

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
July 27, 2010

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 Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, and Advisory Board Members [Vice-Chairperson] Pat Lodes, Jeff Kupfer and George Forst III. Recreation staff member present was Recreation Program Coordinator Eddie Burns. John Kottman, representing Public Works Department also attended. Assistant Recreation Director David Karlson and Recreation Program Director Richard Carstensen were absent.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on July 22, 2010. 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 Committee Member Kupfer. Motion carried.

Committee Member Forst made the motion to approve the minutes from the May 19, 2010 Advisory Board meeting. Seconded by Committee Member Kupfer. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Program Coordinator Eddie Burns said that t-ball, coach pitch baseball and adult softball are currently in play and will be wrapping up their seasons soon. Adult softball has some make-up games throughout August due to the excessive amounts of rain.

The fall session of Adult Softball will begin on September 7. We are taking registrations for other fall sports such as tackle football, flag football, cheerleading, soccer, volleyball. The 3-year-old soccer clinic will proceed for its second season, with Member Lodes helping us out again.

No reports from Assistant Director Karlson or Program Coordinator/Senior Director Rich Carstensen.

Director Stopak reported that the first year of the La Vista 50 Urban Scramble Adventure Race was a huge success. We had 27 teams of two. During the race, the contestants visited the city parks in La Vista collecting punches at the sites and completing physical challenges along the way. The City is planning to have this event again next year. Director Stopak thanked all the volunteers and the City employees who helped, Sue Tangeman, Cabela's, PayPal, and Midlands Community Foundation.

Also in conjunction with La Vista 50 will be the "Splash Bash" this coming Sunday, August 1, at the La Vista city pool. The event will be from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., with free swimming, food, a D.J., games, and prize drawings. This is the third time for this yearly event.

B. CIMARRON WOODS PARK IMPROVEMENTS – SECTION II

1. PUBLIC HEARING OPENED AT 7:10 PM

Mark Westergard from E & A Consulting Group, Inc. attended the meeting to discuss the second phase of the Cimarron Woods park improvements, as outlined in the Master Park Plan. Phase I is nearly completed, with phase II beginning most likely in the fall.

All elements in the park are subject to the master plan. Phase I included the trail system, play area, shelters and park area. The second phase will include a basketball court, permanent restroom, and play area. The trail will also be completed, connecting it to the existing trail and 99th St. The trail meets ADA standards. The key element of Phase II is the Splash Park with a shelter nearby. The splash park will have eight stations, run on fresh water, and touch activated. It will run for a timed period, and then will have to be touched again to reactivate. The splash park seems to be readily accepted and supported by the citizens of La Vista. The green open space will be the size of two soccer fields. A levy will also be constructed along 101st Street to discourage flooding. Restrooms will be permanent like the one in Central Park, and doors will be on a timed lock to discourage vandalism. There will be approximately 30 parking spaces in the park area and around the park area.

Mr. Westergard also added that there would be no bond for the City of La Vista for the funding of Cimarron Woods Park.

In Support:

Craig Martin, President of Cimarron Woods Home Owners Association expressed concerns that there is still silt and washout on bridge and railroad underpass after heavy rains. Mr. Martin also expressed concerns that at some time traffic numbers may warrant no parking signs be installed along Cimarron Woods Drive, 101st Street and Margo Circle; and, more lighting in the parking lot to help cut down on mischievous activity.

In Opposition:

None.

Mr. Westergard said all those points were valid. There is lighting planned. The silt problem has been worked on, but they realize it is still an issue.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED AT 7:26 PM

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Forst wanted to see on the map where the 30 parking stalls would be located. Mr. Westergard pointed out on the drawing where parking would be.

Member Forst wanted to know about the landscaping and relocating trees. He commented that the trees needed to be watered more often or they would not survive. He suggested the period be for one year. Mr. Westergard said some trees would be relocated in the fall, but the projected would not be completed until spring 2011. Member Kupfer wanted to know if the trees would be replaced if they did not survive. Mr. Westergard said it had not been considered.

A discussion was held on concern of the basketball court being too close to the splash park, and the possibility of balls/teenagers running onto the splash pad while small children were playing. It was agreed that a fence may be a dangerous apparatus for the park, but landscaping and possibly moving the court and splash pad slightly would lengthen the distance between them. Member Forst also would like to stub electrical service to the basketball court.

Vice-Chairman Lodes asked about the silt problem on the trail, and said it is impossible to use for a few days after a heavy rain. Mr. Westergard said it has improved with sod being placed in yards, but there are still some empty lots.

Vice-Chairman Lodes also wanted to know how much of a slope is the open green area, and would the Recreation Dept. issue permits for that green space? Mr. Westergard said there is a 2% grade with crowning in the middle, just like a soccer field or football field. Director Stopak said the City would not issue permits, since we want to discourage organized league play on those fields due to parking constraints and the residential nature of the open green area.

Member Forst wanted to make certain that the park would be kept in good shape before annexation by the City of La Vista, and suggested that there be trash receptacles added to the plan for the restroom area.

Director Stopak asked for a motion to approve the Cimarron Woods Park Plan Phase II with suggested changes. Member Kupfer made the motion to approve Cimarron Woods Park Plan Phase II with suggested changes. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-Chairman Lodes commented that there were very positive remarks from the participants on the Urban Scramble Race, and that the volunteers and Fire Department helpers were very good. Director Stopak said he would relay the message.

Member Forst made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.