

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Suite 300, Lower-Level Training Center

Thursday, September 9, 2021 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt Justin Carlson Katie Graf Alex Halvorsen
Conleigh Hemmer Sherrie Nelson Jonathan Petersen Tammy Poe
Jeff Schwebke Jennifer Seacrest (arrived 4:18 p.m.) Sändra Washington (arrived 4:08 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Jim Crook Isabel Salas Lori Thomas Rick Vest
Kathi Wieskamp

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 Denise Pearce, Special Projects Admin.
Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney Angela Chesnut, Exec. Secretary

++ staff participating via Zoom due to meeting room capacity

CALL TO ORDER & RECOGNITION OF 'OPEN MEETINGS ACT':

As per law, Chairperson Tammy Poe 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 eleven in-person Board members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Justin Carlson and seconded by Sherrie Nelson to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2021 meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jeff Schwebke. "No": None. Motion carried.**

A motion was then made by Sherrie Nelson and seconded by Justin Carlson to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2021 meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Sherrie Nelson, Tammy Poe, Jeff Schwebke. "ABSTAIN": Jonathan Petersen. "No": None. Motion carried.**

Sändra Washington arrived at 4:08 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Policies Committee – Jeff Schwebke (Chair)**
No report at this time.

Next Policies Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19th, at 4:00 p.m.

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Jennifer Seacrest (Chair)**

Lynn Johnson provided details of the establishment of the Jonathan Cook Neighborhood Parks Grants Fund in 2015 and the guidelines (copy attached to official minutes on record) that funds be used to support neighborhood park improvement projects that involve volunteer and/or fundraising efforts by neighborhood residents. The Fees & Infrastructure Committee recommends the distribution of \$9,000 in funds be distributed with \$3,000 each directed to park improvement projects at Irvingdale Park, Rudge Park, and Peach Park. Short discussion was held by Board members and Justin Swanson from the Near South Neighborhood Association commented that they are excited for this contribution to the Peach Park project.

A motion was made by Jonathan Petersen and seconded by Katie Graf to approve distribution of \$9,000 from the Jonathan Cook Neighborhood Parks Grants Funds as presented and recommended by the Fees & Infrastructure Committee. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jeff Schwebke, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15th, at 4:00 p.m., for continuing review of the 2021 10-year Facilities Plan update.

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

Sherrie Nelson and Wade Foreman provided an update on recent activity at the City-owned golf courses – all are in great condition; August heat slowed rounds of play; Pioneers Golf Course irrigation project is ongoing; golf cart bids have been received and awarded; fall programs have started with approximately 200 registered; Committee is discussing reserve holdings and staff are working with Finance Department.

Next Golf Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23rd, at 12:00 noon.

- **Executive Committee – Tammy Poe (Chair)**

At the request of Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Lincoln Parks Foundation Director, Justin Carlson provided the Foundation update on her behalf:

- * The third year of our Hub & Soul Concert Series officially kicks off tonight, Thursday, September 9th, after two weeks of cancellations due to weather. Join us at Union Plaza for this free outdoor music event.

- * We are hard at work raising funds for the Wilderness Park. Our \$2.1 million campaign will provide for seven bridges and channel crossings, eight trailheads with kiosks (with maps, trail etiquette, history, and description of the area), wayfinding signage, and a new fitness loop. Visit itsyourwilderness.com for more information and to get involved!

- * The renovation of Cascade Fountain continues to make strides. We will honor 413 teachers in our inaugural "Honor Roll" recognition program at the fountain. These bricks are enroute from our supplier and will arrive on Monday, September 13th.

Next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23rd, at 4:00 p.m.

Jennifer Seacrest arrived at 4:18 p.m.

STAFF REPORT:

- Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application: A letter of support (copy attached to official minutes on record) was proposed for endorsement by the Board for a grant application for adaptive reuse of a former railroad bridge over Salt Creek in Wilderness Park as a multi-use trail bridge, as included in the Lincoln/Lancaster County Comp Plan. Lynn Johnson and Sara Hartzell provided additional information regarding the request and the project.

A motion was made by Bradley Brandt and second by Sändra Washington to recommend that the Board Chair sign the Letter of Support to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission for grant application as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jeff Schwebke, Jennifer Seacrest, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**

- Accessible and Inclusive Playgrounds: Lynn Johnson gave a PowerPoint presentation (copy attached to official minutes on record) focusing on current playgrounds and play equipment in Lincoln parks and transitioned into the need for accessible play and inclusive play at these playgrounds. Board members and staff discussed the importance of determining a full scope of possibilities and needs, noting that this is a community issue. Parks & Recreation staff will reach out to interested community partners and form a working committee very soon.

Justin Carlson left at 5:13 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Hub & Soul music series is being held on Thursdays through October 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m., at Union Plaza.
- Patriot Day Events will be held on Saturday, September 11th at both the State Capitol Building beginning at 8:30 a.m., and at the Veterans Memorial Garden beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- Art in the Garden will also be held on Saturday, September 11th from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., at Sunken Gardens.

ADJOURN:

A motion was made by Bradley Brandt and seconded by Katie Graf to adjourn the meeting at 5:18 p.m. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jeff Schwebke, Jennifer Seacrest, Sandra Washington.** **“No”**: **None. Motion carried.**