

City of LaVista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
April 16, 2008

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 March 19, 2008. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Chairperson Greg Johnson, Pat Lodes, John Vendetti Absent: Randall Cahill, George Forst

A notice of the meeting was given advance thereof by publication in the Times on April 10, 2008. 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

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Advisory Board Member Vendetti. Motion carried.

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.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by Committee Member Vendetti. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Recreation Director Scott Stopak stated that Arbor Day is on April 25, 2008, however, the City will observe it on Friday, May 2, 2008. This is due to the fact that school is not in session on April 25th and cannot participate in the annual tree planting ceremony until May 2nd. The Mayor and a Recreation Department representative will join one school for the tree planting ceremony at City Park. The Park & Recreation Advisory Board members are invited to join in the ceremony.

The City of La Vista has been awarded Tree City for the 17th year in a row. Recreation Director Stopak accepted the award given by Governor Heineman at a ceremony in Lincoln on April 8th.

Program Director Rich Carstensen reported that the Hershey Track Meet is scheduled for April 27th. There are only 16 children registered, so if not more children register, it may have to be cancelled. La Vista is working with Papillion on this event. The Easter Egg Hunt held on March 22nd was a big success with over 1,000 children. 15,000 eggs and 100 prizes were given away. This year, we had over 75 volunteers and staff including La Vista Panthers baseball teams, La

Vista Scout groups, La Vista Senior Center, City Council members, Park and Recreation Advisory Board members, the La Vista Police Department, Public Works and the Recreation Departments, the La Vista Youth Athletic Association, La Vista Wrestling Club, Tackle Football and Cheerleading Club and the La Vista Lancers Soccer Club all donated \$300 toward the event. In an effort to provide more space and better parking, the City is looking into moving the Easter Egg Hunt to the Sports Complex next year.

Program Director Carstensen also reported on the Senior Center activities this month. Eastern Nebraska on Aging (ENOA) held a public meeting on Monday, April 14th to discuss the future of the lunch programs at the various senior centers. The goal is to raise the numbers for lunches at the centers. The Senior Center will also try to hold more variety of activities throughout the month.

Program Coordinator Burns reported that the start of the soccer season was delayed last week due to rain. We will try to begin this Saturday, April 19th. Flag football is in its 4th week. Youth softball and baseball teams have been formed, and t-ball and pinto baseball deadlines are April 30th. The men's basketball league is in its last week, with a tournament beginning April 27th. Women's volleyball is in its 9th week on Wednesday nights.

Recreation Director Stopak also reported that registrations for swimming pool passes have begun. Swimming Lesson registrations will begin on April 28th for residents of La Vista, and May 5th for non-residents. Also, the Aikido Martial Arts program is looking into availability to hold their Women's Self-Defense class on a permanent basis, having one class per month. Details are still being discussed.

Recreation Director Stopak reported that La Vista Falls golf course leagues are now forming with some due to begin soon. An employee golf league is also being promoted on Thursday evenings with tee times 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All employees, elected and appointed officials, members of the Volunteer Fire Dept, family members and friends are invited to play on the league.

A Code of Conduct pamphlet was also distributed to Board members.

B. SWIMMING POOL CONCEPT DISCUSSION

The Swimming Pool Advisory Committee met last week and decisions were made to obtain new designs for the pool.

Chairperson Johnson stated that it was a good meeting with good suggestions. His major concern is with square footage and the maintenance costs of a lazy river.

Advisory Board Member Lodes commented that he believes that too much time was spent on a design that would be difficult for residents to approve. He thought the last meeting was productive and that the prior meetings should have had better direction.

Advisory Board Member Vendetti stated that those suggestions came from the citizens themselves from the surveys, open house, etc. There had to be a starting point, whether or not it took some time.

Chairperson Johnson said during these times, we are at a point to start looking at it economically.

Advisory Board Member Vendetti said he thought we needed to get things going because the pool may break down, then La Vista would not have a pool at all.

Chairperson Johnson said it would be good to get the revised designs by the beginning of summer, and possibly they could get out and talk to citizens about the new designs. The election should have large numbers this year, due to it being a presidential election, and a lot of people will be able to vote on the pool.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

No comments.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Advisory Board Member Lodes asked if anyone was assigned to check on the fields when they are deemed unplayable due to weather. He reported that there were teams at the soccer complex on Sunday. He said those teams should not get permits to play on the fields.

Advisory Board Member Vendetti asked if a gate could be installed at the entrance to the complex and if people could be ticketed for illegal usage of fields.

Recreation Director Stopak stated that the Public Works Department employees or Recreation Dept. employees check the fields. Stopak will work with the Police Department and the Public Works Department to come up with a solution that is enforceable.

Advisory Board Member Lodes also asked how it was working for the teams to have to carry insurance to rent the fields.

Program Director Carstensen said this is the third year that teams had to carry liability insurance. It has proved very expensive for some teams, and the City has seen a decline of tournaments and revenue because of it.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Advisory Board Member Vendetti. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.