

# MINUTES

*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting*  
Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, 32<sup>nd</sup> & O Street  
Lower Level Training Room  
Thursday, December 8, 2016 ~ 4:00 p.m.

## **Members Present:**

Justin Carlson	Susan Deitchler	Larry Hudkins	Peter Levitov
Justine Linscott	Sherrie Nelson	Anne Pagel	Robert Ripley
Jeff Schwebke	Kathi Wieskamp		

## **Members Absent:**

Bradley Brandt	Hannah Cass	Roy Christensen	Jim Crook
Todd Fitzgerald	Joe Tidball		

## **Staff Members Present:**

Lynn Johnson, Director	JJ Yost, Planning & Construction Manager
Jerry Shorney, Assistant Director	Christie Dionisopoulos, Parks & Rec Foundation
Holly Lewis, Assistant Director	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 Peter Levitov and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016 meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Justin Carlson, Susan Deitchler, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Anne Pagel, Jeff Schwebke, Kathi Wieskamp. "No": None. "Abstain": Bob Ripley. Motion carried.**

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:**

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

\* Guidelines for Placement of Utility Cabinets: Jeff Schwebke and Lynn Johnson provided an overview for the addition of cabinet wraps to be included as part of the landscape screening requested of the utility company (attached to official minutes on record). A motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Kathi Wieskamp to approve the guidelines for private utility cabinet requests to be placed in City parks as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Justin Carlson, Susan Deitchler, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Kathi Wieskamp. "No": None. Motion carried.**

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

\* In the absence of Brad Brandt, Anne Pagel requested that Board members review the Golf report that was distributed prior to the meeting (attached to official minutes on record).

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

- \* Lincoln Parks Foundation Report, Executive Director Christie Dionisopoulos:

- An increased number of memorial gifts have been received in the past couple of months in the form of benches, bricks, and money. Foundation staff are very appreciative and humbled with the interest in donations to Parks and Recreation as a legacy to loved ones. They are also currently involved in the annual appeal with end of the year gifts which continues to see strong support.
- The Foundation is co-sponsoring Winters Lights which will be held at Tower Square on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, with music, Mr. & Mrs. Claus, cookies, hot chocolate, and an aware to be presented by Mayor Beutler.
- In the process of making plans for the Foundation's 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2017

- \* Anne Pagel provided a summary of the letter received from Mayor Beutler in response to the recent meeting between himself and a Board delegation regarding the expansion of Lincoln Children's Zoo (copy attached to official minutes on record), thanking the group for the meeting and responding to requests made at the meeting.

- \* Introduction of slate of Board officers for 2017 will be made at the January meeting.

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

- \* Guidelines for Placement of Fitness Equipment: Justin Carlson presented information regarding the different types of fitness equipment and Committee recommendations (attached to official minutes on record) as to which type of equipment would be placed in different types of parks. Neighborhood Parks would see fitness stations that provide a full-body workout without moving parts, while Community Parks would include fitness courses with multiple stations that provide a full-body workout including equipment that may have moving parts. Lynn Johnson and JJ Yost offered additional input. A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Peter Levitov to approve the guidelines for placement of fitness equipment in Neighborhood and Community parks as recommended. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: Justin Carlson, Susan Deitchler, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Kathi Wieskamp. **“No”**: None. **Motion carried.**

- \* Mendoza Park Fitness Equipment: The Vintage Heights Homeowners Association previously has requested collaborative park improvements including a multi-station fitness course in Mendoza Park. During discussion by Board members, an e-mail message received from Joe Tidball (copy attached to official minutes on record) was communicated with his suggestion that the neighborhood association be given the opportunity to review their proposal for a donation prior to action from the Board. Lynn Johnson noted that the Committee recommendation for the Mendoza Park equipment would be that Parks & Recreation staff work with the homeowners association to suggest a single fitness station and discuss the proposed donation. JJ Yost also added that the Mendoza Park playground is fairly new and will not be due for replacement for several years. A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Bob Ripley that Parks & Recreation staff to work with the Vintage Heights Homeowners Association to explore a fitness station at Mendoza Park involving fixed equipment or equipment with moving parts, with the understanding that funding for either approach is subject to potential donations from the Homeowners Associations. Additional funding will be needed for maintenance and repair of equipment with moving parts.

Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: Justin Carlson, Susan Deitchler, Peter Levitov, Justine Linscott, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Kathi Wieskamp. **“No”**: None. **Motion carried.**

\* Taylor Park Master Plan: Justin Carlson advised Board members that the Committee discussed testimony received at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting, with guidance of their recommendation being the more central location within the service area of the park. The recommendation from the Committee to the Board is approval of the master plan with the playground and activity areas relocated to the west central portion of the park. JJ Yost provided a review of the master plan which was discussed at the November Board meeting. It was pointed out that a pathway is not funded in the current master plan, although that addition is being assessed due to major interest. A number of written comments were received in advance of the meeting (copies attached to formal minutes on record) and forwarded to Board members for consideration.

Sherrie Nelson arrived at 4:35 p.m.

Larry Hudkins arrived at 4:37 p.m.

Members of the public also came forward to provide comment:

- Wayne Kreikemeier, 6401 Ponderosa Drive – echoed comments in letters requesting the playground be moved to a more central location.
- Tom Dingman, 312 Park Vista – questions regarding basketball court which he feels is not necessary at this park; there are currently 5 hoops within 120 yards of the proposed location; also has concern with loss of trees.
- Hugh Genoways, 511 Haverford – pointed out parking concerns, un-mowed and weedy areas, volunteer trees, and potential loss of mature trees.
- Julian Tyler, 336 Park Vista – would like to see playground remain where currently is, with school playground service other area of the park.
- Carolyn Brandle, 5921 Sunrise Road – must drive to current playground and would prefer more central location, as many with younger children in the area.
- Lucy Prior, 330 Park Vista – kids like to play in water in the ditch/culvert and has seen police pulls kids from area; concerned with older children hiding in these areas; proponent of moving playground closer to swimming pool area.

Additional questions from the Board were brought forward including definition of a prairie and issues of weeds. JJ Yost explained is a product of mowing frequently and inter-seeding of prairie grasses in these areas as resources allow. Jerry Shorney also noted that at least once each year crews will perform weed control chemically in all long-grass park areas. JJ also indicated that the basketball court is shown in the overall future master plan but is not included in the current package being proposed. Also included in the master plan, although not currently funded, would be a pathway between the current and newly proposed playground. The current pathway is a mowed path.

A motion was then made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Susan Deitchler to adopt the Taylor Park Master Plan as presented by the Fees & Facilities Committee. Upon roll call vote **members voted as follows: “Yes”**: Justin Carlson, Susan Deitchler, Sherrie

**Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Kathi Wieskamp. “No”: Larry Hudkins, Justine Linscott, Anne Pagel. “Abstain”: Peter Levitov. Motion carried.**

**STAFF REPORT:**

Lynn Johnson reported that the Pioneers Golf irrigation pump station and wet well installed in 1981 is currently failing and in immediate need of replacement. The Golf program is currently in a solvent position to fund this proprietary need through reprioritizing of the CIP funds.

Anne Pagel presented a small plaque to outgoing Board member and County Commissioner Larry Hudkins and thanked him for his years of service to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Larry stated that Lincoln is blessed to have the parks system that it has.

Lynn Johnson noted that there is continuing discussion with Lincoln Public Schools regarding the food distribution center on Hill Street and Standing Bear Park. A Futures Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and then a Board meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017.

A letter was just received from the Lincoln Community Foundation indicating that the Parks & Recreation Department proposal has been selected for the Nebraska Gold Star Families Memorial Monument which will be placed near the Auld Pavilion and the Veterans Memorial Garden.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A new community event, Winter Lights at Tower Square, will be held at 13<sup>th</sup> & P Street on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

City and County office will be closed on December 26, 2016 in observance of Christmas, and on January 2, 2017 in observance of New Year's Day.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.