

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

**DRAFT**

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, 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 currently playing 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. 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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. City staff reviewed the parks and their existing amenities and compared it to the Park & Recreation Master Plan recommended park amenities. City staff added any missing amenities to the parks and also added special features to the parks. Conceptual drawings and plans were prepared for each park. Public meetings were then held to gather input from residents, Park & Rec Board members and staff on a new long-range improvement plan for the community's parks. These plans, and any changes made at tonight's meeting, will be presented to the City Council for approval.

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 discussed. It was thought that if an ice rink was incorporated, it should be part of the civic park winter wonderland in the Vision 84 project.

### 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.

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 read Member Wiig's comment that she thought many of the ideas that were heard in the public meetings were placed into the final plans, and she was happy that Mayor's Park would have an outdoor classroom and open 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 for the space that is available.

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. Soucie said once you receive a grant, you normally have one year to finish 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.