkins arrived at 4:20 p.m.

- **Fees & Facilities Committee – Justin Carlson (Chair) 261-6328**

A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Bob Ripley to approve and accept the guidelines for management of trails in Wilderness Park (attached to official minutes on record), as recommended by the Fees & Facilities Committee. Sara Hartzell, Park Planner, provided a presentation outlining the proposed guidelines for maintenance activities in Wilderness Park, particularly for staff use in the maintenance of trails and crossings. Information includes national standards, design parameters in trail width, surface, and grade, mowing, tree removal, trail routing and natural re-routing, and potential closings due to safety issues.

Following the presentation, asked by Brad Brandt if there were guidelines prior to this and the frequency of staff observation and inspection, Sara informed that previous guidelines were more simply about removing invasive trees, and that width of trails should be wide enough for small utility and emergency vehicles, although also commented that it would not be possible for an emergency vehicle to access every area of the park. She also indicated that the Parks Southwest District staff are not able to view the park as frequently as many citizen users, and therefore rely on them to help inform staff of issues as they are observed. There are informational signs located at parking areas and trail heads that provide a telephone number to report concerns.

Bob Ripley inquired about the joint use of trails by equestrian and bicycles, and if that is acceptable, and whether it would be a health issue for pedestrians. Sara indicated that in general these locations are separate but on occasion access will come together where access narrows and horses and bicyclists may meet. However, there are no locations where pedestrians/hikers and equestrians use the same trails.

Anne Pagel asked if anyone from the public wished to comment on this topic, and Rosina Paolini approached the podium to speak. Rosina commented that Sara had done an amazing job in preparing the guidelines. She asked about burning not being in the guidelines, which she feels is an excellent management tool; other questions and comments were more clarification on emergency equipment access; surfacing improvements; appreciates idea of three mowings; barricading with trails with trees is unattractive; “Cat’s Claw” should be cut at the bottom and/or pulled out, as it can strangle and kill small trees; interested in who “established groups” are and that they will be inclusive of all users of the park. Sara indicated that she is in agreement with burning, and that logistics are being worked out due to the proximity of the city. She also noted that the group she has contacted is the Friends of Wilderness Park, but would be happy to establish an e-mail group to communicate to anyone who would be interested.

Audience member Marge Schlitt asked about discussion on the width of a trail and whether that was a minimum or maximum. Sara indicated that the intent of width would be determined by equipment needs.

Anne Pagel whether any of the discussion would lead to amendments that would need to be reviewed by the Board prior to approval. Brad Brandt asked about any additions over time, such as burning, and what that process would be. Lynn suggested that the Trail Management Guidelines were an addition to the overall Parks Management Plan, with burning addressed in that overall plan, and that these Guidelines are intended as a set of standards for staff and volunteers working in the park. In discussion of whether the document should be referred back to the Committee for modifications, Justin Carlson inquired as to what specific changes were being requested. Peter Levitov provided that this document could be adopted as a living and evolving document, with continual review and annual revisions as needed. Jeff suggested that the current trails portion be adopted and staff begin reviewing the overall management plan for a future review by the Board.

Roll was called on the original motion to accept the Wilderness Park Trail Management Guidelines as presented, with ***all members present voting 'yes'***.

- **Golf Report – Brad Brandt (Chair) 473-9619**

Brad Brandt talked on the February Golf Report, highlighting that the Community Committee on Lincoln City Golf Sustainability final report to the Mayor is being drafted, with the Committee meeting within the next couple of weeks to adopt that report. Suggestions from the Committee will also be a part of the overall budget Taking Charge discussions. Brad also informed that Ager Golf course will be offering the new FootGolf program, with supplies to be received in the near future.

Peter Levitov asked about progress of forward tees at the courses. Brad identified that two have been established at Holmes, with another two or three intended this fall. Cost per tee is \$2,500 to \$5,000 with City staff labor. Lynn noted that the courses are being individually reviewed with the help of the Lincoln Women's Municipal Golf Association identifying priority holes.

A motion was made by Brad Brandt to adopt the recommended 2016 funding plan and related daily fees, as recently approved unanimously by the Lincoln Municipal Golf Advisory Committee, which was seconded by Justin Carlson. Brad provided an overview of the plan with projected expenses and revenue, including a CIP surcharge of \$1.00 per 18 holes and \$.50 per 9 holes, additional \$.25 for cart rentals, and green fee increases at Highlands and Pioneers of \$2.00 per 18 holes and \$1.00 per 9 holes, with Holmes, Mahoney, and Ager to remain unchanged. Sherrie Nelson suggested that specific language be added that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) surcharge be used only for CIP needs, so that it cannot be utilized for anything else. Brad Brandt amended his original motion to reflect that CIP surcharge fees will only be used for CIP designated uses, with a second by Larry Hudkins.

Bob Ripley encouraged the Pros at each clubhouse post the 2016 fees and define what the increases are and what the revenue is intended for, specifically the CIP uses.

Audience member Guy Lindeman asked why two of the courses were at different rates, and Brad Brandt responded that the original National Golf Foundation recommendation was to have different pricing for the courses, with Highlands as the superior course and Pioneers as the most popular. Lynn Johnson added that the Highlands course is not generating sufficient revenue to support operating expenses, so this increase should prevent the other course from subsidizing the Highlands operation. In response to an additional question of Mr. Lindeman,

Lynn informed that there will be a yearly evaluation of the courses and fee structures, and that the differentiated fee structure is an experiment at this time with benchmarks to be monitored over time.

Matt Herman next approached the podium and commended Lynn and staff, especially grounds maintenance coordinator Casey Crittenden, and that all four of the courses look beautiful. He commented that the golfers feel that all four of the City courses are premium and that no one is better than the other, and that they believe fees all courses should be increased equally. Matt also suggested that a management group be established to assist with bringing the Pros and the maintenance staff working together, however not a Management Company. He encouraged raising the fuel surcharge to \$1.00 rather than \$.25. He then reiterated increasing all four courses to \$1.00 per nine holes.

Sherrie Nelson conveyed that the increased fees were done only on the west side due to the competition currently on the east side of town, and that the other courses can no longer subsidize Highlands. Mr. Herman reminded the group that the City offers four courses for a membership rather than one as the other courses do.

Brad Brandt informed that the Mayor's Community Committee reviewed the National Golf Foundation recommendation and questioned why the recommendation of the tiered system had not been tried, which helped to evolve to the currently proposed fee structure.

Lynn provided the next step of the process after approval of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, which would be forwarded to the Mayor as an Executive Order for his approval. Implementation would be suggested as April 1st.

Susan Deitchler suggested that Mr. Herman had provided good points and recommended approval and implementation for one year, followed by a review of impact and outcome.

Roll was called on the motion to amend the original motion, which will clarify that CIP surcharge fees will only be used for CIP designated uses, and ***all members present voting 'yes'***. Roll was then called on the original motion, as amended, to approve the 2016 Lincoln City Golf Fee Schedule, with ***all members present voting 'yes'***.

STAFF REPORT:

Lynn Johnson provided a brief presentation (attached to official minutes on record) regarding a new sculpture entitled Palo Alto, by artist John Buck, which will be placed at the east end of the Rotary Strolling Garden located in the Antelope Park Triangle. Placement is anticipated in mid-May, with an unveiling/dedication event at that time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Lincoln City Golf Open House, Saturday, April 2nd, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Holmes Golf Course.

Anne Pagel conveyed communication with Christie Dionisopoulos regarding her attendance and a report from the Foundation, which is suggested at future PRAB meetings as part of the Executive Committee report.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.