

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
February 16, 2011

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on February 16, 2011. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Vice-Chairman Pat Lodes, Members Corey Jeffus, and Jeff Kupfer. Absent were Members George Forst and Shannon Wiig. Recreation staff members present were Assistant Recreation Director David Karlson and Program Coordinator Richard Carstensen. Program Coordinator Eddie Burns was absent.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on February 10, 2011. 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 the 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

Recreation Director Stopak called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes.

Recreation Director Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director 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

Director Stopak made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes. Motion carried.

Vice-Chairman Lodes made the motion to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2011 Advisory Board meeting. Seconded by Member Kupfer. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Director Stopak notified those in attendance that the Community Center is closed on Monday, February 21 for Martin Luther King Holiday. Also, the Randy Cahill benefit chili feed, auction and dance will be held at the Community Center on Saturday, March 5. Randy is a former Park & Recreation Advisory Board member, and also a coach in our youth programs for many years.

Stopak, reporting for Program Coordinator Eddie Burns, said that the Spring sports registrations for Adult Softball, Youth Baseball/Softball and Soccer are on-going. Youth Basketball and Women's Volleyball are in season now.

Program Coordinator Rich Carstensen reported on activities from the Senior Center. At the beginning of February, the Seniors went to the Western Heritage Museum, where they saw the Abraham Lincoln display. Seeing the history of Lincoln was well worth the trip. On Valentine's Day, the cities of La Vista and Papillion hosted the annual Valentine's Day luncheon at the Community Center. Approximately 90 Seniors attended. Thank you to all the City officials and staff that helped that day. On the 25th of February, the Seniors will be going to the Shrine Circus, thanks to their donation of tickets to the Center.

Assistant Director David Karlson reported that a children's author, Jo Ann Bennett-Boltinghouse, will read her book "*Yolanda Baby-A Pooch Finds Her Purpose*" to preschoolers in the Community Center gym. This will be held on Tuesday at 10:00 during the usual time for Preschool Playtime. The library has invited their Storybook visitors to join us. She is bringing her dog, Lindy, who is the same kind of dog in the book. Preschool playtime will follow the reading.

On March 26, there will be a Kansas City BBQ Society Certified BBQ Judging class at the Community Center. This was held here last year also, and we had 80 people registered for it.

B. REVIEW PARK PLANS

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator addressed the Advisory Board Members and public, describing the background of the review of the city parks in La Vista; and that three meetings occurred to gather input from the Board Members and the Public of the conceptual plans that have been drafted for that purpose. The City listened to comments and suggestions from the Board and the Public on the drafted plans. The committee met again, and drew up conceptual plans based on the input and comments. These plans, and any changes made at tonight's meeting, will be present to council, and next steps will be outlined.

A discussion was held on changes that were made to the park plans. A major change was the dog park for Mayor's park was deleted. The dog park at Centennial Park will remain, with some minor changes to the original plans. Mayor's Park will have an outdoor classroom, since it is located next to the school, and a nice green space. The previous inquiry about an ice rink was relayed to the committee. It was thought that if an ice rink was incorporated, it should be part of the civic park winter wonderland that is considered for the Vision 84.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-chairperson Lodes said that in his opinion, the dog park at Mayor's Park is a better fit than Centennial, as it would not affect homeowners. However, if it is to remain at Centennial, separate entrances for small and large dogs may be needed. Ramirez said the committee did not think a dog park next to a school was a good idea, and that Mayor's was a nice park for an outdoor classroom.

Member Kupfer wanted to know how much need there was for an outdoor classroom? Ramirez said they did not know that yet, but would meet with school officials and discuss the matter. There are many grant opportunities for outdoor classrooms.

Member Jeffus commented on the splash pad remaining at City Park. Ramirez said it did not work with the space to move it to Triangle. City Park has the potential of having larger fields to attract older players, and has room for a public works storage space.

Stopak said the Member Wiig sent him her comment that she thought many of the ideas were placed into the final plans, and she was happy that Mayor's Park will be a green space.

Lodes asked about a parking lot at Centennial. Brian Lukasiewicz (Public Works) said there should be 7 parking spaces on the north side.

Stopak noted that another change was at Eberle-Walden Park was the full shelter. It will now be partially covered, so there will be some shelter, but not overwhelming.

Ramirez said the next steps will be to present the conceptual plans to the police dept, and get together with the school district. They will begin working on ballpark figures and work on a financing plan, then present it to council.

Lodes asked about the time-table for grant writing. Do you have to have the money figures to apply? Joe Soucie said you have to have fairly firm figures on the applications. Ramirez said they have a pretty good idea of dollar figures, but need to look what's out there for grants. Soucie said once you receive a grant, you normally have one year to finish the project. Ramirez said the engineers would be asked to prioritize the project.

Director Stopak made a motion to approve Park Plans. Seconded by Member Jeffus. All aye.

Vice-chairperson Lodes made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Member Kupfer. Motion carried.
Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.