

City of La Vista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
March 15, 2023

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, March 15, 2023. Present was Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Denny Dinan Youth and Adult Sports Manager Kaily Stanley Senior Services Manager, Brian Allen Community Events Manager, Parks Foreman Zac Burt, Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Struby, and Jason Ryan.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on March 8, 2023. Simultaneously given to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice is attached to the minutes. The 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**

Asst. Director David Karlson called the meeting to order.

Karlson led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Karlson 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. Karlson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2023 meeting.  
Motion made by Member Mechels-Struby. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All aye. Motion carried.
- Reports from Staff

#### **VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS** **Report given by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

#### **SENIOR CENTER**

**Report given by Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager**

In February, a total of 2380 seniors participated in Senior Center programs.

- 395 Lunches were served.
- 1,985 Seniors participated in various recreational activities.

Some special programs included:

- Outings to Black History Museum, Cheddars, Horseshoe Casino, and China Buffet
- Movies shown were “The Lake House” and “ The Vow”
- Music by Merrymaker Tim Clark
- Seniors played Bingo, Happy Birthday Jingo, Pitch, UNO, Hand & Foot, Bunco, and Board Games w/UNMC nursing students.
- Other notable activities were Crafts w/Bob and Cheri, Meditation w/David Karlson, and a Mardi Gras Party.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Report given by Brian Allen, Evens Coordinator**

### **Spring '23 Programming**

#### **Easter Egg Hunt and Food Drive**

Saturday, April 8, 10:30 AM; at La Vista Sports Complex (Soccer Fields)  
Gates Open 9:45 a.m.; Start 10:30 a.m.

#### **Arbor Day Celebration**

Thursday, April 27, 10:00 AM; at Southwind Park; Free

#### **Spring Kite Festival**

Sunday, May 7, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM; at Soccer Complex; Free

### **Summer '23 Programming**

Save the date: Salute to Summer Festival - Saturday, May 27, 2023 at City Hall Campus; noon-10:00 P.M.

### **Travel and Training - Conference Summary**

In early February, I was given the opportunity to attend the 2023 Mobile Stage Conference. This conference, held annually in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, is the nation’s premier networking event and trade show for the outdoor event industry. On full display were outdoor mobile stages, audio, lighting, and video products as well as other event related equipment and supplies.

The intent for this trip was to see first-hand what best options are available on the market and to then make a recommendation for the Recreation Department’s purchase of mobile staging, audio, lighting, power, and video equipment.

With the anticipation of more innovative events programming at City Centre, Central Park and throughout the city, the FY23 Recreation budget includes a capital outlay budget allocated for such purchases. An outdoor mobile stage (that is constructed as a pull-behind trailer and opens up as a covered stage) for example would be beneficial for events or rentals such as live concerts, street fairs, festivals, urban races, parades, fundraisers, sporting events, weddings, conferences, and a myriad of other recreation or community events.

## **YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS**

**Report provided by Denny Dinan, Youth & Adult Sports Manager**

### **Pre-School Playtime:**

December totals: Adults = 101; Children = 144; Total=245; Avg = 31

**Januarys: Adults = 133; Children = 168; Total = 301; Avg = 30**

### **Adult Women's Fall Volleyball:**

The 2023 Winter league has all 8 teams returning and began on January 4, and will play a 12-game schedule.

**Youth Basketball League:** Games started on January 21 and will be played at the La Vista Community Center on Saturdays from 10am – 5:30pm. We have 66 participants this year compared to 77 last year. We have the following teams:

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade boys = 2, girls = 1

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade boys = 2, girls = 1

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade boys = 2

**Youth Basketball Clinic for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades:** The clinic started on January 14 and will run for 5 weeks. We have 31 participants this year compared to 35 last year.

**Basketball Skills Competition** took on a March Madness theme this year. It was held on Tuesday, March 7. Competition had separate divisions for 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Competition included a timed skills obstacle course, hot shot contest and a free throw contest. Participants had opportunities to receive bonus points by making shots and free throws using designated “money balls” to boost their scores.

We partnered with Sarpy County Tourism, and did a considerable amount of advertising this year compared to last, plus we switched from having it on Sunday last year to Tuesday evening this year. We had 56 kids participate, compared to 26 last year. The participants were rowdy & rambunctious, cheering each other on, and had a great time.

We had volunteers help with the program from the La Vista Recreation Dept., Sarpy County Tourism, the Papillion-La Vista Optimist Club and the Papillion-La Vista High School.

### **Spring Programs**

**Registrations are now being accepted for the following spring youth programs:**

- Boy's Baseball
- Coed flag football
- Youth soccer clinic, Academy and League
- Girls Softball
- Coed T-ball

### **Spring Programs**

**Registrations are now being accepted for the following spring youth programs:**

- Boy's Baseball
- Co-Ed flag football
- Youth soccer clinic, Academy and League
- Girls Softball
- Co-Ed T-ball

Fields will open on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. We are anticipating a busy year, with most nights' fields being used. Three high school girls fast pitch softball tournaments are already scheduled for three weekends in April.

Nebraska Disc Golf will have an event on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Central Park. La Vista is the first leg of the event that they hold throughout the season. Last year there were 99 participants.

Chairperson Lodes asked if any of the high schools rent our fields anymore, as they did in the past. Dinan said no, that the only thing that was booked by an outside school was the tennis courts by Gross High School Tennis team.

Lodes also asked if we push our programs on social media. He saw March Madness event on Facebook a lot. He wondered how it worked. Karlson said that Mitch Beaumont is in charge of that, but they weren't positively sure how it worked.

Karlson also thanked Dinan for the March Madness event, saying it was a great event and he was honored to work it. He said it was a "rocking" event, with the crowd being very exuberant. Many of the parents were there, so it was a full house. Dinan said they may consider doing it on 2 evenings next year, so it doesn't last quite as long.

## **PARKS FOREMAN**

### **Report provided by Zac Burt, Parks Foreman**

The Park Dept. is currently installing the lower playground at Jaycee Park and should be done in the next couple of weeks.

Public Works recently hired Sydney Bauer for Landscape Gardner. Sydney was previously Maintenance Worker II for the Parks Dept.

## **UPDATES**

### **Report provided by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

Karlson said he wanted to tell the Board about a lifesaving event we had at the Community Center in February. A gentleman was walking by the front desk. Bob Perry, Rec Attendant, immediately got on the phone to call 911. Kaily Stanley went to get help from City Hall and retrieve the AED. Sue Tangeman checked his vitals. He had no pulse and wasn't breathing. She started CPR and was able to bring him around. Kevin Pokorny, a former police officer now in Administrative Services, had come over from City Hall. When the man stopped breathing again (coded) he took over CPR from Sue. He came around and coded a couple more times before the paramedics got there. They inserted an IV, continued CPR then transported him to the hospital. He has now returned to walking at the Community Center.

Kaily, Sue, Bob and Kevin were at the last City Council meeting and received a Lifesaving Award from the City/Police Dept.

We have lost a Recreation Attendant, Braedon Erickson, who has been with us for several years. However, Kate Kerniskey is starting this week, who is a teacher at OPS. We think she will be a great fit as she is used to working with kids of all ages.

April is going to be busy at the Community Center. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Midwest Collectibles Toy Show will have a whole day show, and the next week on April 15-16 is the annual Omaha Bead Affair. These are two of the largest events we have at the Community Center.

Looking at the Traffic Count report for the Community Center, you can see it flat-lined. The door counters were not working for a few months. They were temporarily fixed, but they are coming to their life end, so we are looking into replacing them with a new upgraded system. Currently it is a horizontal counting device, and the new ones are overhead, so there is less danger of getting damaged.

The Senior Center Meal Count and Activities are coming way up.  
The Special Services Bus are holding steady, and we are now up to 3 drivers.

Lodes asked if the counter counts every time the kids run in and out. Tangeman explained that they will count them each time they come in, but not when they go out. Karlson said we also look at our check-in counts on Active for comparison, and we are having more people check in, such as Pickleball players and Wallyball players. Previously they did not.

#### COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

Member Ryan made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All aye. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.