

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

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

Thursday, February 13, 2020 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Brad Brandt Justin Carlson Roy Christensen Esme Krohn (arrived at 4:09 pm)
Sherrie Nelson Jonathan Petersen Tammy Poe Isabel Salas Jennifer Seacrest
Rick Vest (arrived at 4:03 pm)

Members Absent:

Jim Crook Mason Minchow Anne Pagel Jeff Schwebke Lori Thomas Kathi Wieskamp

Staff Members Present:

Lynn Johnson, Director
JJ Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Administrator
Holly Lewis, Asst. Director Recreation and Natural Res.
Denise Pearce, Special Projects Administrator
Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator
Chris Myers, Parks Operations Manager
Maggie Stuckey, Foundation Director
Roy Rivera, Office Specialist

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 Roy Rivera declaring a quorum with eight Board members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Brad Brandt and seconded by Tammy Poe to approve the minutes of the January 9th, 2020 meeting. Isabel Salas mentioned that she might have arrived late to the January meeting. After checking attendance records, Roy Rivera was able to confirm that she arrived on time. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest.** **“No”**: None. **Abstain**: Roy Christensen. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

No public comments.

Rick Vest arrived at 4:03 p.m.
Esme Krohn at 4:09 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Tammy Poe (Chair) 402-421-8103**
Recommendation regarding development of a shared parking lot with Lincoln Children’s Zoo in the western portion of Antelope Park between Memorial Drive and the Rock Island Trail.

Nicole Fleck-Tooze proceeded to provide a presentation regarding the development of the shared park lot. Last year the Zoo’s attendance was more than 345,000 guests in 2019. There is an anticipation of continued growth, at the same time there is a steady demand for

Parks and Recreation facilities in Antelope Park. The Zoo wants to make sure they can meet the demand for parking. The Zoo is proposing development of a shared park lot, to be used by the Zoo and Antelope Park patrons. The parking lot will be located in an approximately 1.75-acre area of Antelope Park south of the Waterpark Condominiums, east of the Rock Island Trail, north of the Public Gardens maintenance facility. Nicole Fleck-Tooze shared a concept map with the group.

Jennifer Seacrest expressed concerns with access on Memorial Drive, the concept map did not show buffers or facilities for pedestrian circulation, the parking lot takes up all the parcel, if the parking lot were to be approved, there is a need for more engineering of the lot. Nicole Fleck-Tooze stated that the diagram shown is a concept at this time. Tammy Poe asked about the number of stalls that would be added ideally, the concept diagram was drawn at 185 spots. It was also mentioned that it is important to build a parking that will accommodate the need to avoid additional parking lot development in the future. The parking lot is meant to accommodate the community that visits the zoo, mostly during weekends, instead of parking in the neighborhood streets. The Board also mentioned that is important to keep landscaping screening in mind, along Memorial Drive. It is very important to not lose the feel of coming to a zoo. John Chapo and Evan Killeen with the Lincoln Children's Zoo were present during the presentation. John Chapo stated the Zoo will pay for the development of the parking lot and will be shared use.

Jennifer Seacrest made a motion to move forward with development of a shared parking lot with Lincoln Children's Zoo in the western portion of Antelope Park between Memorial Drive and the Rock Island Trail, if consideration is given towards landscape buffer, screening, along Memorial Drive along the perimeter and circulation along the parking lot is considered. Jonathan Petersen seconded the motion. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest. "No": None. Abstain: Esme Krohn. Motion carried.**

Recommendation regarding the 2019 update of the Parks and Recreation 10-Year Facilities Plan to change the priority for replacement of the play area in Van Dorn from B to A.

J.J. proceeded to provide a presentation regarding Van Dorn Park and the 10-Year Facilities Plan. J.J. Yost expressed to the group that after considering the testimony provided by Diane Walkowiak - in representation of the Indian Village Neighborhood Association – and also visiting the park and taking into account the high volume of use at the rental shelter, staff made the decision to recommending that this project move up the priority list from priority B to priority A of repair and replacement need. In doing so, staff will proceed with the design development and work the project into its funding strategy and construction schedule with other priority playground renovation projects. Justin Carlson asked about pedestrian access for the neighbors to the park. J.J. Yost indicated that there is an underpass from the north end under Van Dorn St. that is the best way to navigate. It is a difficult place to get to. J.J. Yost showed a concept diagram to the group, with a play area being developed with closer proximity to the shelter, given the high frequency use of the enclosed shelter. The new playground will include a new type of basket swing and a climbing structure. Moving it to a priority A would allow for staff to get to it later the summer or fall of 2020. Isabel Salas asked if there is a report indicating where patrons that rent the shelter are coming from; Roy Rivera indicated that addresses and zip codes are collected, but there is not a report indicating that information. The Van Dorn park shelter is used at least once every weekend year-round. Roy Christensen frequents Indian Village and after speaking with neighbors, he wanted to share some concerns with the group. Christensen asked about the planned conservatory. Lynn Johnson stated that there was Campaign Design Study done for the planned conservatory a couple of years ago, testing for about 20 million dollars, the study suggested that about 10 percent of the goal might be raised, at this moment it would not be

a viable project. Christensen indicated that Indian Village neighbors do not frequent the park, they visit parks that are within driving distance. The park also has an uncomplimentary nickname. Christensen also asked what project needed to be lowered in priority, for this project to move up to priority A. J.J. Yost indicated that one of the next projects would have to move down, that would probably Kahoia Park.

Diane Walkoviak, Board Member for the Indian Village Neighborhood Association, indicated that we would see some increase in traffic from the nearby residents with more amenities. The Association is willing to help fundraise and start having events at the park.

Jennifer Seacrest made a motion to amend the 2019 update of the Parks and Recreation 10-Year Facilities Plan to change the priority for replacement of the play area in Van Dorn from B to A, seconded by Isabel Salas. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Esme Krohn, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest. **“No”**: None. **Abstain**: None. **Motion carried.**

Isabel Salas expressed that she appreciates Diane Walkoviak’s tenacity in representing her neighborhood and participating in the process.

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

No report

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

Sherrie Nelson stated that normal winter maintenance activities are taking place. There has been a recent organizational change, Casey Crittenden’s role as Golf Maintenance Coordinator was formalized. Casey has been a huge asset to the golf program.

Recommendation regarding establishing a standard player use fee for City Championship events.

Wade Foreman proceeded to give a presentation regarding the standard player use fee. The recommendation is to have a standard player use fee of \$10.00 per day/player to be paid to the golf course from the organization running the tournament. Exception would be golfers who have an active 5- or 7-day City golf membership who enter championship tournaments. Currently, The Men’s and Senior Championship tournaments pay an \$8.00 player fee/day and the Women’s Championship pays \$0.00 fee. The standard fee would provide consistency throughout the tournaments and the golf course would generate revenue dollars while the tournaments are taking place.

During the discussion it was shared that City staff took over the organization of the Men’s and Senior Championships, because the Lincoln Men’s group did not want to do it; while the Women’s tournament is organized by a Women’s committee. Championships do not provide revenue but are still run due to the long tradition. It was felt by members of the Board that it even though the standard fee would provide consistency, it would not be fair for the Women’s League considering they organize their events.

Isabel Salas proposed a motion to reject the recommendation of establishing a standard player use fee for City Championship events. Rick seconded the motion. Brad Brandt requested that this recommendation goes back to the committee. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: Brad Brandt, Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Esme Krohn, Isabel Salas, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest. **“No”**: None. **Abstain**: None. **Motion carried.**

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

Lincoln Parks Foundation

Maggie Stuckey shared with the group that the Cascade Fountain campaign is up and running, there is great interest in this campaign. In a few weeks there will be signage on-site at the fountain. Probably during next month meeting she will talk with the group about the on-site teacher recognition.

Committee Appointments for 2020

Lynn Johnson inquired about the which committee that board members would like to serve on. Jonathan Petersen indicated he would like to be a member of both the Policies Committee and the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee. Isabel Salas will join the Policies Committee and serve also on the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Committee Appoints for 2020:

<u>PRAB Policies Committee</u>	<u>PRAB Facilities & Infrastructure Committee</u>
Jeff Schwebke - Chair Ann Pagel Esme Krohn Justin Carlson Jonathan Petersen Kathi Wieskamp Lori Thomas Isabel Salas	Tammy Poe - Chair Jim Crook Justin Carlson Isabel Salas Jennifer Seacrest Jonathan Petersen
<u>PRAB Golf Advisory Committee</u>	<u>PRAB Executive Committee</u>
Sherrie Nelson - Chair Brad Brandt	Justin Carlson - Chair Jeff Schwebke Sherrie Nelson Tammy Poe

STAFF REPORTS:

Development of stream crossing structure guidelines for Wilderness Park, and development of a master plan for user experience improvements in Wilderness Park

J.J. Yost shared that there have been public meetings regarding repairing and/or replacing stream crossing structures, the information was used to develop a matrix. Staff is in the process of compiling the information gathered during the public meetings and have the matrix for structure types and develop a Wilderness Park Master Plan. The focus will be improving and enhancing user experience. There is currently a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to help develop the Master Plan. Proposals are due in about week. A steering committee will be developed, with Jim Crook as a possible participant. The process will start in the spring and go through the summer, with the idea that staff will have a Master Plan for Wilderness Park to bring to the Board for review and endorsement ideally at the end of September or beginning of October.

2019 annual report regarding Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch Project

Nicole Fleck-Tooze provided the group with the 2019 Annual Report materials regarding the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch project. The materials provided outlined the work that has been done in education, outreach and research, conservation and trail and economic development.

AARP 60th Anniversary outdoor fitness equipment FitLot in Woods Park

J.J. Yost shared with the group that AARP, in commemoration of their 60th Anniversary, they have partnered with a non-profit named FitLot to establish fitness stations, they are trying to establish one in each of the 50 states. Lincoln, NE is the recipient of this exercise equipment. The equipment is suitable for fitness classes for groups. The proposed park for the equipment is Woods Park. J.J. Yost showed a diagram indicating where the equipment would be located. Along with the equipment, we are also receiving funding for three years of programming, which would help activate the equipment. They would like to install the FitLot in May/June and inaugurate the equipment with a community wide event on July 27th. Woods Park was chosen due to its proximity to the central part of the City, trail access, parking and other amenities such as a playground and shelter. The equipment's life time is about 20-25 years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn was made by Roy Christensen and seconded by Justin Carlson to adjourn the meeting, with unanimous approval.

Adjourned at 5:35 pm.