

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, 32nd & O Street
Lower Level Training Room
Thursday, November 10, 2016 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt	Justin Carlson	Hannah Cass	Roy Christensen
Jim Crook	Susan Deitchler	Larry Hudkins	Peter Levitov
Justine Linscott	Sherrie Nelson	Anne Pagel	Robert Ripley
Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball		

Members Absent:

Todd Fitzgerald Kathi Wieskamp

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director	JJ Yost, Planning & Construction Manager
Jerry Shorney, Assistant Director	Christie Dionisopoulos, Parks & Rec Foundation
Holly Lewis, Assistant Director	Jocelyn Golden, Assistant City Attorney
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Spec. Projects Admin.	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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Larry Hudkins and seconded by Brad Brandt that the minutes of the October 13, 2016 meeting be approved as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”:** **Bradley Brandt, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Larry Hudkins, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Sherry Nelson, Anne Pagel, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“No”:** None. **“Abstain”:** **Susan Deitchler.** Motion carried.

Justin Carlson arrived at 4:06 p.m.

Bob Ripley arrived at 4:07 p.m.

Hannah Cass arrived at 4:08 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

* Taylor Park Master Plan: Lynn Johnson informed the Board members that since there was not a quorum for the Fees & Facilities Committee meeting, there is not a Committee recommendation on this topic. The recommendation suggested is from staff only.

JJ Yost provided information regarding Taylor Park, a neighborhood park located between 70th and 56th Streets and between O and A Streets. The park playground is identified in the 10-Year Facilities Plan for upcoming renovation, which will be a complete removal and replacement project, during the 2017 construction season. Per the master plan for the

playground, it is proposed that the playground area be relocated to a more central area of the park service area nearer to Randolph Street. This location would also provide for better accessibility for heavy equipment with less park disruption, and also moves the playground structure further from the drainage channel within the park. Mr. Yost also noted that three written comments were received and distributed to Board members (copies attached to official minutes on record).

Questions from Board members were discussed. The proposed new location for the playground will be closer to the Eastridge Elementary School, however equipment at the park playground will differ and appeal to a younger age group. Constructability at the current location is a concern due to mature landscaping and the location of the drainage channel. Members of the public also came forward to provide comment:

- Hugh Genoways, 511 Haverford Drive – leave playground at current location
- Deb Sufarik, 6425 Taylor Park Drive – leave playground at current location
- Owen Paulson, 1241 Evergreen Drive – sidewalk/pathway and parking needs
- Ronda Bieber, 6317 Campbell Drive – sidewalk connection
- Dan Sufarik, 6425 Taylor Park Drive – leave playground at current location where there is shade
- Jenny Watson, 822 Mulder Drive, Eastridge Neighborhood Association Board member – safety concerns about current playground; new location would provide easier access
- Julian Tyler, 336 Park Vista – prefer current location; pathway needed
- Lucy Prior, Chairman of Tree Committee – provided handouts regarding trees and Arboretum site (attached to official minutes on record); do not need new location or basketball court; concern about emergency vehicle access at proposed location
- John Cariotto, 6310 MesaVerde Drive – care for planting area south of current playground; current location is safety issue because of creek channel; prefer new proposed location
- Jason Anderson, 324 Park Vista – not in support of paved path; not in support of black rubber surfacing due to heat
- Jami Fulwider, 935 Eastridge Drive – new location would be more accessible to Eastridge residents; focus on younger children
- Geri Froschheiser, 521 Haverford Drive – safety concern due to proposed location being isolated and not visible for security

Additional questions from the Board regarding funding and the scope of the project, trees, playground surfacing/matting, and security issues were discussed. A motion was then made by Bob Ripley and seconded by Larry Hudkins to table the Taylor Park Master Plan item at this time and refer back to the Fees & Facilities Committee for additional evaluation and Committee recommendation at the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.

Roy Christensen left at 5:00 p.m.

Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: “Yes”:** Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Hannah Cass, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Peter Levitov, Larry Hudkins, Justine Linscott, Sherry Nelson, Anne Pagel, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. **“No”:** None. **Motion carried.**

* Woods Park Master Plan: JJ Yost presented information regarding the need for additional parking spaces at Woods Park due to the relocation of the Parks & Recreation Administration office to 3140 N Street, which requires an amendment to the Woods Park Master Plan. It was again noted that with no quorum at the October Fees & Facilities Committee meeting, the recommendation comes from staff for approval of the amended master plan.

Public comment provided a concern of more of Woods Park “going away” and advocated for open space. Conversation by Board members and staff covered historical information of the expansion of the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department facility and parking needs for the purposes at that time. Woods Park is not dedicated park land, being gifted to the City for municipal purposes rather than specifically park purposes, although is encumbered by Land & Water Conservation funds. A number of options, considerations, and concerns were also discussed.

A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Jim Crook to approve the amendments to the Woods Park Master Plan as recommended by staff. Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: “Yes”: Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Larry Hudkins, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Jeff Schwebke. “No”: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Hannah Cass, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Bob Ripley, Joe Tidball. Motion failed.**

Lynn Johnson informed the Board that the item would now be taken before the City Council as a part of the package for Zoo expansion-related items, with a recommendation of denial by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

* Windstream Utility Cabinets: Windstream Communications has approached Lincoln Parks & Recreation requesting to enter into a license agreement for placement of utility placements in the northeast corner of Irvingdale Park, and along the north side of the Mopac Trail at approximately 26th Street. In conformance with a previously approved agreement, it will be stipulated that the cabinets be painted black to assist with graffiti control, along with a \$200 annual license fee for park landscaping.

A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Susan Deitchler to approve the Windstream request for placement of two utility cabinets as presented, along with the development of written guidelines for placement of utility equipment in parks for review and adoption by the Board. Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: “Yes”: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Hannah Cass, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Larry Hudkins, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. “No”: None. Motion carried.**

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

* Lincoln Parks Foundation Report, Executive Director Christie Dionisopoulos:

- Centennial Mall dedication and tour was held on October 9th with a great turnout. Many positive comments were received from attendees.
- A celebration of Wolfarth Corner was held on October 23rd, at the northwest corner of Normal & South Street.
- A National Philanthropy Day event was held today attended by Christie and Lynn Johnson, with Marg Donlan receiving the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser award.

* Anne Pagel provided information to the Board members regarding a PRAB delegation of Anne, Peter Levitov, and Jeff Schwebke, along with Susan Larson-Rodenburg, who met with Mayor Beutler and Denise Pearce to discuss the Board's disappointment in decisions made regarding the Zoo expansion without additional review and advisory input from the Board. Anne conveyed that the meeting was positive and that Mayor Beutler is very supportive of City parks. Lynn Johnson added that a meeting was recently held to discuss wayfinding and branding for the relocated Parks Administration offices.

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

* Guidelines for Placement of Monuments: Due to occasional requests received for placement of monuments in parks, it has been suggested that written guidelines be developed for future review of proposals for placement of monuments in Lincoln parks. Proposed guidelines were developed by staff and the Futures Committee who recommend approval. A motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the written guidelines for placement of monuments in Lincoln parks. Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: "Yes": Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Hannah Cass, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Larry Hudkins, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. "No": Peter Levitov. "Abstain": Bob Ripley. Motion carried.**

Anne Pagel left at 6:00 p.m.

* Submittal of Proposal: Jeff Schwebke provided information regarding discussion and review of submitting a proposal for placement of the Nebraska Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Antelope Park. The Futures Committee recommends that Parks Department staff submit a proposal for placement of the Nebraska Gold Star Families Memorial Monument in Antelope Park between Auld Pavilion and the Veterans Memorial Garden. A motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Justin Carlson for approval of submission of a proposal for placement of the Nebraska Gold Star Families Memorial Monument as recommended. Board members noted a concern on the increasing and sometimes overwhelming number of monuments and memorials in the area outside of the Veterans Memorial Garden. Lynn Johnson informed the Board that the Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council had also recently adopted guidelines which state that only monuments that relate directly to military service or honorable discharge from military service could be included in the Veterans Memorial Garden, which would then preclude the Nebraska Gold Star Families Monument.

Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: "Yes": Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Hannah Cass, Jim Crook, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. "No": Larry Hudkins. "Abstain": Susan Deitchler, Peter Levitov, Bob Ripley. Motion carried.**

Sherrie Nelson left at 6:05 p.m.

* Standing Bear Park Surplus and Transfer: Lynn Johnson presented information regarding a request from Lincoln Public Schools for acquisition of the southeast corner of Standing Bear Park, therefore declaring as surplus and a transfer of ownership to LPS. Use of the area would be used for large semi-truck pull-through parking associated with operation of a food distribution center. It was noted that four mature trees on the property would be

removed, with staff and committee recommendation that new trees be planted in the park area. After further review and discussion, it was suggested to the Board by Bob Ripley a proposed approval of only the land up to the area of the existing four trees with a retaining wall built to allow for their survival which would allow only an area to drive around the building on the north, and that he is vehemently opposed to creating a parking lot for semi-trucks on the edge of Standing Bear Park. A motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the recommendation declaring the southeast corner of Standing Bear Park as surplus and transferring ownership to Lincoln Public Schools, as presented. Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: "Yes": None. "No": Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Hannah Cass, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Larry Hudkins, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. Motion failed.**

Justin Carlson left at 6:20 p.m.

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

* Brad Brandt noted that the monthly report was distributed to Board members prior to the meeting for review. He also informed that the Pioneers Golf Course irrigation pump station was in major disrepair with repairs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Funding for repairs continue to be discussed. Brad then summarized a letter from the Mayor which included future budget related items for the Lincoln City Golf program.

STAFF REPORT:

Lynn Johnson reported that Holly Lewis has been selected as the new Assistant Director of Recreation, replacing Terry Genrich who recently retired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Veterans Day Program will be held on Friday, November 11th, at Auld Pavilion, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

City and County office will be closed on November 11th in observance of Veterans Day, and on November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.