

MINUTES

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Woods Park Place, 3131 O Street, Third Floor Conference Room
Thursday, September 12, 2024 ~ 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Jessica Boren (arrived 4:05 pm)	Bradley Brandt	Katie Graf
Isabelle Huertas	Tut Kailech	Ameil Kieu (arrived 4:25 pm)
Adrian Lauer (arrived 4:10 pm)	Sherrie Nelson	Jonathan Petersen
Tammy Poe	Jennifer Seacrest	JJ Toczek
Sandra Washington (arrived 4:08 pm)		

Members Absent:

Jim Crook	Charity Iromuanya	Matt Schulte
-----------	-------------------	--------------

Staff Members Present:

Maggie, Stuckey-Ross, Director	JJ Yost, Assistant Director
Holly Lewis, Assistant Director	Denise Pearce, Special Projects Admin.
Chris Myers, City Forester	Wade Foreman, Golf Fac./Ops. Manager
Randy Gordon, Foundation Director	Shawn Quinn, Parks Fac./Ops. Manager
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 a quorum of Board members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Bradley Brandt and seconded by Katie Graf to approve the minutes from May 9, 2024 meeting as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows:

“Yes”: Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek. “No”: None. Motion carried.

Jessica Boren arrived at 4:05 p.m.

BOARD TRAINING – ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY JOCELYN GOLDEN

As an annual reminder to Board members and training for new Board members, Jocelyn Golden from the City Law Department provided written procedures (copy attached to official minutes on record) and gave an overview of standard processes to be followed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act and Roberts Rules of Order. Ms. Golden also discussed communications subject public records, correspondence between Board members, reasons for voting abstentions, and conflicts of interest. Discussion and clarifications were addressed.

Sandra Washington arrived at 4:08 p.m.

Adrian Lauer arrived at 4:10 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Next Policies Committee meeting – Tuesday, October 15th at 4:00 p.m.

Ameil Kieu arrived at 4:25 p.m.

- **Facilities & Infrastructure Committee – Bradley Brandt (Chair)**
JJ Yost and Denise Pearce addressed the naming of the new northwest Lincoln community park, located at N. 27th Street and Arbor Road, based upon a donation of a majority of the estimated value of the parkland by Cornhusker Bank and the late Alice Dittman. In working closely with the Dittman family, it has been recommended that the new park be named Cornhusker Bank Park, with further agreement that in the event Cornhusker Bank is sold, the park name will be changed to Alice M. Dittman Park. Following short discussion from Board members and department staff, a motion was made by Tammi Poe and seconded by JJ Toczek to recommend approval to the City Council that the new northwest community park be named Cornhusker Bank Park. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“YES”: Jessica Boren, Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Ameil Kieu, Adrian Lauer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek, Sändra Washington.**

A recommendation was discussed regarding the declaration of a .29-acre parcel of land east of Sheridan Elementary School along Winthrop Road as surplus property. JJ Yost provided information regarding the property location and explained that the parcel has not been maintained by Parks and Recreation Department and has not been regarded as park land. Declaring the parcel as surplus will provide a means for the land to be sold to Lincoln Public Schools, who has an interest in purchase. An appraisal will be secured and a recommendation by the Board for approval will be forwarded to City Council for approval. Following discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Seacrest and seconded by Jessica Boren to recommend declaration of property east of Sheridan Elementary along Winthrop Road as surplus and allow for sale of the land. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“YES”: Jessica Boren, Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Ameil Kieu, Adrian Lauer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek, Sändra Washington.**

Next Facilities & Infrastructure Committee meeting – Thursday, October 16th at 4:00 p.m.

- **Golf Report – Sherrie Nelson (Chair)**
Wade Foreman briefly reviewed Golf reports from the past few months (copies attached to official minutes on records). Tournaments and special events were noted along with turf maintenance and typical seasonal issues. Fiscal year ends at the end of August with a financial report to be available in the future.

Next Golf Committee meeting – Thursday, October 24th at 12:00 noon

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

Director Maggie Stuckey-Ross informed Board members that the department has applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant for renovation and expansion of the Antelope Park Inclusive Playground. A letter of support is traditionally endorsed by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and signed by the Chair. Due to the timing of the grant submission and of the Board meetings, a letter of support (copy attached to official minutes on record) was drafted and signed by Jonathan Petersen. A request was made of the Board to affirm the support for the grant application. A motion was made by Bradley Brandt and seconded by Katie Graf to affirm the Parks & Recreation Board letter of support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund grant application as presented. Upon roll call vote members voted as follows: **“YES”**: **Jessica Boren, Bradley Brandt, Katie Graf, Isabelle Huertas, Tut Kailech, Ameil Kieu, Adrian Lauer, Sherrie Nelson, Jonathan Petersen, Tammy Poe, Jennifer Seacrest, JJ Toczek, Sändra Washington.**

Parks Foundation Director Randy Gordan provided recent updates:

- Mahoney Inclusive Playground campaign has been closed raising \$55,000 in the last five days. There is a lot of interest in supporting and advocating for the future renovation and expansion of the Antelope Park Inclusive Playground.
- South Haymarket Park campaign commitments and cash have currently reached in excess of \$13 million of the \$25 million goal.
- Parks Foundation has launched a new website – lincolnparks.org. Check it out!
- A marketing intern will join the Foundation office this spring through UNL Honors Program.
- In 2025, a year-around fundraising plan is scheduled to be launched.
- Since January 2024, the Foundation has funded 29,000 sponsorships for park activation and recreation activities with a focus on diverse and underrepresented groups.

Jonathan Petersen reminded the Board that it is the time of year for nominations of new Chair and Vice-Chair rolls for 2025, and asked for volunteers to serve on a nominating committee. Tut Kailech and JJ Toczek offered to serve on the nominating committee. A slate of officers will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Next Executive Committee meeting – Thursday, October 24th at 4:00 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS:

Maggie Stuckey-Ross shared updates regarding the July 31st windstorm which destroyed a large number of trees in and around Lincoln. City Forester Chris Myers provided statistical information and current progress but noted that many maintenance items would be ongoing. Maggie added that facility damages are still being assessed and repair needs determined.

JJ Yost reported that Mahoney Playground will be closed in the very near future in order to disassemble playground equipment and clear the site for construction of the new inclusive play playground equipment. Bidding and contractor selection is in the beginning stages. Playground equipment currently being removed at Mahoney will be reassembled and repurposed at the newly acquired Tranquility Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA:

Doug Marthaler, 7500 Rutledge – Raised concerns regarding pickleball fees at recreation centers regarding increased rates within the past year. Proposed that rates be returned to previous and adding passes or promotions similar to swimming pools. (Messages sent earlier in the month and included in Board member packets; also attached to official minutes on record.)

Sandra Washington requested that this topic be moved for discussion and recommendation to the Policies and Executive Committees.

Brent Dickie, 2900 Wagon Drive – Requesting lowering pickleball fees and advocating for session passes. Discussed other locations and availability of passes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Art in the Garden, Sunken Gardens, Saturday, Sept. 14th, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- Tastes in the Tallgrass, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Sunday, Sept. 15th, 3:30-7:00 p.m.
- Otoe-Missouria Day Celebration, Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, Saturday, Sept. 21st, 2:00 p.m.
- Hub & Soul (final 2024 event!), Union Plaza, Friday, Sept. 27th, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
- Maggie attending NRPA Conference in Atlanta, Oct. 7th thru 11th
- Put the Beds to Bed, Sunken Gardens, Saturday, Nov. 2nd, 8:00 a.m.-12 noon
- Veterans Day Program, Auld Pavilion, Monday, Nov. 11th, 11:00 a.m.
- Next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting, Parks & Recreation Admin Offices, 3131 O Street, Third Floor, Thursday, Nov. 14th, 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for the Board a motion was made by Sherrie Nelson and seconded by Tut Kailech to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Petersen consented and meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.