

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Third Floor Conference Room
Thursday, February 8, 2024 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Bradley Brandt	Jim Crook	Katie Graf	Isabelle Huertas
Tut Kailech	Sherrie Nelson	Jonathan Petersen	Tammy Poe
Matt Schulte	JJ Toczek		

Members Absent:

Jessica Boren	Charity Iromuanya	Jennifer Seacrest	Sandra Washington
Vacant (Hemmer)	Vacant (Schwebke)		

Staff Members Present:

Maggie, Stuckey-Ross, Director	JJ Yost, Assistant Director
Holly Lewis, Assistant Director	Denise Pearce, Special Projects Admin.
Chris Myers, Park Operations Coordinator	Wade Foreman, Golf Business Coordinator
Randy Gordon, Foundation Director	Jocelyn Golden, Asst. City Attorney
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 who declared who declared a quorum of Board members present.

Two newly appointed Board members were in attendance. Board members and staff provided introductions followed by Tut Kailech, who is a community builder at NeighborWorks Lincoln who worked temporarily for Parks & Recreation Department as he was attending college. Isabelle Huertas is filling a student member position and currently a Junior at Lincoln High School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Board member Tammy Poe noted that meeting minutes indicated members Johathan Petersen and Tammy Poe listed as both present and absent for the December meeting, and both were present for the meeting. A motion was made by Matt Schulte and seconded by Katie Graf to approve the minutes from December 14, 2023 meeting as corrected with members present and absent. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **"Yes": Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Matt Schulte, JJ Toczek. "Abstain": Jim Crook. "No": None. Motion carried.**

2023 ZOO LIGHTS REPORT:

Evan Killeen, CEO of the Lincoln Children's Zoo, provided an update on 2023 Zoo Lights reporting a great year. The events saw 72,000 attendees, a 56% increase from 2022. New attractions were added along with the approval to serve alcohol. There were no incidents, violations, or disturbances with alcohol sales or consumption throughout the season. Anticipation in the future may include additional alcohol sales. Following the report, questions and discussion was entertained with Board members and staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Policies Committee – Katie Graf (Chair)**
No report at this time.

Next Policies Committee meeting – Tuesday, February 20th at 4:00 p.m.

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

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting – Wednesday, February 21st at 4 p.m.

- **Golf Report – Sherrie Nelson (Chair)**
No report at this time. Highlights for year ended August 31, 2023 were distributed with Board member packets (copy attached to official minutes on record).

Next Golf Committee meeting – Thursday, February 22nd at 12:00 noon

- **Executive Committee – Jonathan Petersen (Chair)**
Parks Foundation Director Randy Gordon provided the following updates on fundraising efforts for South Haymarket Park, Mahoney inclusive playground, Midwest Racers Organization, Lincoln Youth Football, and Bethany Disc Golf. Recognition plaques and bricks are ongoing projects, with twenty-four benches arriving this week.

Chairperson Petersen noted current subcommittee appointees and briefly explained each. New volunteers are needed for each subcommittee, and specifically Policies Committee at this time. Board members are encouraged to reach out if they are interested in assisting.

Maggie Stuckey-Ross provided historical information on the various Parks & Recreation Department boards, with Denise Pearce then detailing recommended updates to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board bylaws (copy attached to official minutes on record). Similar updates are being proposed for other department boards. Along with grammatical and current practice clarifications, the updates also change Board meeting and committee meeting schedules to every other month. Following discussion regarding terms, limits, and officers, a motion was made by Bradley Brandt and seconded by Katie Graf to approve the updates to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board bylaws in substantially similar form with page numbers to be added. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Matt Schulte, JJ Toczek**. **“No”**: **None**. **Motion carried.**

Next Executive Committee meeting – Thursday, February 22nd at 4:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS:

JJ Yost informed Board members that updated planning efforts of the South Haymarket Park are underway and that a Skatepark survey has been launched and is available on the Parks & Recreation Department website through February 14th. A summary of the survey will be shared with Board members upon completion.

A review of the request from Friends of Woods Tennis for expansion at Woods Park was explained by Denise Pearce. Community meetings will be held soon to receive public testimony on the proposed plan, along with a survey that Board members will receive a link when live and asked to share. The request will ultimately be on a future Board agenda and if an update is recommended, it will also then be considered by the City Council as an amendment to the Woods Park master plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Rosina Paolini, 1850 Dakota Street – discussed upcoming budget and past cuts to Parks & Recreation Department and need for impact fees to be utilized for existing parks instead of only new parks, and the need for more impact fees, Keno funds, and casino funds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- As a reminder, due to a planned Health Department remodel, all 2024 PRAB meetings will be held on the third floor in the Parks & Recreation Admin office conference room.
- Lincoln Polar Plunge for Special Olympics Nebraska, Saturday, February 17th, 11:00 a.m., Holmes Lake (Maggie is plunging for the first time!!)
- Holiday office closure Monday, February 19th, in observance of President’s Day.
- WE ARE HIRING! Spread the word that Lincoln Parks & Recreation is now hiring all seasonal positions – check out all openings at <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/lincolnne/transferjobs>

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for the Board a motion was made by Matt Schulte and seconded by Tammy Poe to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 p.m. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “Yes”: **Bradley Brandt, Jim Crook, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Matt Schulte, JJ Toczek.** “No”: None. Motion carried.

The next PRAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14th at 4:00 p.m.