



City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
April 17, 2024

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of La Vista convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on April 10, 2024. 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.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Heather Buller called the meeting to order.

- a. Director Buller led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b. Director Buller made an announcement of the location of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference and read the Emergency Procedures Statement.

2. ROLL CALL

Present was Members Jason Ryan, Shaina Owen, and Samantha Gentry. City Staff present was Chair/Director Heather Buller, Parks Superintendent Jason Allen and Administrative Assistant Sue Tangeman. Absent was Vice-Chair Pat Lodes.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. Buller asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion made by Member Ryan. Seconded by Member Owen. All aye. Motion approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Buller asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 20 meeting. Motion made by Member Ryan. Seconded by Member Owen. All aye. Motion approved.

5. DISCUSSION, DIRECTION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Update on Active Mobility Plan. **Heather Buller, Recreation Director**

- Stakeholders meeting was held on April 3. Heather and Samantha attended the 2nd session. The stakeholders meeting was attended by biking community members, business owners, persons with disabilities, and residents. All gave great insight to the mobility of La Vista. Between the two sessions, 50 were in attendance. The next step will be an input survey from the public.

- b. Discussion on Reflection Plaza, **Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent**

- Allen gave a presentation on the history of Reflections Plaza and where the city stands today with the project. In 2013, Central Park (the prior golf course area) became one focus of location for the Reflection Plaza, but location is still being discussed. Allen showed the different ideas that have been brought about such as landscaping, lighting, etc. La Vista Community Foundation has been raising money for the project. Staff will be bringing location and design options back to the Committee for recommendation to take to Council.

- c. Discussion and direction on results of Fall 2023 Park & Recreation Survey. **Heather Buller, Recreation Director**

- Buller went over and discussed the results of the Recreation focused Parks & Recreation Survey. The largest participation came from community-wide special events, the second largest participation was senior programming and youth sport leagues. The lowest numbers came from youth and teen programs at the Community Center. Staff has focused on increasing attendance for youth and teen programs. The Mayor's Youth Council has been gathering input from the local teens on what they would like to see and what would bring them to the Community Center. Staff will bring these results back in May.

Lack of time was the main reason for not participating in recreation programs. In the focus groups, some said they did not know about them, although some also said they love the community guide magazine they get in the mail. Other

comments were scheduling conflicts, transportation, or not having programs for their age group.

For the people that do come to our programs, 45% said programming was good, and 37% said it was excellent.

54% said the variety and quality of events in parks were good.

Overall, Parks and Recreation had a 46% good rating.

Member Ryan said the ones that do come to programming rated our programs 70% above or more, which is a big win. The next step is how to get more people to come.

Other members suggested having a monthly calendar or newsletter because the quarterly and community guide is so far out, people may possibly forget about events are happening. Looking at expanding the hours of the Community Center.

In the Campus Plan, RDG is recommending roughly 60,000 sq. ft. needed for the Community Center, whereas now the facility is at approximately 26,000 sq. ft.

Member Ryan said it was a positive move to join with other communities, such as Ralston and Papillion, for the youth sport leagues. This gives the kids an opportunity to play against others as they will as they get older.

Member Owen asked if the Mayor's Youth Council could possibly do some recruiting of teens for programs and possibly hosting some. Staff will pass long the suggestion.

Member Gentry asked if the Committee could help with the youth gardening program? Staff will reach out to the Library and send this information to the Committee.

d. Discussion on Park & Recreation Advisory Committee involvement of Arbor Day celebration. **Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent**

- Allen updated the committee on the Arbor Day event. The celebration will be held at Val Verde Park at on April 26 at 1:00 p.m. The tree is planted near the restroom. Pat Lodes will be emcee.

6. STAFF REPORTS

a. Recreation Operations Report, **Heather Buller, Recreation Director**

Heather discussed the Operation Reports from staff of the Recreation Department.

She highlighted the Link, saying the Astro Amphitheater has booked 26 outdoor concerts for 2024, whereas they will be renting the Link (which is owned by the City of La Vista). The Link is comprised of concessions and restrooms.

The Nines Plaza, also owned by the city, has been rented by City Centre to hold some outdoor fitness classes there this summer. This is the area where the picnic tables are and is essentially part of Central Park.

Also, for the first time there is Pre-K through Kindergarten Flag Football this year.

The Center had a “surprise” inspection from the Dept. of Environment and Energy for a food establishment evaluation on March 15, during our Senior St. Patrick’s Day Luncheon. No violations were found, and was commented as having an extremely clean facility.

An art wall was installed at the Community Center, and have some beautiful art works from two ladies from La Vista.

Yappy Hour is next Wednesday, April 22 at City Centre from 4-7 p.m. There will be dog vendors, and in the grass area a Dogtopia which will include obstacle courses, plus non-alcoholic Mojito’s from the Heights.

A Pool Manager and Assistant Pool Manager have been hired. Two hiring fairs were held in April, and have offered 22 lifeguard applicants.

Buller mentioned the resurfacing of the basketball court floor, and it looks great.

b. Parks Operations Report, Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent

Spring is busy for the Parks Department, and staff has been mulching out at the Cabela’s area, water feature was repaired, and the mowing crew has started this week. Staff has been working outside of the Clubhouse where Santa’s Workshop is held, landscaping, installed a patio, mulching etc. Surfacing is in at the playground in Central Park East, and the vendor finishing up work on a feature with climbing ropes. Contractors will be here next week to finish up. Staff is hoping to plan a ribbon cutting ceremony for May 18. The road is complete, and the footings/foundations are in for the restrooms and shelters. Contractors for the shelter said maybe mid-May and should be done in August.

City Council approved the lighting project on the trail from Edgewood to the Clubhouse, that should start in the fall.

City Park concrete trails and parking lot is complete. They are ahead of schedule on the ballfield.

Finishing up at Children's Park, removed old equipment and installed new swing set, did some edging and condensed the sand down.

At the Sports Complex, staff is mowing and using the new field line painter robot.

26 seasonal employees have been hired.

City received 33rd year of Tree City, USA.

Tennis courts will be resurfaced.

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date Wednesday, May 15.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

9. COMMENTS FROM PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Member Ryan made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Gentry. All aye. Motion carried. Adjourned at 6:53 p.m.