

# MINUTES

## *Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting*

Woods Park Place Lower Level Training Center, 3131 O Street

Thursday, July 9, 2020 ~ 4:00 p.m.

### **Members Present:**

Justin Carlson	Roy Christensen	Jim Crook	Esme Krohn
Anne Pagel	Jonathan Petersen	Tammy Poe	Rick Vest (arrived 4:05 pm)

### **Members Absent:**

++ Bradley Brandt	++ Mason Minchow	++ Sherrie Nelson
Isabel Salas	Jeff Schwebke	Jennifer Seacrest
Lori Thomas	Kathi Wieskamp	

++ denotes Zoom attendee

### **Staff Members Present:**

Lynn Johnson, Director	Holly Lewis, Asst. Director/Recreation
JJ Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager	Chris Myers, Park Operations Manager
Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator	Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney
Nicole Fleck-Tooze, Special Projects Adm.	Denise Pearce, Special Projects Adm.
Sandra Finn, Accountant	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. Chairperson Carlson began by reviewing the established protocols for the Board meeting due to the current COVID-19 pandemic:

- A quorum is established by the number of board or committee members attending the meeting in person. Board members accessing the meeting remotely may listen/watch but may not participate in discussions or vote.
- Members of the public may comment by Zoom.
- Staff may make presentations by Zoom to limit the number of people physically present in the meeting room.
- Subcommittees, including executive committees, may meet in person, by Zoom, by conference phone, or by a combination of these methods.

Roll was called by Angela Chesnut declaring a quorum with nine in-person Board members present.

Rick Vest arrived at 4:05 p.m.

### **DELAY OF MINUTES APPROVAL:**

A motion was made by Roy Christensen and seconded by Jonathan Petersen to delay approval of the minutes from the June 11, 2020 meeting until the next regularly scheduled PRAB meeting. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Esme Krohn, Anne Pagel, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Rick Vest.** **"No": None.** Motion carried.

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

None.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Tammy Poe (Chair) 402-421-8103**  
Tammy Poe informed that there were two action items from the Committee for recommended approval. JJ Yost introduced the request by James Krist for development of a mountain bike trail in Van Dorn Park as temporary use until development of the proposed plant observatory in the future. Parks & Recreation Department would request that the Trails Have Our Respect (THOR) volunteer group enter into an agreement for acceptance of maintenance responsibilities. Mr. Yost provided diagrams (copy attached to official minutes on record) within the park where the temporary trail may exist to avoid conflict with other existing park amenities. He further explained that there would be no expense by incurred by the department and that the Plant Oasis future project would be prioritized in concurrence with the park master plan.

Diane Walkowiak and Andy Gueck, representing the Indian Village Neighborhood Association, also addressed the Board informing that they had worked with Mr. Krist to tweak the proposed trail areas. The Neighborhood Association will support and assist with the area in the event they stay within the areas designated.

Following additional discussion, a motion was made by Rick Vest and seconded by Jim Crook to approve the development of the mountain bike trail in Van Dorn Park as presented and discussed. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Esme Krohn, Anne Pagel, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Rick Vest.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

JJ Yost then provided information regarding a proposed update to the Cooper Park Master Plan in coordination with Lincoln Public Schools and renovations to Park Middle School adjacent to Cooper Park. These amendments are generally consistent with the Master Plan and would support improved outdoor recreational opportunities. Diagrams (copies attached to official minutes on record) were shown depicting proposed changes.

Lynn Johnson also provided a brief history of Cooper Park, noting that being dedicated park land, transfers of property could only be made to a public school district. The recreation space proposed by Lincoln Public Schools would also be open to the public during non-school hours. Process of approval if PRAB members recommend approval would first go to the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Commission and then to City Council for final approval. The sales agreement and the deed would stipulate that the playfield remain in perpetuity.

Following further questions and comments, a motion was made by Jim Crook and seconded by Anne Pagel to recommend endorsement and approval of the proposed amendment to the Cooper Park Master Plan. **“Yes”**: **Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Esme Krohn, Anne Pagel, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Rick Vest.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Lynn Johnson discussed a new trail segment planned for the future South Haymarket Park area which will connect the N Street bikeway and the north end of the Jamaica North Trail and the desire for naming the new segment as the Chris Beutler Trail. In conforming with the Parks & Recreation Facilities Naming Policy, Mr. Beutler is recognized as former Mayor and State Senator who provided leadership, involvement, planning, and development of the West Haymarket District and the South Haymarket. Board recommendation for approval would go to City Council for final approval by Resolution. A motion was made by Rick Vest and seconded by Roy Christensen to recommend approval to the City Council naming the new trail segment in the future South Haymarket Park and Plaza as Chris Beutler Trail. **“Yes”:** Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Esme Krohn, Anne Pagel, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Rick Vest. **“No”:** None. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Johnson then reviewed the new bridge being constructed connecting the Rock Island Trail to the Jamaica North Trail and providing a connection between Densmore Park and Wilderness Park (copy of map attached to official minutes on record). It has been requested that this new bridge be named the Great Plains Trails Network Connector to recognize the partnership between GPTN and the City for Lincoln’s trail system, and the many years of fundraising efforts by GPTN. This Board approval recommendation would also be presented to the City Council for final approval by Resolution. A motion was made by Jim Crook and seconded by Jonathan Petersen to recommend approval to the City Council of the bridge naming as Great Plains Trails Network Connector. **“Yes”:** Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Esme Krohn, Anne Pagel, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Rick Vest. **“No”:** None. **Motion carried.**

Next Policies Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, at 4:30 p.m.

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

Wade Foreman provided an overview of golf operations in May and June, noting steady play and routine maintenance. Some tree damage was sustained due to recent storms. July and August are anticipated as busy months for play to round out the fiscal year.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, at 12:00 noon.

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

Maggie Stuckey for the Lincoln Parks Foundation, was unable to be in attendance but provided a written report (copy attached to official minutes on record) which was read by Chair Carlson:

- \* Tributes and memorials – a record-breaking number!
- \* Cascade Honor Roll – reminder of brick program for Cascade Fountain.
- \* Foundation office expansion – nearly complete; to hire assistant/receptionist.

Recommendations for 2020 Party in the Parks activities (copy attached to official minutes on record) were proposed and discussed. Due to COVID-19 exceptional circumstances, the list has been modified and delayed from the typical February approval request. Proposed events are consistent with the guidelines for the Party

in the Parks program adopted by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in 2014. A motion was made by Roy Christensen and seconded by Tammy Poe to approve the 2020 Party in the Parks activities as presented. **“Yes”:** **Justin Carlson, Roy Christensen, Jim Crook, Esme Krohn, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Rick Vest.** **“Abstain”:** **Anne Pagel.** **“No”:** **None.** **Motion carried.**

The two 2019-20 student PRAB members have completed their terms with the Board. Mason Minchow and Esme Krohn were recognized and presented with a small rose-tile plaque. Since Mr. Minchow was attending via Zoom, his plaque will be mailed to him following the meeting.

Six applicants were interviewed by the Executive Committee for the 2020-21 school year and two have been recommended to the Mayor for appointment. One of the proposed appointees, Gatran Gatnoor, was attending the meeting in person and the other, Dylan Cork, was attending via Zoom. Appointments are expected to be made by the Mayor and ratified by City Council in August.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, at 12:00 noon.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

- **FitLot facility in Woods Park** – Lynn Johnson  
The new outdoor fitness equipment (copy of photo attached to official minutes on record) in Woods Park just west of the playground and park shelter has been completed and is available for use. A portion of the grant from AARP will include training and classes for routine development. A timeframe has not yet been established.
- **Playground Signage** – Lynn Johnson  
With the reopening of parks playgrounds in the last week, new signage (copy of photo attached to official minutes on record) has been placed at all playgrounds as a reminder that equipment is not disinfected.
- **District Court use of Auld Pavilion** – Chris Myers  
Auld Pavilion will be a temporary location for District Court jury trials beginning in August. Fiber installation and additional details are being finalized.
- **Mural Exhibition** – Lynn Johnson  
LUX Art Center worked with Nebraska artists, with nine selected to place print murals on public locations. The Active Living Center at Jayne Snyder Trails Center and the Woods Pool bathhouse are two Parks & Recreation locations where murals will be temporarily displayed (copy of photos attached to official minutes on record).
- **Mayor’s Budget Overview** – Lynn Johnson  
A presentation (copy attached to official minutes on record) of the Parks & Recreation portion of the Mayor’s proposed budget was shown and information provided regarding expenditure distributions, revenue for support of services, and budget reductions. Due to impacts on the overall City revenue uncertainties from COVID-19 pandemic, it is being recommended that the proposed budget be considered for one fiscal year rather than the typical two-year proposal. The City Council budget hearing is scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **ADJOURN:**

Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.