

City of LaVista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
June 20, 2007

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 7:02 p.m. on June 20, 2007. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, John Vendetti, Greg Johnson, Randy Cahill and Chris Kuehner. Absent: George Forst.

A notice of the meeting was given advance thereof by publication in the Times on June 14, 2007. 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.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Recreation Director Stopak called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Committee Member Kuehner. Motion carried.

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

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Committee Member Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Committee Member Vendetti. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Recreation Director Stopak made an announcement of the location in City Hall of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference.

Stopak informed the Committee that a new Special Services Van was delivered last week, and that it was shown at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, June 19. The van's appearance is different from the others with a two-tone bronze paint job, and larger, seating 12. Stopak reported that the van will be in service soon.

Stopak addressed questions from May 19th meeting. Committee Member Johnson had asked if there were individual apparatus cost breakdown figures provided for the proposed aquatic facility. Recreation Director Stopak said the cost breakdown figures were provided at the June 13 meeting. Committee Member Vendetti asked if any consideration was allowed for employee parking at the proposed aquatic facility. Stopak reported it is anticipated that employees would park in the public parking lot or at a possible site near the access road leading to the pump house.

Assistant Recreation Director David Karlson reported on the special event "Dinosaur Egg Hunt" the Recreation Department is hosting on Tuesday, June 26, 2007 at 3:00 pm. in Central Park. The event is for family and friends who will gather at Central Park to hunt GIANT DINOSAUR EGGS! When all the "eggs" are found, they will gather back at the shelter to "crack open our eggs" and enjoy a cold slice of watermelon. The fee is \$1 per person or \$3 per family.

Program Director Rich Carstensen reported on a nightly event at the La Vista Sports Complex. The Midwest Performance Fliers meet every evening from 4:00 p.m. until dark to fly planes. The public is welcome to come down and watch. They will also let people try to fly. Wednesday evenings they have flight training classes, and on Friday evenings they fly helicopters, which the public is also welcome to attend.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Resident Donna Kozak gave history of the Economic Development Plan from September 2003, and expressed concerns on increasing taxes and creating debt for the City.

Resident Doug Speicher said he was not notified properly of May 30, 2007 meeting. He expressed concern on the lack of studies on the effect of traffic, property values, congestion, noise and children crossing 84th Street. He also questioned if a water park would be viable and profitable. He would like a consideration to put the aquatic facility out by Cabela's. Speicher asked where money comes from if there is a shortfall.

Committee Member Vendetti said that the property by Cabela's is very expensive, and the City already owns the property of the current pool. Vendetti stated that kids have been walking to the pool across 84th Street for years, and Cabela's is too far away. This site would be appealing and attract people from other areas because of location and price. Vendetti also stated that they are just an advisory committee, and the final say would be by City Council. Committee Member Cahill said the City Council has done extensive studies, and that the May 30, 2007 pool meeting was a review of the concept that was chosen by the Swimming Pool Advisory Committee.

Resident Angela Higgs raised concerns about higher taxes for a facility that will be open for 85 days per year. She would like to see the money go elsewhere in recreation, such as yoga classes, clogging, nature programs, etc. She wondered if another playground would be built to replace the one that would be taken down. Higgs also wanted to know if an environmental impact study had been done. Recreation Director Stopak said that an environmental impact study has not been done and it's not even known if the existing playground would have to be removed.

Resident Ken Willenberg has not formed an opinion yet, but said his kids growing up would have loved it. He said he has missed the meetings, but would like copies of information on studies that have been done. Recreation Director Stopak said Mr. Willenberg could request copies at City Hall.

Committee Member Vendetti stated again that this was a concept right now, and that the advisory committee cannot authorize studies. All questions brought to the advisory committee would be forwarded to the City, but the City Council is primarily responsible. Traffic, lighting, etc. has been discussed. Vendetti also voiced that a pool and recreation is very important to kids.

Committee Member Cahill stated that traffic on his street, Birch, is heavy now, so this new pool would divert traffic to 84th Street instead. He agreed that recreation is very important to kids, and that it helps keep them off streets and out of trouble.

Committee Member Kuehner said it is important to remember that this is a conceptual idea, and they invite the public to come to the meetings with their issues and concerns.

Resident Klaus Lindner offered that the new pool will be too large, and that no one has said if La Vista can afford this.

Committee Member Cahill replied that the amenities proposed on the conceptual design were voted on by the public through surveys and the current proposed conceptual design was decided upon by the swimming pool committee based on these surveys.

Committee Member Johnson agreed that this is a very large project and smaller ones were discussed, but the concept contains the amenities the public voted upon.

Committee Member Kuehner stated that the City's current deteriorating pool is what started the process. The current pool is not viable and is costing money.

Resident Kathy Cook asked if any studies had been done for other plans. La Vista is working class and cannot afford higher taxes. She stated that the City needs to look at a pool such as the one located in the City of Wahoo.

Committee Member Johnson said there were several concepts looked at.

Committee Member Vendetti said the public is always welcome to contact their council members.

Committee Member Cahill said letters were sent to residents in the pool vicinity approximately 5 to 6 months ago, and notices of meetings have been in the newsletters, papers, etc.

Resident Tim Heidenreich asked about the Park & Recreation Master Plan and when the meetings are held. He is concerned that park in Val Vista has not been developed. He is also concerned that we will lose a large park and green space by putting in a water park, and that the west end of La Vista needs to be looked at.

Recreation Director Stopak said the Park & Recreation Master Plan Action Plan is used as a guide for developing the La Vista park and recreation system. The Action Plan should be updated annually as new projects arise, priorities change, budgets are proposed, projects are completed, etc. The Park & Recreation Advisory Committee meetings are the forum where public input is sought regarding the Park & Recreation Master Plan.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Johnson thanked everyone for coming. He told those in attendance to talk to their council members.

ADJOURNMENT

Recreation Director Stopak made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Committee Member Johnson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.