

# MINUTES

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

## **Members Present:**

Bradley Brandt      Katie Graf      Sherrie Nelson      Jonathan Petersen  
Tammy Poe      JJ Toczek      Sändra Washington

## **Members Absent:**

Jessica Boren      Charity Iromuanya      Jim Crook      Vacant (Halvorsen)  
Vacant (Hemmer)      Tut Kailech      Jonathan Petersen      Tammy Poe  
Jeff 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  
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. It was also noted that Charity Iromuanya and Tut Kailech were appointed on Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> by the City Council to serve on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Iromuanya and Mr. Kailech were unable to attend the December meeting but will be formally introduced at the next meeting.

Chairperson Petersen then presented an adjustment to the order of the meeting with rearrangement of preprinted agenda items: *Public Comments for Items Not Listed on the Agenda* will be moved to follow *Committee Reports*; *Executive Committee* will be moved to follow *Facilities/Infrastructure Committee* under the *Committee Reports* section.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Bradley Brandt and seconded by Sherrie Nelson to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2023 and the October 12, 2023 meetings as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: “**Yes**”: **Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, JJ Toczek.** “**Abstain**”: **Sändra Washington.** “**No**”: **None.** Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Bradley Brandt (Chair)**  
Bradley Brandt introduced the topic of the 2023 update of the Parks & Recreation 10-Year Facilities Plan and reminded Board members that the document is a guidance and a fluid plan with A, B, and C priorities that can be adjusted at any time. JJ Yost reiterated this being a guidance document anticipating repair, replacement, and renewal over the next ten years. Mr. Yost provided a brief overview and explanation of the plan document which was distributed to Board

members via email prior to the meeting, along with copies of written public comments received (copies attached to official minutes on record). Board discussion followed with questions and recommendations for consideration.

Chairman Petersen stated 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.

Individuals wishing to address the Board with public testimony were recognized:

- Megan Grimes, 1617 Nemaha Street – requesting priority upgrade for Van Dorn Park and Boosalis/Bison trail connectors; plan indicates 10<sup>th</sup> & Van Dorn crossing area which should actually be 10<sup>th</sup> & High Street.
- Diane Walkowiak, 1600 Sioux Street – requesting priority upgrade for Boosalis/Bison trail, 10<sup>th</sup> & High Street crossing, removal of storage area at Van Dorn Park, and better balance between each quadrant of the city.
- Rosina Paolini, 1850 Dakota Street – better process for obtaining feedback should be prioritized including personal outreach and “feet on the ground”.
- Kjersten Hyberger, 7201 Candletree Lane – Friends of Wilderness Park is supportive of the plan updates.
- Adam Hintz, 1919 Prospect Street – echoed statement of Diane Walkowiak, adding appreciation of the Wilderness Park master plan.

Following additional discussion from Board members, Mr. Yost noted updates that would be made adding the High Street intersection with 10<sup>th</sup> & Van Dorn Street regarding a pedestrian crossing location, the addition of a table of contents page, and the addition of acquisition and development of a future neighborhood park in the Cedar Cove development per public testimony and Board discussion. A motion was made by Tammy Poe and seconded by JJ Toczek to approve the 2023 update of the Parks & Recreation 10-Year Facilities Plan as amended to include above noted updates. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”:** **Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, JJ Toczek, Sāndra Washington.** **“No”:** **None. Motion carried.**

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting – Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.

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

In the absence of Parks Foundation Director Randy Gordon, Department Director Maggie Stuckey-Ross provided the following Foundation update on his behalf:

- Actively preparing fundraising strategy for South Haymarket Park in anticipation of new images and information on park design for printing campaign materials – predicting February launch.
- Continuing to work on Midwest Racers Organization fundraising strategy and other small sponsorship prospects.
- Completed 2023 support via earlier anonymous gift for several Parks & Recreation Department projects including Smoke Signal, Public Gardens

greenhouse, Public Gardens flower bulbs, Volunteer Tree Planting event trailer, Solidago Conservancy, and three endowments in support of department facilities, spaces, and projects.

The nominating committee for the 2024 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board officers was presented nominating Jonathan Petersen as Chairperson and Jennifer Seacrest as Vice-Chairperson. Upon acceptance of the nominations a motion was made by Bradley Brandt and seconded by Tammy Poe to elect Jonathan Petersen as Chairperson and Jennifer Seacrest as Vice-Chairman as 2024 officers. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Sherrie Nelson, Tammy Poe, JJ Toczec, Sändra Washington.** **“ABSTAIN”**: **Jonathan Petersen.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

Next Executive Committee meeting is rescheduled from Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. due to the holidays.

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

Next Policies Committee meeting – Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

- **Golf Report – Sherrie Nelson (Chair)**  
Wade Foreman updated

Next Golf Committee meeting – Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon

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

No one from the audience indicated an interest in addressing the board regarding items not listed on the agenda at this time.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Holiday office closures: Christmas (December 25th), New Years (January 1st), Martin Luther King Jr’s Birthday (January 15th)
- Due to a planned Health Department remodel, all 2024 PRAB meetings are scheduled to be held in the Parks & Recreation Admin office conference room on the third floor!

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business for the Board a motion was made by Katie Graf and seconded by Sändra Washington to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“Yes”**: **Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, JJ Toczec, Sändra Washington.** **“No”**: **None.** **Motion carried.**

The next PRAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.