

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Lower-Level Training Center
Thursday, March 9, 2023 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt	Justin Carlson	Jim Crook	Katie Graf
Alex Halvorsen	Sherrie Nelson	Jonathan Petersen	Tammy Poe
Matt Schulte	Jeff Schwebke	Jennifer Seacrest	JJ Toczek (arrived at 4:05 p.m.)
S�ndra Washington			

Members Absent:

Jessica Boren Vacant (C. Hemmer) Vacant (J. Jackson)

Staff Members Present:

Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Director	Holly Lewis, Asst. Director/Recreation
JJ Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager	Chris Myers, Park Operations Manager
Denise Pearce, Special Projects Admin.	Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney
Wade Foreman, Golf Bus. Coordinator	Randy Gordon, Parks Foundation Director
Angela Quinn, Exec. Secretary	

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

As per law, Chairperson Jonathan Petersen 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.

Matt Schulte, County Commissioner newly appointed to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, was introduced by Chairperson Petersen. Board members and staff provided introductions and welcomed Mr. Schulte.

JJ Toczek arrived at 4:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Katie Graff and seconded by Tammy Poe to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2022, meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “Yes”: **Bradley Brandt, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, S ndra Washington.** “Abstain”: **Justin Carlson, Matt Schulte, Jeff Schwebke, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek.** “No”: **None.** **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Chairman Petersen requested that anyone from the audience who wished to speak on topics not listed on the printed agenda sign in on the provided sheets, then state and spell their name and address prior to beginning comments. Those speaking are encouraged to focus on presenting new information, rather than repeating prior points or information and to limit comments and presentations to three minutes. The following individuals came forward to address the Board:

- Geri Cotter, 2111 Sewell Street – regarding anticipated changes to Van Dorn Park and opposition to a botanical garden and conservatory, as she feels that should be placed in a larger park.
- Andy Gueck, 2918 S. 13th Street – Bike track at Van Dorn Park, wanting it to remain permanent.
- Mo Neal, 2701 S. 13th Street – Van Dorn Park, need for crossing bridge as well as not approving a botanical garden at this location.
- Rosina Paolini, 1850 Dakota Street – “The Process”; distributed letter and written questions (copy attached to official minutes on record) regarding Planning Commission and master planning processes; cycling/trail advocate.
- Tom Tallman, 2330 Woodsdale – Lincoln Botanical Garden representative, idea approved in 2015 by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and continuing to work through the process as directed; a Lincoln Botanical Garden Needs Statement was distributed (copy attached to official minutes on record).
- Diane Walkowiak, 1600 Sioux Street – frequent user of Van Dorn Park; 2015 Board action noted Van Dorn Park as a potential site for a botanical garden and conservatory but has never been included in 10-year or master plans; with new playground, trees, and other amenities, Van Dorn Park is not an ideal location for the botanical garden; distributed Van Dorn Park Overview (copy attached to official minutes on record).
- Delan Lenowski, 4700 S. 1st Street – Van Dorn Park wrong place for botanical garden; too small; avid cyclist; park has been revitalized and needs to stay a small community park.

Following questions from the Board, Maggie Stuckey-Ross informed that there is not currently a master plan for Van Dorn Park and that the process that was kicked off in January was to create a master plan. The public comment “discovery” period is through March 15th and comments during this meeting would be included.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Jennifer Seacrest (Chair)**
No report at this time.

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting – Wednesday, March 15th at 4 p.m.

- **Policies Committee – Katie Graf (Chair)**
Katie Graff provided a history of work supported by Tom Lorenz for development and growth of the Pinewood Bowl concert series at Pioneers Park along with numerous other contributions to the City and the community prior to his death in October 2022. Parks & Recreation would like to honor him by naming the ticket office at Pinewood Bowl for Tom Lorenz, which is in conformance with the policy for Naming, On Site Donor Recognition, and Donor Acknowledgement Bench Program. Upon approval for recommendation by the Board, the naming request would be submitted for approval by City Council.

It was questioned whether other proposals are being considered for naming in honor of Tom Lorenz, such as at the Pinnacle Bank Arena, and a hesitation in the event of multiple honors throughout the community. Staff committed to verifying potential conversations within other entities.

A motion was made by Sändra Washington and seconded by Matt Schulte to table the recommendation pending research into other naming considerations in the community. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “Yes”: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Alex Halvorsen, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Matt Schulte, Jeff Schwebke, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek, Sändra Washington.** “No”: None. Motion carried.

Next Policies Committee meeting – Tuesday, March 21st at 4:00 p.m.

Kattie Graff left at 4:48 p.m.

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

Wade Foreman provided an update on the two previous Golf Committee meetings. A new on-line system for checking in golfers and reserving tee times was successfully implemented on February 1st. Maintenance staff have continued tree trimming and removal along with machinery maintenance in conjunction with weather patterns. Golf rounds have been typical with the up and down spring weather. Long time employee Mary Hoelscher retired from the Golf maintenance section after 27 years of service.

Next Golf Committee meeting – Thursday, March 23rd at 12:00 noon

- **Executive Committee – Jonathan Petersen (Chair)**

Lincoln Parks Foundation Director Randy Gordon reported on three projects – one completed, one near completion, and one just launching. Fundraising for the Holmes Lake dock replacement project was successfully completed within the past couple of weeks and the dock has been ordered. The Veteran’s Memorial Garden renovation project fundraising is nearly complete and it is anticipated that the goal will be exceeded. The Foundation will begin coordinating with Lincoln Youth Football in fundraising for expansion at the Runza Sports Complex and Sampson Park.

Director Maggie Stuckey-Ross noted potential updates to the Advisory Board committee assignments with Jennifer Seacrest newly appointed as Vice-Chair and Jonathan Petersen as Chair. Their previous committee assignments were to the Facilities & Infrastructure Committee and Policies Committee respectively. Ms. Stuckey-Ross requested anyone who may be interested in filling those positions contact her in order to relieve those additional assignments from Jennifer and Jonathan.

Next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 26th at 4:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS:

Denise Pearce informed attendees that Bluestem Health, a federally qualified health center in Lincoln, will be acquiring a mobile health clinic. The Parks & Recreation Department has agreed to permit the mobile unit to park at five parks facilities parking lots for a limited period of time, for underserved individuals, beginning in June. The department has worked with City Law to draft an agreement as a pilot project over the next year.

Matt Schulte left at 5:03 p.m.

Maggie Stuckey-Ross provided an update on the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding requests that were submitted by Parks & Recreation Department. One request was \$6 million for South Haymarket Park, which was awarded at \$2.125 million. The second request was for urban and community forestry funds in the amount of \$13 million to be spent over five to seven years. The awards on that request will not be known until potentially August.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Spring cleanup at Hamann Rose Garden will be on Saturday, April 8th, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Sunken Gardens Wake up the Beds is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd, at 8:30 a.m.
- A press conference was held regarding the need to hire 450 seasonal positions, with two job fairs planned for the end of March.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Board, a motion was made by Jim Crook and seconded by Sherry Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 5:08 p.m. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Justin Carlson, Jim Crook, Alex Halvorsen, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jeff Schwebke, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

The next PRAB meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.