

# MINUTES

*Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting*  
Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Lower-Level Training Center  
Thursday, October 12, 2023 ~ 4:00 p.m.

## **Members Present:**

Bradley Brandt      Jim Crook      Katie Graf      Sherrie Nelson  
Matt Schulte      Jennifer Seacrest      JJ Toczek

## **Members Absent:**

Jessica Boren      Vacant (Carlson)      Vacant (Halvorsen)      Vacant (Hemmer)  
Vacant (Jackson)      Jonathan Petersen      Tammy Poe      Jeff Schwebke  
Sandra Washington

## **Staff Members Present:**

JJ Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager      Holly Lewis, Asst. Director/Recreation  
Chris Myers, Park Operations Coordinator      Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator  
Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney      Randy Gordon, Parks Foundation Director  
Angela Quinn, Exec. Secretary

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

As per law, Vice-Chairperson Jennifer Seacrest 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 who declared who declared a quorum of Board members present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Printed copies of the meeting minutes from August 10, 2023 were not available at the meeting and members requested to delay approval until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Katie Graf and seconded by Jim Crook to approve the minutes from the September 14, 2023 meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Matt Schulte. "Abstain": Bradley Brandt, Sherrie Nelson, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek. "No": None. Motion carried.**

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

Vice-Chairman Seacrest announced that anyone from the audience who wished to speak on topics listed or 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:

- Deb Kuwamoto, 339 S. 29<sup>th</sup> Street – 37-year resident of Woods Park area and seem to defend green space every seven to ten years; opposed to proposed tennis center expansion.
- Patti Nielsen, 3348 Woods Avenue – several suggestions for where Woods Tennis could expand, such as the outskirts of Lincoln; Woods Park is limited in space.
- Jane Holt, 3448 Woods Avenue – in 2017 promotional video, Woods Tennis director stated expansion at that time would take them through next 50 years; now, six years

later an additional 2.5 acres for further expansion is being requested; park is landlocked and cannot grow.

- Carole Curry, 3300 Woods Avenue – agree with comments made by others opposing expansion of tennis center at Woods Park; not good fit in middle of city.
- Heidi Uhing, 627 S. 28<sup>th</sup> Street – in support of keeping Woods Park green; experience of expansion six years ago has made neighborhood members wary; not supportive of further expansion.
- Aaron Achen, 364 S. 30<sup>th</sup> Street – opposed to paving over any more of Woods Park; jewel in the middle of Lincoln.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Bradley Brandt (Chair)**

JJ Yost provided an overview of a proposal received by the Lincoln Flying Disc Club for a new beginner disc golf course at Bethany Park. Mr. Yost provided historical information regarding other local disc golf courses as well as the relationship between Parks & Recreation Department and the Flying Disc Club by way of license agreement for operation and scheduling of league and tournament play. A public meeting was held in the neighborhood and a report including comments received was shared with the Board (copy attached to official minutes on record). Trenton Franz, president of Lincoln Flying Disc Club, and James Fleege, Vice President of the Club, addressed the Board providing additional information regarding course design and hole locations within the park, with safety for both players and pedestrians at the forefront. Mr. Franz and Mr. Fleege responded to inquiries from Board members. Additional public comment was received by Eldon Nyhoff (5049 W. Hillsboro Drive) providing favorable input for a beginner and smaller disc golf course.

A motion was made by Jim Crook and seconded by Katie Graf to approve a new beginner disc golf course at Bethany Park as proposed. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “**Yes**”: **Bradley Brandt, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Sherrie Nelson, Matt Schulte, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek**. “**No**”: **None**. **Motion carried.**

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting – Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.

- **Policies Committee – Katie Graf (Chair)**

No report at this time.

Next Policies Committee meeting – Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

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

Sherrie Nelson brought forward the recommendation from the Municipal Golf Advisory Committee to increase golf membership fees by \$20.00 in 2024, with the exception of Junior membership fees which would remain the same. The last membership fee increase was in 2020. Wade Foreman provided additional information. A motion was made by Brad Brandt and seconded by JJ Toczek to approve the recommended increase of golf membership fees by \$20.00 for 2024. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “**Yes**”: **Bradley Brandt, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Sherrie Nelson, Matt Schulte, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek**. “**No**”: **None**. **Motion carried.**

Wade Foreman updated year end golf rounds with a total of 220,117, which are the most rounds played at the five City courses since 1999. Fall projects are underway including aeration, new piping, forward tees, and completion of a new cart path. New project news will be forthcoming next month.

Next Golf Committee meeting – Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon

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

Parks Foundation Director Randy Gordon provided an update reporting on the following:

- South Haymarket Park fundraising is close to official kick-off
- Launching new donor management and database system
- Midwest Racers Organization, Lincoln Youth Football, Put the Beds to Bed, tree giveaway, and other events are also ongoing

On behalf of Chairperson Petersen, Vice-Chair Seacrest announced that the 2024 Board Officer Nominating Committee appointed is Bradley Brandt and Tammy Poe. Officer nominations will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Next Executive Committee meeting is rescheduled from Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. due to an event conflict.

**STAFF REPORT – HOLLY LEWIS:**

Assistant Director of Recreation provided a 2023 Summer Aquatics summary (copy attached to official minutes on record). The social media campaign in the spring was considered a success in recruiting new staff, with 45% returning staff, resulting in no pool closures due to lack of staffing. Pool visits were down 5% from last year but rentals increased by 30%. All pools ran smoothly throughout the season with no mechanical breakdowns.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Celebration of Boman Property acquisition by Solidago at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, 11700 SW 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Denton, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>
- State of the City Address, 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>
- Fall Tree Distribution, Air Park Community Center, 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>
- Air Park Community Center “Thank You, Donor” Event, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>
- Hub & Soul Final Friday Events at Union Plaza, 5:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>
- Put the Beds to Bed, Sunken Gardens, 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>
- Veteran’s Day Program at Auld Pavilion, 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup>

Secretary Quinn added that all Woods Park-Keep It Green and Woods Park Tennis Center correspondence is being compiled electronically as well as hard copies maintained in a binder at the Parks & Recreation Administration office. All information is available for Board member review or can be emailed to Board members upon request. In response to questions, JJ Yost noted that a full schedule for the process of a Woods Park Master Plan review is not yet finalized. Currently, The Mediation Center is in the process of meeting with

various small neighborhood groups and Friends of Woods Tennis, with a community survey being created to allow citizens another opportunity to express their thoughts on the proposed project, although publication of a survey is likely several weeks away from being ready. There are several months of process to work through before any formal discussion or staff recommendation is brought before the Board and City Council.

There being no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.