

# MINUTES

## *Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting*

Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 3131 O Street – Suite 300

Thursday, December 12, 2019 ~ 4:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Brad Brandt	Justin Carlson	Roy Christensen
Esme Krohn	Sherrie Nelson	Isabel Salas
Jennifer Seacrest	Lori Thomas (arrived 4:06 p.m.)	

### **Members Absent:**

Jim Crook	Mason Minchow	Anne Pagel
Jonathan Petersen	Tammy Poe	Jeff Schwebke
Rick Vest	Kathi Wieskamp	

### **Staff Members Present:**

Lynn Johnson, Director  
JJ Yost, Planning & Construction Manager  
Holly Lewis, Asst. Director Recreation and Natural Res.  
Nicole Fleck-Tooze – Special Projects Coordinator  
Denise Pearce – Special Projects Administrator  
Chris Myers – Parks Operations Coordinator  
Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator  
Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney  
Maggie Stuckey, Foundation Director  
Angela Chesnut, Executive Secretary

### **CALL TO ORDER & RECOGNITION OF ‘OPEN MEETINGS ACT’:**

As per law, Chairperson Justin Carlson 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 declaring a quorum with seven Board members present.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

There was a comment by Angie Chesnut indicating that there was a change on the header portion of the email packet, the header had October, and this was changed to state November. A motion was made by Roy Christensen and seconded by Sherrie Nelson to approve the minutes of the November 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 meeting. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “Yes”: **Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Esme Krohn, Sherrie Nelson, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest.** “No”: None. “Abstain”: None. **Motion carried.**

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

No public comments.

Lori Thomas arrived at 4:06 p.m.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Tammy Poe (Chair) 402-421-8103**  
**10 Year Facilities Plan** – Lynn Johnson indicated that Parks and Recreation received 12 written comments and he shared a summary of the staff response and recommendations. The group took time to review the comments. A public comment was made by Adam Hintz-1919 Prospect St.-on behalf of Friends of Wilderness Park, Friends of Wilderness Park is happy to support the 10 Year Plan as it pertains to Wilderness Park. Another public comment was made by Diane Walkowiak – lives in the Indian Village Neighborhood – 1600 Sioux – there is a concern in regards to the playground renovation and lighting at Van Dorn Park, they would like to see it move from Priority “B” to Priority “A”.

J.J. Yost answered a question from Isabel Salas in regards to the difference between Priority B to Priority A, it reflects the urgency of the needed repairs. There are limited resources and funding plays a factor. Lynn stated that there is a funding gap for every year of the plan of about \$1.1M, not all “A” Priority projects are likely to get funded, it is up to the Mayor and City Council to decide how much of the general revenue would be directed towards this projects, fundraising can also be used to fill in the gap. Roy Christensen reminded the group that 2020 is a budget year and this are the type of issues that need to be discussed. The City Council has the opportunity to provide feedback after the Mayor’s Office releases the budget. The budget is released during the end of May. Justin Carlson asked if the City Council will receive a copy of the 10 Year Facilities Plan as part of the budget process. The Plan is a guidance document that the Planning and Construction section of the Parks and Recreation Department uses towards the Capital Improvements Plan, the CIP is the document used. The Plan is updated every two years and Priorities can move up or down, depending on the need.

Diane Walkowiak expressed that the Indian Village Neighborhood residents would like to see some improvement to Van Dorn Park in the interim, while access to the park is improved for nearby residents. Lynn Johnson and J.J. Yost stated that they recognize the need this park has, as well as similar needs in other parks; issues are that removed playground equipment can’t be installed at other parks due to safety regulations, additionally, adding new playground equipment to the park would possibly encourage the youth to travel to the park, without safe access.

Justin Carlson entertained a motion to approve the 2019 Update of Parks and Recreation 10-Year Facilities Plan. Roy Christensen moved and seconded by Brad Brandt. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Esme Krohn, Sherrie Nelson, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest, Lori Thomas.** **“No”**: **None. Abstain” None. Motion carried.**

### **Recommendation regarding approval of Master Plan for the South Haymarket Park and Plaza at S. 7<sup>th</sup> and N Streets, and recommendation regarding proceeding with capital campaign in 2020 –**

J.J. indicated that this was a project identified in the most recent update to the Downtown Master Plan, it was included as a catalyst project in the most recent update adopted in 2018. The Master Plan was presented at different community

events and conducted a survey, there were 2300 respondents, which was available online.

General results show that the amenities are well received in the survey. No changes were made to the preliminary Master Plan. J.J. hoping for endorsement and to recommend to the Lincoln Parks Foundation moving forward on a capital campaign and start building the funding package, cost estimate is about \$9M, that includes an endowment, at this moment about \$4M have been identified.

J.J. proceeded to give a presentation of the South Haymarket Park and Plaza.

Some highlights of items discussed:

The event center could serve as an outdoor music venue

About 6 acres, almost the size of Union Plaza

There will be a fence all along the perimeter, it is a railroad requirement

Trailhead in the Park, also a potential bike share station and kiosk

Location for Bocce Ball

Master plan is a general concept guiding park development, community on board and developers interested

Possible picnic/shelter areas to rent

Motion to approve the Master Plan entertained. Brad Brandt moved and seconded by Lori Thomas. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows:

**“Yes”:** Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Esme Krohn, Sherrie Nelson, Isabel Salas, Lori Thomas. **“No”:** None. **Abstain”:** Jennifer Seacrest. **Motion carried.**

Motion moved by Lori Thomas and seconded by Sherrie Nelson for Recommendation regarding the Master Plan as a Capital Campaign project for the Lincoln Parks Foundation –. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows:

**“Yes”:** Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Esme Krohn, Sherrie Nelson, Isabel Salas, Lori Thomas. **“No”:** None. **Abstain”:** Jennifer Seacrest. **Motion carried.**

- **Policies Committee – Jeff Schwebke (Chair) 402-470-3384**

Densmore Park Soccer Fields – Proposal for amending use fee for the controlled access soccer – Holly Lewis presented the proposal. Funds raised through this amendment would be used for operating funds. Fee was last raised on September 2018, increased from \$12.50 to \$15.00. There was a question as to why the increase would be from \$15.00 to \$30.00. The reason is that one of the tools that is looked into when raising a fee is market rates, and the current fees are way below the market rates.

Motion to approve the recommendation regarding the fees of the Densmore Soccer Fields by Jennifer Seacrest, seconded by Brad Brandt. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows:

**“Yes”:** Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Esme Krohn, Sherrie Nelson, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest, Lori Thomas. **“No”:** None. **Abstain”** None. **Motion carried.**

It was asked what happens next in the process of raising the fees? Lynn Johnson stated that this is a recommendation to the Mayor and fees for facilities are approved by Executive Order. This recommendation gets submitted immediately and go into effect sometime in January.

- **Golf Report – Sherrie Nelson (Chair) 402-416-0137**

Greens are still playable, crews are still hard at work, and Pioneers Clubhouse has a new roof on it. Lots of ash trees have been removed at Pioneers. We are missing them but replanting is happening.

Recommendation regarding amendments to fee schedule for personal golf cart trail fee, membership fees, and 9-hole green fees at Highlands Golf Course and Pioneers Golf Course.

Trail fee for personal golf cart is a fixed flat fee currently, players have asked for a change to the trail fee a 9 hole and 18 hole, the proposed change would be a \$7.00 fee and a \$13.00 fee. The fee has not been changed in 15 years.

Increase of golf membership, still staying within competition, but rates have not changed since 2016. Proposing a slight adjustment.

Increase of 25 cents to 9 hole fee for Highlands and Pioneers golf courses. Closing the gap with Mahoney and Holmes Lake Golf Courses. The latest increase for green fees happened in 2017.

Don't want to be the cheapest, but most value for the dollar. A study was done about 4 years ago by the National Golf Foundation, they concluded it would be better to differentiate pricing across the golf courses. The Wilderness Golf Course is going to private in about a year, Yankee Hill has sold part of the golf course. There will likely be displacement of golfers. Currently full for leagues. The proposed changes would amount to roughly \$22K to \$25K in additional revenue, about \$3M overall in revenue currently. Profits stay with the golf program.

The changes will be communicated to clients. A 25 cent would increase the revenue \$8K to \$9K.

There are different rates for seniors which will also increase.

Motion to adopt the rate increases as proposed by Sherrie Nelson, seconded by Roy Christensen. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows:

**“Yes”:** Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Esme Krohn, Sherrie Nelson, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest, Lori Thomas. **“No”:** None. **Abstain”** None. **Motion carried.**

Lynn Johnson reminded the group that this is a recommendation to the Mayor and the golf fees would be adjusted by Executive Order.

- **Executive Committee – Justin Carlson (Chair) 402-770-7188**

**Parks Foundation report by Maggie Stuckey**

Maggie Stuckey noted that they had over 350 Memorial gifts made to the Foundation.

Next month the Cascade Fountain will be in the conversation on January 9<sup>th</sup>. New Officers were elected into the Lincoln Parks Foundation Board, Jeff Jewell from Union Bank and Trust, LPF's new Chair and Brad Brandt is the new Vice-Chair.

#### Election of Officers

Lynn Johnson – election of Officers happens in the January meeting and currently in the process of putting together a slate of officers. The slate will be ready by the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

#### **Lynn Johnson – Update on Wilderness Park**

Initiating the process on developing guidelines for stream crossing structures, the first meeting was held on the evening of Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, 70 people in attendance. Staff provided a presentation and received good advice and guidance from the audience. The next step is to draft the guidelines, and the next public meeting will be held in January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The guidelines will be provided to the Fees and Infrastructure Committee in February for action in the March meeting.

Adam Hintz-will these standards apply to the Hinterlands Bridge or the southern bridge? J.J. Yost replied that the Hinterlands Bridge will be removed soon. The guidelines will provide assistance on decisions of future re-routes and/or replacing bridges. The southern bridge will be replaced, currently working on executing a construction contract to replace that bridge. Parks and Recreation is still taking input on the guidelines.

### **ADJOURN:**

**Roy Christensen and Sherrie Nelson Moved for Adjournment, with unanimous approval.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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