

City of La Vista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
May 18, 2022

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, May 18, 2022. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Youth & Adult Sports Services Manager Denny Dinan, Administrative Assistant Sue Tangeman, Parks Foreman Zach Burt, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, and Bobette Jones. Absent was and Member Brenda Mechels-Stuby.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on May 11, 2022. 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 16, 2022 meeting. Motion made by Member Jones. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All aye. Motion carried.

**2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF**

Stopak said the pool is getting ready to open on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Dani Howard is the manager again this year, with Ethan Buso and Ian Mathouser the assistant managers. There are 15 guards hired.

The ribbon cutting for the Nebraska Multi-Sports Complex is on Friday, May 27 at 11:00 a.m. Governor Ricketts and Mayor Kindig will attend.

## **VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS**

**Submitted by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

Our Armed Combat Academy Fencing Club hosted an all-day round-robin tournament in the gym on Saturday, April 23. The tournament featured dozens of combatants fighting in three categories: Small Sword, Rapier, and Saber. This was a regional tournament with fighters coming from Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. One participant from Scotland was visiting a friend in Lincoln and heard about the tournament the night before and drove up that morning to participate. In addition to the fighting another highlight were the elaborate renaissance styled costumes the combatants wore.

Our annual Arbor Day celebration was held last Friday evening in Center Park. The Celebration started with Mayor Kindig and Council Member Teri Quick reading our Arbor Day proclamation, followed by a storybook reading by librarian Ashley Wemhoff. Afterwards, there was a family storybook walk around the lake, and as patrons left, they were able to pick up a free American Elm sapling, Nebraska wildflower seed packet and a grab-and-go craft for their children.

Our Spring Kite Festival was held on Sunday May 1st at the La Vista Sports Complex. The nice weather and winds helped draw a steady crowd of viewers and participants throughout the day.

The annual Omaha Bead Affair was held April 30-May 1 in the Community Center. The event hosted regional vendors with a large selection of merchandise. Jewelry making and beading supplies, seed beads, bead kits, metal craft supplies, gemstones, glass beads, clay beads, Czech glass beads, crystals, and leather goods were all available. Bead classes were also available. The event also featured a selection of handmade, ready-to-wear, finished jewelry. Glass Bead Making Demonstrations from the Midwest Lampworkers Guild and Beaded art displays of recent works from the Omaha Beady Bunch were given.

## **YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS**

**Submitted by Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager**

### **Pre-School Play Time**

**April counts: Started back up on 4/12/22**

Adults = 15 Daily average = 3

Children = 16 Daily average = 3

**Total = 31      Daily average = 6      Total Play Time days = 5**

### **Adult Programs:**

**Women's Volleyball:** The Spring session started on April 6 and will play a shorter 6 game session. This league has 7 teams.

### **Softball Summer League:**

**Senior League:** games start the week of April 11. We have a league that plays on Mon/Wed night (16 teams) and another league plays on Tuesday & Friday mornings (8 teams).

**Adult Softball:** games start the week of April 29. We have 7 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 start at the end of April or early May.

#### **Baseball:**

2022 = 56 players/ 4 teams  
2021= 52 players/4 teams  
2020= 40 players/3 teams  
2019 = 100 players/8 teams

#### **Girls Softball:**

2022 = 65 players / 5 teams  
2021= 71 players/ 6 teams  
2020 = 32 players/3 teams  
2019= 57 players/ 4 teams

#### **Coed T-ball:**

2022 = 62 players  
\*2021= 70 players  
2020= Covid- league cancelled  
2019 = 56 players.

**\* 2021 total of 70 players = most on record dating back to 2014.**

#### **Flag Football Summer:**

2022 = 81 players  
\*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:** 16 players (maximum enrollment)

#### **Soccer Summer Academy/League:**

2022 = 99 players  
2021= 89 players  
2020 Covid-league cancelled  
2019 = 67 players

On March 27, 2022, we partnered with a new La Vista business, the Nebraska Disc Golf Company located at 71<sup>st</sup> & Harrison, which recently opened. Together we hosted a 22 hole Disc Golf Tournament at Central Park. The holes started up by the old golf course clubhouse and spread all the way down near the tennis courts and then back up around the lakes near the clubhouse.

Following is an email I received from Will Schram the owner of Nebraska Disc Golf Company and the tournament director:

I wanted to thank you and Scott for everything you did to make the La Vista Falls tournament happen. It was a smashing success. Every participant I spoke with enjoyed themselves- even the ones who threw their discs in the lake.

We had 103 players in the tournament. The oldest disc golfer in our event was 69 years old, the youngest was 8. We had players from as far away as Des Moines, Kansas City and Sioux Falls. One golfer and his son drove all the way from Cozad, Nebraska, just to play this event. We had golfers from La Vista, Omaha, Plattsmouth, Bellevue, Fremont,

Ft. Calhoun, Lincoln, Waverly and numerous other cities in the Metro. Even the neighbors and park patrons seemed to enjoy disc golf in the park.

We look forward to making this an annual event - 2023 could be bigger and better. In the meantime, After the event, I made one final walk of the park to make sure everything was cleaned up. During that walk I saw a young man walking the trail with disc golf discs in hand. He told me he and his wife live a few blocks from the park and they had seen our targets earlier in the day. He assumed they were a permanent installation and walked down wanting to play. I had to break the news to him, but I hope he reached out to City Hall.

If you build it, they will come.

In our initial meeting, we discussed youth events that had been hosted at La Vista Falls in the past. I would love to bring disc golf to the kids and families of La Vista.

Thanks again for all your help!

Will

## **SENIOR SERVICES**

**Submitted by Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager**

In April, a total of 1721 seniors participated in Senior Center programs.

- 206 Lunches were served in April
- 1,515 Seniors participated in various recreational activities

Special programs included:

- Outings to Prehistoric Putt, Beacon Hills and the Zoo
- Movies "Singing in the Rain" and "Mannequin"
- Music by Merrymaker Louis Watkins
- Seniors played Bingo, Happy Birthday Jingo, Pitch, Uno, Poker and Zoo Jingo

Other notable activities were Crafts with Bob and Cheryl, Show and Tell, Senior Billiards tournament and the Sarpy County Wellness and Nail Care Clinic.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Submitted by Brian Allen, Events Coordinator**

### **Spring '22 Programming – Past Highlights**

- Trivia Nights in April and May were well received at Kros Strain Brewing Company in La Vista with 32/participants and 26/participants respectively.
- Kite Festival at the Sports Complex had average attendance and good weather with no issues to report.

## **Summer '22 Programming – Upcoming Highlights**

- **Salute to Summer Festival:** Saturday, May 28 from 12:00pm – 11:00pm at City Hall Campus. Free fun for all ages featuring a parade, live music, fun zones, car show, local beer gardens, fireworks and more.
- **Free Ice Cream!:** Saturday, June 11 1:00pm-3:00pm at 4-different locations  
G. Stanley Hall Elementary (Ward 1)  
Central Park Lakes (Ward 2)  
La Vista Public Library (Ward 3)  
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (Ward 4)
- **Thirsty Tuesday Trivia Night:** Tuesday, June 14 at 6:00pm at Kros Strain
- **Dinosaur Day:** Thursday, June 16 at 10:30am at Community Center and at 2:00pm at La Vista Public Library
- **Yappy Hour:** Thursday, June 23 at 7:00pm at the Dog Park at Southwind Park
- **Outdoor Concerts & Movies:** Friday, June 24 at 7:00pm at Central Park Lakes with *Rex Granite Band* featuring Sarah Benck and the movie *Despicable Me*

## **PUBLIC WORKS PARKS DEPT.**

**Submitted by Zach Burt, Parks Foreman**

Burt told the Board that the restrooms at Val Verde (Centennial) Park have been entirely updated from floor to ceiling.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Member Kupfer wanted if permanent Disc Golf would obstruct or detract from people visiting Central Park. Dinan said that it would not, that there were people walking and watching while they played their tournament.

Chairperson Lodes asked how the Easter Egg Hunt went. Karlson stated it was the largest we have ever had.

Chairperson Lodes made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.