

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 3140 N Street~Suite 300

Thursday, December 14, 2017 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt

Leirion Gaylor Baird

Jeff Schwebke

Justin Carlson

Justine Linscott

Joe Tidball

Jim Crook

Sherrie Nelson

Susan Deitchler

Bob Ripley

Members Absent:

Hannah Cass

Kathi Wieskamp

Peter Levitov

Vacancy (Fitzgerald)

Anne Pagel

Deb Schorr

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director

JJ Yost, Planning & Construction Manager

Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator

Holly Lewis, Assistant Director

Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Adm.

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 4:00 p.m. Roll was called by Angela Chesnut.

Justin Carlson arrived at 4:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Bob Ripley and seconded by Leirion Gaylor Baird to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2017 meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball. "No": None. Motion carried.**

Susan Deitchler arrived at 4:10 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Tracy Soukup informed the Board that she was in attendance regarding a Trendwood Park bridge which is need of replacement. The neighboring residents would like to see this bridge replacement with City funds moved from 'plan B' to 'plan A'. JJ Yost explained that he would be addressing this project during the 10-Year Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan agenda item discussion. The current cost estimate for replacement is \$55,000, with an alternative design being reviewed that could lower the cost to around \$25,000. Lynn Johnson also reported that the Lincoln Parks Foundation Board has just recently approved a mini-grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the path/walkway project in the park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

JJ Yost has met with Parks & Recreation field staff to review the previous 10-Year Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan and discussed facility-by-facility what potential repair, replacement, and upgrade needs could be anticipated in the next ten years, with current-day cost estimates projected. Parks Administrative staff also met with the Fees & Facilities Committee on a monthly basis to develop a project prioritization of A, B, or C (copy attached to official minutes on record), as well as meeting with the Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee discussing trails, the Veterans Memorial Garden Advisory Council discussing the Veterans Garden, and for the first time the Lincoln Municipal Golf Advisory Committee to include the City golf facility's needs. JJ noted that the plan becomes more detailed and comprehensive each year, although reminded Board members that this is a very fluid plan and that some projects may move from projected prioritization as more urgent needs or emergencies arise. Contractual needs for trees and EAB response has also been address in the CIP, with internal department work included separately in the operating budget. With the updated 10-Year Plan at approximately \$3 million annually, a gap of \$850,000 deficit is shown if previous funding levels remain the same. The deficit is an ongoing issue with an exponential component due to inflation, although an additional \$500,000 from general revenue during the last two years has helped to lower that deficit to under \$1 million. JJ also informed that the 10-Year Plan identifies repair and replacement projects, and that there are no new facilities included in these figures.

Following additional discussion regarding the earlier request of moving replacement of the pedestrian bridge in Trendwood Park to a Priority A, board members asked what other projects that might change. JJ responded that the majority of the A Priority projects that are of a higher dollar amount are related to hard surface repair such as roadways in various Parks and large sections of trails, as well as the Woods Pool bathhouse renovation to meet ADA compliance. Additionally, it was again reminded that dollar amounts listed in the plan represent estimated costs at the current time and do not include an inflation factor for time over the 10-year period.

A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Sherrie Nelson to adopt the 10-Year Parks & Recreation Facilities Plan as submitted, with one amendment to move the Trendwood Park pedestrian bridge replacement to a Priority A. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

Fees & Facilities Committee will continue to discuss the possibility of adding a bocce court to the master plan for Union Plaza, and bring the item to the full Board at the January meeting.

- **Futures Committee – Jeff Schwebke (Chair) 470-3384**

Public opinion was requested regarding the addition of banning Tobacco Use in the four blocks of Centennial Mall, from K to M Streets and P and R Streets. A number of emails and letters were received with the vast majority in favor of the ban. Debbie DeFrain was in attendance and also spoke in favor of the ban providing a letter and statistical information from the CDC secondhand smoke facts (copy attached to official minutes on record). Ms. DeFrain also presented her concerns regarding the designated smoking areas on three sides

of the Nebraska State office building. Bob Ripley indicated that the areas in question are the property of the State of Nebraska in which the City does not have regulatory jurisdiction, and would therefore not be considered part of the proposed banned area. JJ Yost provided a GIS visual of the Centennial Mall area that the proposed ban would include.

Board members discussed signage placement and wording, and a suggestion of sending a letter of encouragement to the State Department of Administrative Services to consider adopting similar Tobacco Free areas where State property abuts Centennial Mall. University of Nebraska will also be placing signs on UNL properties as they move to a smoke-free campus on January 1st. A motion was made by Jeff Schwebke and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the proposed amendment to the policy regarding Tobacco Use in Outdoor Parks & Recreation Department Facilities to add the four blocks of Centennial Mall that are pedestrian in nature. In addition, the motion includes direction that Lincoln Parks & Recreation send a letter and copies of public comments received, to the State Department of Administrative Services informing of the new Policy and propose a change to their designated smoking areas.

Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

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

Sherrie Nelson informed the Board that restructuring of the Golf Committee is underway with applications for new members being requested at this time. Wade Foreman also reviewed the November and December golf reports and recent rounds and revenue. He also noted that gift card purchases are estimated to be around \$15,000 in December. A new wet well and pump station at Pioneers Golf Course will begin soon, with completion anticipated in early January.

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

Lynn Johnson reported that Maggie Stucky began her duties as the new Lincoln Parks Foundation Executive Director earlier this week, and would be introduced to the Board at the January meeting. He also informed that the dog run campaign is wrapping up and that \$715,000 has been raised and that all three of the new dog parks have been constructed and are being used. The LPF Board also approved revision of policy in their roles and responsibilities in order to serve as a land trust to assist in acquiring land for the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch. The Foundation and Board will also be working on updates to their strategic plan.

Election of officers proposed from the November Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was presented as Brad Brandt, Chair, and Justin Carlson, Vice-Chair. A motion was made by Bob Ripley and seconded by Sherrie Nelson to approve the new officers as nominated. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“ABSTAIN”**: **Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

STAFF REPORTS:

Lynn Johnson explained the proposal regarding an amendment to the Lincoln Municipal Code regarding term limits for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and expressed that it would not affect members currently serving on the Board. The proposal would represent a change in establishment of term limits for new incoming members only. Currently community members are appointed for three-year terms. The amendment proposes that community members serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms, and would apply to incoming members to the Board appointed after January 1, 2018. The Board currently has one vacancy. Staff and the Executive Committee have discussed the proposed amendment, and if approved would then be presented for approval to the City Council. Following questions and additional discussion a motion was made by Bob Ripley and seconded by Jim Crook to approve recommendation to the City Council for amendment of the Lincoln Municipal Code to establish term limits for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

A significant gift was received from the Leonard and Angeleen Stransky Charitable Trust to the recent dog run campaign to assist with development of the new dog run at Peterson Park. In recognition of this gift and consistency with the adopted guidelines for facilities naming and for donor recognition, it is proposed to recommend approval to the City Council naming the new dog run in Peterson Park as the Stransky Dog Run. A motion was made by Susan Deitchler and seconded by Leirion Gaylor Baird to approve recommendation to the City Council as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Susan Deitchler, Leirion Gaylor Baird, Justine Linscott, Sherrie Nelson, Bob Ripley, Jeff Schwebke, Joe Tidball.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

Bob Ripley left at 5:42 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nicole Fleck-Tooze provided a presentation updating the Board on the Haines Branch Prairie Corridor project (copy of PowerPoint attached to official minutes on record). The Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch is planned to be a trail through a corridor of native and restored tallgrass prairie spanning the area from the Pioneers Park Nature Center to the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. The project has been funded primarily through grant and matching funds, including Nebraska Environmental Trust grants in 2013 and 2016. It envisions a “priority area” of about 7,600 acres, about 4,500 of which were already protected either through ownership or easement at project inception.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.