

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
February 18, 2009

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 18, 2009. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Advisory Board Members Pat Lodes, George Forst, Penny Selders, Jeff Kupfer. Absent: Randy Cahill. Staff member Eddie Burns was also present. Absent: Staff members Dave Karlson and Rich Carstensen.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on February 12, 2009. 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

Director Stopak called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Advisory Board Member Lodes.

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

Recreation 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.

Director Stopak introduced the two new members of the Recreation Advisory Board, Penny Selders and Jeff Kupfer.

Election of new chairperson. Member Lodes was nominated by Member Forst, seconded by Member Kupfer. Committee members voting aye: Forst, Selders, Kupfer.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Lodes made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by Committee Member Forst. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Recreation Director Scott Stopak reported that a 22-year-old male, suffering from a heart defect, passed away after collapsing in the gym at the Community Center on Sunday evening, February 15, 2009.

Stopak also reported that the Senior Valentine's Luncheon scheduled for Friday, February 13, was cancelled due to the weather. It has been re-scheduled for Friday, February 20. There are approximately 140 people signed up for the event.

Ballroom Dance class began in January with six couples participating.

Baton classes have increased in size. The dance room is no longer large enough, so they will be utilizing ½ the gymnasium for practice.

Burns reported that youth basketball has 2 weeks remaining of the 8-week season. Adult basketball is in its third week, and women's volleyball began tonight. Next month will be registrations for flag football, baseball, softball and soccer. The basketball teams received new uniforms this year. The tank shirts are navy reversible to white, with navy shorts.

Burns also reported that there is two 5/6 grade boys basketball teams and three 3/4 grade boys teams. The teams play cooperatively with the Sarpy YMCA and Offutt teams. Some teams play there games at the La Vista Community Center, others are at a local church in La Vista, the La Vista Junior High, and the YMCA.

Chairperson Lodes asked what type of advertising we are doing for the youth teams. Stopak stated that we advertise in mailings to prior year's participants, the City Wise What's Happening newsletter, the Omaha World-Herald and the Times.

Member Selders asked about youth teams between grades 6 and High School. Burns stated that there is only baseball and softball for that age.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Jeff Niemiec, the La Vista Vipers Wrestling Club reported that the numbers are down this year to 43 kids. They are participating in tournaments almost every weekend. Practice has been held at the high school this year due to a lack of coaches. Member Kupfer suggested asking the high school coach if he would speak at their wrestling banquet on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at the Community Center.

Don Bellino, La Vista Youth Athletic Association, reported that, due to the selling of fireworks, they would have \$8-9,000 available in the next couple of months for any special projects the Recreation Dept. would have.

Jodee Drake-Soto, Jeff Crnkovich and Steve Hayden Sr. spoke for the La Vista Panthers Baseball Club. They discussed with the Advisory Board the options the Panthers have been given by the City. For 2009, the Panthers can reimburse the City, per participant, an equal fee to our in-house baseball leagues. This will provide field usage for practices and games only. Recreation staff will schedule field usage requests so there is no conflict with in-house usage of fields. If the Panthers want to host a tournament, they would have to submit a tournament request form and pay the tournament usage fees set in the master fee schedule.

The Panthers have until June 1, 2009 to determine what they will do for the 2010 season and beyond. They have two options given by the City. They can stay independent and pay field usage fees for practices and games, as set by the Master Fee Schedule, which is adopted by the City Council. They will be subject to the same expectations as other organizations for scheduling fields as outlined in the Council Policy Statement, Recreation: Scheduling, Operation And Maintenance Of City Fields.

The Panthers other option is to merge with the City. All registration fees will be retained by the City and the City would be responsible for all administrative and financial responsibilities. The Panthers would be responsible for fund raising opportunities to assist with the expenditures of the program.

The Panther representatives stated they need to know more details on how the merger would affect them before they can make a decision for next year

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Lodes stated that the subject of field usage and fees has been on the agenda since last year, and feels that the Advisory Board has lost a say on the outcome. Lodes would like to be on record that “fees have to be as such that clubs can operate and not go bankrupt”. Lodes also said that the Clubs need clarification on what needs to be accomplished to facilitate a decision.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Lodes made the motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Member Forst. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.