

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
April 21, 2021

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Youth and Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Public Works Foreman Rob George, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Stuby and Bobette Jones. Absent: Administrative Assistant Sue Tangeman

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on April 14, 2021. Simultaneously given to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice are attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated, in advance notice to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to attendance of the public. Further, all the subjects included in said proceedings were contained in the agenda for inspection within ten working days after said meeting, prior to the convened meeting of said body.

CALL TO ORDER

Director Scott Stopak called the meeting to order.

Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stopak made an announcement of the location of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference and read the Emergency Procedures Statement.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Stopak asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Member Mechels-Stuby. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All aye. Motion carried.

2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Scott Stopak, Recreation Director

Director Stopak informed the Board that the Recreation Department will be expanding the hours of operation beginning May 3rd to 8am-9pm Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 9am-4pm. These are the normal summer hours.

Also in June, the Recreation Department will be starting our instructor-led classes again.

In June, the ENOA (Eastern Nebraska on Aging) meals for seniors will be served at the Community Center.

Stopak also reported that the Mayor and City Council will be touring both sites for the new pool, Central Park and the existing area. Both sites will have the area of the pool staked out so they can see how it would fit in each location.

Member Kupfer asked what the mask mandate will be when we open everything up at the Community Center. Stopak said that mask requirements will remain the same at this point and will be reevaluated as more information becomes available. The city wide mask mandate for the City of La Vista expires on May 25th, and the Council will revisit the mandate then.

David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director

The **Virtual Recreation Center** featured a variety videos from mid-March through Mid-April. Those included:

- Our Fun Friday Recreation @ Home monthly calendar video for April and several videos featuring our Annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was reformatted this year as an Easter Egg Grab-N-Go on Saturday, April 3 from 10am to 12pm here in the Community Center/City Hall parking lot.

We had an incredibly successful event this year, thanks to the 29 volunteers and staff members working the event. We were able to distribute over 20,000 eggs to 340 cars filled with well over 1,000 passengers. Pictures and videos of the event can be seen on all the city's social media platforms. Our live Easter video has over 1,100 views and the drive-thru Easter Egg video has over 427 views.

The Community Center was the site for (6) COVID-19 vaccination clinics sponsored by the Sarpy & Cass County Health Department during March/April. Over 4,700 people participated in these clinics.

During the Clinic on April 1, ten-year old Matthew Murray entertained the patrons by playing classical music on his violin. Over 1,000 people have viewed the video of his performance on the city's social media platforms. When asked how long he has played the violin, he stated "more than half his life, as he started playing when he was 4 years old!"

Our Kids Can Run program starts it's an 8-week spring session this year. We again have teamed up with Tiffanie Frost. Her program teaches health and empowerment principles through a variety of running games and fun activities that promote the empowerment principles which are:

1. Power words, how we talk about ourselves defines who we are.
2. Positive Thoughts, we are what we think we are.
3. Aspiring goals, we dare to believe anything is possible.
4. Personal Resilience, setbacks are welcomed as an opportunity to grow.
5. Teamwork, we can do together what we cannot do alone.
6. Individual Integrity, we do the right thing even when no one is watching.
7. Community Vision, we exist in relation to others.
8. New Beginnings, a finish line is just the beginning of a new journey.

Join us for our reformatted Arbor Day Celebration on Friday April 30 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Park near the trail head by the pond. This year's celebration will feature our new Memorial Tree program. Our first memorial tree will be dedicated to Mayor Andy Anderson who passed away last year.

Following the dedication, families and friends can stroll around the pond for a book walk. The book walk has pages of a book placed on signs that are spread around so patrons can read the story as they walk around the pond.

At the end of the book walk, patrons can receive a free tree sapling and a take-home craft to celebrate Arbor Day.

Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager

Adult Programs:

- **Women's Volleyball:** The Winter season ended on March 24. The Spring session started on March 31 and will play a shorter 6 game session. This league has 8 teams.

Softball Summer League:

- Senior League: games start the week of April 12. 1 league plays on Mon/Wed night (16 teams) and the other league plays on Friday mornings.
- Adult Softball: games start the week of April 5. We have 16 teams in our Thursday Double Header League and 6 teams in our Friday Night League.

Youth Programs:

Coaches are assigned, teams have been formed and practices have begun, for youth baseball, flag football, soccer clinic, academy & league, youth and adult softball. Games will start at the end of April or early May.

- Baseball: 2021= 52 players/4 teams; 2020= 40 players/3 teams; 2019 = 100 players/8 teams
- Flag Football Summer: 2021= 123 players/13 teams; 2020 = Covid-league cancelled;
- 2019 =78 players/9 teams.
- **2021 total of 123 players = most players on record dating back to 2014.
- Soccer 3 yr. old Summer Clinic: 15 players (maximum enrollment)
- Soccer Summer Academy/League: 2021= 89 players; 2020 Covid-league cancelled; 2019 = 67 players
- Girls Softball: 2021= 71 players/ 6 teams; 2020 = 32 players/3 teams 2019= 57 players/ 4 teams

Coed T-ball: 2021= 70 players; 2020= Covid- league cancelled; 2019 = 56 players.

** 2021 total of 70 players = most on record dating back to 2014 deadline = May 3.

Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager

In March, a total of 5,851 seniors participated in Senior Center programs.

- 478 Grab 'n Go Lunches were picked up in March.
- 896 Seniors participated in various recreational activities.
- 4,477 Seniors received Covid 19 Vaccines from the Sarpy/Cass County Dept. of Health, who held clinics in our gymnasium.

The senior's continued to practice social distancing during our programs. Some special programs we had included:

- Outings to Jimbo's Diner, Square Donuts, Hollywood Candy and Fairmont Antiques, and Johnny Sortino's Pizza
- Guided Meditation w/ David
- Manicures
- Made Lucky Charm Bracelets and "Kindness Rocks" to be hidden in La Vista Parks for Citizens to find

- Movies this month were “Waking of Ned Devin”, “Hidden Figures” and “Darby O’Gill and the Little People”
- Music by *The Links*
- Games we played were Fairytale Jingo, Happy Birthday Jingo, St. Patrick’s Day Jingo and Keno.
- On the last day in March, we had a Mint Ice Cream Shake Grab-n-Go. They picked up their shakes at the north door, just like they do their lunches.
- Seniors filled out March Madness brackets.

The computers that were purchased for the Senior Center with the Google grant money are having various software programs installed and will soon be available for the seniors to check out.

Submitted by Rob George, Public Works Parks Foreman

- George reported that the City approved the purchase of a new John Deere 72” front deck mower for the Parks Department. The Capital Equipment Committee recommended this purchase for the mowing of our parks and right-of-ways.
- The Public Works Department has hired a new Parks employee, Brandon Anderson. He started with the City this week.
- George also reported that we are up to 8 commemorative trees to be planted in the next couple of weeks. A special one will be the tree for the late Mayor Andy Anderson, which will be planted for Arbor Day.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Lodes asked Dinan what he did to increase the number of teams playing in the Adult Softball League this year. Dinan responded that he has made good connections with people that play in the UVA Leagues over the years and was able to convince them to play in our league.

Member Jones made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Mechels-Stuby. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:30pm.