

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 3140 N Street, Lower Level Training Room
Thursday, June 8, 2017 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt	Justin Carlson	Jim Crook	Leirion Gaylor Baird
Peter Levitov	Sherrie Nelson	Anne Pagel	Bob Ripley
Jeff Schwebke	Joe Tidball		

Members Absent:

Hannah Cass	Susan Deitchler	Justine Linscott	Deb Schorr
Kathi Wieskamp	Vacancy (Todd Fitzgerald)		

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director	JJ Yost, Planning & Construction Manager
Holly Lewis, Assistant Director	Christie Dionisopoulos, Foundation Director
Chris Myers, Park Operations Coordinator	Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator
Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney	Angela Chesnut, Executive Secretary

Call to Order & Recognition of 'Open Meetings Act': As per law, Chairperson Brad Brandt announced that the Board follows the regulations of the Open Meetings Act, and called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Roll was called by Angela Chesnut.

Brad introduced Leirion Gaylor Baird, the new City Council representative appointed to serve on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, replacing Roy Christensen.

Chairman Brandt read the following statement to the Board and 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 five 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. If you plan to speak today, please sign in on the speakers' sheet."

Peter Levitov arrived at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Corrections were pointed out in the minutes as presented, indicating that Brad Brandt, rather than Anne Pagel, is the Chair of the Executive Committee, and that the open house and dedication of the Woods Tennis Center was held on May 17th, rather than June 17th as printed. A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Anne Pagel to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting as corrected. Upon roll call

vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Peter Levitov, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. **“Abstain”**: Leirion Gaylor Baird. **“No”**: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

* Sara Hartzell with the Parks & Recreation Planning-Construction staff provided a Power Point presentation (copy attached to official minutes on record) regarding recent public meetings and a public survey, resulting in the draft Wilderness Park Strategic Plan (copy attached to official minutes on record). Members of the public also came forward to provide comment:

- Rosina Paolini, 1850 Dakota Street – provided a handout (copy attached to official minutes on record); need more budget dollars and higher priority for mowing; volunteers should enhance, not supplement park maintenance.
- Ben Cohoon, 2143 Lake Street – organize approximately 8 running events per year with 20,000 runners annually; additional mowing necessary; suggested PR campaign with kiosk, rebranding, improved signage, showcase as hidden treasure.
- Dale Arp, 426 Steele Avenue – echoed more mowing needs; new bridge access will increase usage from Rock Island Trail.
- Dan King, 4045 Mohawk – representing Friends of Wilderness Park and participant in strategic planning meetings; new plan is strong, good start; FOWT could help with grants and in-kind work; additional mowing is a need.
- Joeth Zucco, 2310 Ryons Street – noted long-grass and active park area information from website; difficult to use park when trails cannot be seen due to insufficient mowing; park is a gem that needs unique maintenance required.
- Jim Craig, 108 E 7th, Panama – miles of bike paths and trails are gem for City; Wilderness Park is great facility that needs to be kept up.
- Eugena Foster, 1500 Crestview Drive – mowing is challenging, could be less tall grass to decrease number of ticks; organizing run in park.
- Penny Costello, 3648 Woods Avenue – President of Friends of Wilderness Park; promote and protect park by many stakeholders; additional mowing needs.

A motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Jim Crook to approve the Wilderness Park Strategic Plan as presented from the Wilderness Park Strategic Planning Committee and recommended by the PRAB Futures Committee. Following additional discussion regarding mowing in Wilderness Park, a motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Justin Carlson to amend the original motion to reflect on page 3 of the Plan under Policies and Procedures, the addition of item #8 stating, “Review timing and frequency of mowing to increase park usability”. Upon roll call vote on the motion to amend, members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Peter Levitov, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. **“No”**: None. Motion carried. Upon roll call vote on the original motion as amended, members voted as follow: **“Yes”**: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Leirion

Gaylor Baird, Peter Levitov, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. “No”: None. Motion carried.

- **Golf Report – Sherrie Nelson (Chair) 416-0137**

- * Brad Brandt informed the Board that the action item on the agenda regarding setting a cost recovery goal for the junior rate fee structure will be discussed at the next meeting of the Board with action recommended at that time.

- * Sherrie Nelson noted that golf season is in full swing, with the major topic at the last Golf Committee meeting being potential renovation of hole number 15 at Holmes Golf Course.

- **Executive Committee – Brad Brandt (Chair) 421-7734**

- * Christie Dionisopoulos reported on the press conference to announce the new dog run campaign, with news of a \$200,000 lead gift from the Stransky Fund, which will allow for naming rights to the dog run at Peterson Park.

- * The Pioneer Woman sculpture, just north of 33rd & Sheridan, has been renovated with a \$100,000 gift from the Women’s Club of Lincoln. A trellis has also been constructed around the sculpture, similar to one pictured in historical photos. The Arbor Day Foundation also assisted in planting 1,000 plants at the site.

- * Two grants have been received to assist in funding Union Plaza cultural events, with six family friendly concerts to be scheduled in July and August. Grants were awarded by the Cooper Foundation and the Nebraska Arts Council.

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

- * JJ Yost provided an overview of a cooperative agreement proposal with Lincoln Public Schools for placement of recreation amenities and an informal play field at the former Arnold Heights School site, near W. Knight Drive & NW 54th Street. Mr. Yost explained that recommended action from the Advisory Board would then be presented to the City Council for consideration, as the proposed agreement will be for a 20 year term. Additional discussion was held regarding addition of signage, street access, and cost of the project. A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Bob Ripley to approve the interlocal agreement with Lincoln Public Schools for improvements at the former Arnold Heights School site as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”:** **Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Peter Levitov, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“No”:** None. **Motion carried.**

Bob Ripley left at 5:40 p.m.

- * JJ Yost continued into discussion of recommendation for endorsement of a master plan to guide future park improvements for the three park complex of Irvingdale, Stransky, and Rudge Parks. The vision is the creation of a comprehensive plan that would provide for a linking trail corridor system providing a connection to all three parks, as well as updating amenities and park equipment. The future improvement projects are being planned in cooperation with a Watershed Management channel bank stabilization of the existing drainage way. A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Sherrie Nelson to approve the endorsement of the master plan to guide future park improvements for Irvingdale, Stransky, and Rudge Parks as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as

follows: **“Yes”**: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Peter Levitov, Sherrie Nelson, Anne Pagel, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. **“No”**: None. Motion carried.

Jim Crook left at 5:50 p.m.

STAFF REPORT:

* Evening walk in Cooper Park to review area park lighting at 8:30 pm on Thursday, June 15th in Cooper Park at 8th and D Streets.

* Neighborhood engagement process meetings for replacement of the play area in Taylor Park are scheduled for June 22nd and July 13th. A Parks & Recreation Advisory Board member is being sought to participate on behalf of the Board.

* Community meeting regarding Pioneers Park equestrian trails will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, July 11th in the large picnic shelter in the picnic grounds in Pioneers Park.

* Ribbon cutting and dedication of completed renovation at Lakeview Park, NW 20th & West Q Street, scheduled for June 22nd at 5:00 pm, in cooperation with the Kiwanis Clubs of Lincoln.

* Holly Lewis presented an overview of the 2017 summer aquatics and summer day camp programs. Various program offerings were illustrated with all-age events at the different pool locations, and youth experiences taking place at the several day camps. (Copy of presentation attached to official minutes on record.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

* Opening of temporary exhibition of five sculptures by Jim Huntington Densmore Park / Cooper YMCA at 5 pm on Thursday, June 29. Densmore Park is located on the west side of So. 14th Street ½ mile south of Old Cheney Road

* Parks and Recreation Advisory Board / Lincoln Parks Foundation Board tour and Joint meeting from 4 pm to 6 pm on Thursday, July 13th. Attendees will gather at the Irving Recreation Center then visit the Irvingdale, Stransky, and Rudge Parks.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.