

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Lower-Level Training Center
Thursday, September 14, 2023 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Jessica Boren Jim Crook Katie Graf Alex Halvorsen
Jonathan Petersen Sändra Washington

Members Absent:

Bradley Brandt Vacant (J. Carlson) Vacant (C. Hemmer) Vacant (J. Jackson)
Sherrie Nelson Tammy Poe Matt Schulte Jeff Schwebke
Jennifer Seacrest JJ Toczek

Staff Members Present:

Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Director Holly Lewis, Asst. Director/Recreation
JJ Yost, Planning & Facilities Manager Denise Pearce, Special Projects Admin.
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, 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 with only six members present and seven members required for a quorum, no business could be conducted at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Chairman Petersen 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:

- Mike Kreikemeier, 3743 Woods Avenue – distributed handout to Board members (copy attached to official minutes on record); self-introduction as Vice-President of Witherbee Neighborhood Association and shared the large majority opposition to the proposed tennis center design and any amendment to the Woods Park Master Plan proposed by the Friends of Woods Tennis.
- Mary Anne Wells, 3460 Woods Avenue – distributed handout to Board members from The Woods Park: Keep It Green Committee (copy attached to official minutes on record); opposed to continued efforts of Friends of Woods Tennis to expand the tennis footprint at Woods Park.
- James Burton, 3454 Woods Avenue – expressed strong endorsement of previous comments.
- Tom Massey, 3404 M Street – neighbor to Woods Park for over 45 years; previous plan was supposed to be 50-year plan; park cannot support more growth; would like to see business plan from tennis center.

- Kelli Achen, 364 S. 30th Street – 30-year neighbor; neighborhood baseball field was taken over by Wesleyan; neighborhood park being taken away; parking concerns; also provided written comment at end of meeting (copy attached to official minutes on record)
- Adam Hintz, 1919 Prospect – echo what’s been said; suggests Lincoln Parks & Recreation conduct study of alternate sites; recommends watching film “Saltvalley Greenways: Natures Network”.
- Tim Brox, 3444 Woods Avenue – lifelong Lincolnite opposed to any Master Plan Changes at Woods Park; adverse effect on underserved members of the community.
- Steven DeLair, 3412 Woods Avenue – focus should not be about the future of tennis in Lincoln, but about the future of Woods Park and the citizens of Lincoln.
- Jane Holt, 3448 Woods Avenue – Community Health Endowment Place Matters / poverty rate and minority; park users are neighbors within walking distance, tennis center users drive to location.
- Ward Curry, 3300 Woods Avenue – green space provides carbon reduction, more oxygen, flood prevention, runoff reduction leading to less pollution.
- Patti Nielsen, 3348 Woods Avenue – free court time for neighborhood does not happen as promised; discussed fees and pricing.
- Lisa Gengenbach, 3324 Woods Avenue – not anti-tennis, need balance with other activities; concerned about safety issues with numerous buildings and low sight distance.
- Rick Flodman, 3401 L Street – informed about loudspeakers with announcements at night; additional courts equal additional noise, traffic, and trash.
- Gary Wells, 3460 Woods Avenue – distributed handout of photo/rendering to Board members (copy attached to official minutes on record) to provide visual simulation of proposal; need to be a public process; proposed is larger than 2016 Master Plan; suggested Jensen Park as potential location for true tennis center.
- Nikki Shasserre, 3433 Woods Avenue – lived in many places where greenspace is the jewel of the city; once it’s gone, it’s gone.
- Cindy Cerny, 434 S. 28th Street – no additional comments.
- Rosina Paolini, 1850 Dakota – follow Comprehensive Plan with Master Plan to include equity, complete neighborhoods, inclusivity; look at Zoo model; expanding Woods Tennis pushes people out of affordable housing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting – Wednesday, September 20th at 4 p.m.

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

Next Policies Committee meeting – Tuesday, September 19th at 4:00 p.m.

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

Next Golf Committee meeting – Thursday, September 28th at 12:00 noon

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

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

- South Haymarket Park capital campaign will launch in October;
- Lincoln Youth Football is running their expansion fundraising campaign with Parks Foundation as partner;
- Two new leads have arisen for Midwest Racing Organization relocation after recent displacement from Oak Lake Park.

Board Chairperson Petersen announced that this is the last meeting for student member Alex Halvorsen and thanked him for his service to the Board. Mr. Halvorsen was presented with a small token of appreciation from the Board and staff.

Next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th at 4:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Tastes in the Tallgrass at Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center (11700 SW 100th Street, Denton), September 17th, 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Hub & Soul Final Friday Events at Union Plaza, 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 29th and Oct. 27th

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