

# MINUTES

*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting*  
Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Lower-Level Training Center  
Thursday, March 10, 2022 ~ 4:00 p.m.

## **Members Present:**

Jessica Boren	Jim Crook	Katie Graf	Alex Halvorsen
Conleigh Hemmer	Tammy Poe	Jeff Schwebke (arrived 4:20 p.m.)	
Jennifer Seacrest	Rick Vest (arrived 4:05 p.m.)	S�ndra Washington	

## **Members Absent:**

Bradley Brandt	Justin Carlson	Sherrie Nelson	Jonathan Petersen
Kathi Wieskamp	Vacancy (I.Salas)		

## **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	Maggie Stuckey-Ross, LPF Director
Angela Quinn, Exec. Secretary	

++ *staff participating via Zoom*

## **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 Quinn declaring a quorum of Board members present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Jennifer Seacrest and seconded by Katie Graf to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2021, meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “**Yes**”: **Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Jennifer Seacrest, S ndra Washington.** “**Abstain**”: **Jessica Boren, Jim Crook, Tammy Poe.** “**No**”: **None. Motion carried.**

Rick Vest arrived at the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

## **INTRODUCTION/WELCOME OF NEW MEMBER:**

Chairperson Poe welcomed newly appointed member Jessica Boren to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, asking what her favorite park in Lincoln is and why. Ms. Boren responded with Pioneers Park due to the fall foliage and colors.

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

Carole Curry of 3300 Woods Avenue addressed the Board to express support for Lincoln’s parks, and specifically Woods Park, which she described as “a gem in the center of the city”. Ms. Curry voiced her opposition to the proposed expansion of the Woods Tennis Center that would further encroach on the green space of the park and stated a number of ecological benefits for maintaining green space in cities.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Jennifer Seacrest (Chair)**  
JJ Yost provided background information and explanation of inclusive playgrounds and inclusive play features at playgrounds including a diagram of an inclusive playground example. Information was shared regarding adaptive play features and inclusive play areas. JJ reported on outcomes from the 18-member working group that was established resulting in an Outdoor Inclusive Play Strategic Plan for Lincoln which includes four primary goals (copies attached to official minutes on record). Four park sites located in each of the four quadrants in Lincoln are included in the goals for new inclusive playgrounds, as well as additional inclusive play equipment to be added to other neighborhood playgrounds. Implementation of these goals are recommended by Parks & Recreation staff by endorsement of the strategic plan and approving an amendment to the 2021 Update of the 10-Year Facilities Plan.

The Board discussed the work of the committee and commended members for the great progress and proposed additions. Discussion was also held regarding cost projections, budget, fundraising, and timelines for enhanced and new amenities. A motion was made by Rick Vest and seconded by Jennifer Seacrest to approve endorsement of the Outdoor Inclusive Play Strategic Plan and approve an amendment to the 2021 update of the 10-Year Facilities Plan to include adaptive and inclusive play features into playground development and renovations as presented to the Board. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Jessica Boren, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

Lynn Johnson introduced the next action item regarding dedication of an eastern portion of a parcel of Jensen Park as dedicated public parkland. With the majority of the Jensen Park parcel being originally gifted and considered dedicated parkland, it is recommended that the entire parcel be dedicated similarly. A motion was made by Jennifer Seacrest and seconded by Sändra Washington to recommend dedication of the recently acquired eastern portion of Jensen Park as public parkland and request approval by resolution of the City Council. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Jessica Boren, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

A recommendation was also discussed regarding dedication of the five parcels of Trendwood Park as dedicated public parkland at the request of neighborhood residents who have been implemental in numerous fundraising efforts for the park. A motion was made by Rick Vest and seconded by Jim Crook to recommend dedication of Trendwood Park as public parkland and request approval by resolution of the City Council. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Jessica Boren, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

- **Policies Committee – Jeff Schwebke (Chair)**

Jeff Schwebke introduced the request to approve updates to three different policies/rules and regulations/guidelines which the committee has been reviewing for some time. Lynn Johnson provided examples of current types of inscriptions, tributes, and/or markers that have been placed in parks over time. Denise Pearce then reviewed the history and previous policies and highlighted suggested updates for “Inscribed Markers in Parks and Park Facilities”, “Naming, On Site Donor Recognition, and Donor Acknowledgement Bench Program”, and “Endowments, Donor Records, Acknowledgement Records & Marker/Inscription Records” (all attached to official minutes on record). Maggie Stuckey-Ross also provided information regarding a rebranding effort for Lincoln Parks Foundation and explained how the updated policies will correlate with those endeavors. Each policy was reviewed with Board members and any changes highlighted.

Following questions and additional discussion by Board members, minor grammatical and other corrections were suggested, and that minor editing as warranted without changing intent be included in the motion and approval. A motion was then made by Sandra Washington and seconded by Katie Graf to support and approve the recommended updates, with grammatical corrections as needed, of the policies/rules and regulations/guidelines as reviewed and discussed. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Jessica Boren, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Conleigh Hemmer, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, Rick Vest, Sandra Washington.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

Due to no pending agenda items, the next Policies Committee meeting will be held in April.

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

Wade Foreman provided highlights for the overall golf program and ongoing winter maintenance work including Ash tree removal and replacement. The Golf Committee update from February was reviewed.

Next Golf Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 12:00 noon.

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

Lincoln Parks Foundation Report, Maggie Stuckey-Ross

- \* Foundation has returned to “event mode”, with eleven events scheduled between now and the end of June.

- \* April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 a.m., Trendwood Park ribbon cutting

- \* May 22<sup>nd</sup>, Prairie Corridor Run-Bike-Run fundraiser

Tammy Poe appointed Committee chairpersons for the upcoming year:

- \* Facilities & Infrastructure Committee, Chairperson Jennifer Seacrest

- \* Policies Committee, Chairperson Katie Graf

- \* Golf Advisory Committee, Chairperson Sherrie Nelson

Tammy also appointed new member Jessica Boren to the Facilities & Infrastructure Committee

Next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Winter into Spring Parks & Recreation program guide has been released with copies made available at the meeting. Online versions can be found at [parks.lincoln.ne.gov](http://parks.lincoln.ne.gov).

**ADJOURN:**

A motion was made by Jim Crook and seconded by Katie Graf to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m., with the next PRAB meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

**Meeting adjourned.**