

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
August 19, 2020

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2020. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Operations Manager Ryan South, Youth & Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Admin. Asst. Sue Tangeman, Public Works Parks Superintendent Jason Allen, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Jeff Kupfer, and Brenda Mechels-Stuby. Member Nick Moyer was absent.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on August 12, 2020. 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 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 Scott Stopak called the meeting to order.

Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Stopak asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Member Kupfer. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All aye. Motion carried.
2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Scott Stopak, Recreation Director

Director Stopak updated the members on the new pool project. It was presented to the City Council at the previous night's meeting. The presentation is also on the website for viewing. We will have additional meetings in the future on the project.

David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director

On March 16, all city buildings including the Community Center closed to the public due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. At about this time, the city launched its newly rebranded web site. The new web site contained a new "**Virtual Recreation Center**" where we can add a variety of content that people can do from home. Here are some of the things you can find on our Virtual Recreation Center:

- Greeting from the Easter Bunny (1.3K views)
- Virtual Arbor Day feature Mayor Kindig, Dino the Dinosaur and myself. (772 views).

- Fun Friday Eye Spy game (663 views).
- Fun Friday, Imagination Play “A one Boy baseball team”, (1K views).
- Fun Friday Alphabet Scavenger Hunt, (310 views).
- A video introducing our Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, (1.3 K views).
- Fun Friday Days, Little Chefs English Muffin Pizza episode (490 views).
- Fun Fridays Garden Tips, (252 views).
- Fun Fridays Paper airplane folding, (398 views)
- Fun Fridays LOVELAVISTA #Challenge, Paper Airplanes Challenges, (452 views),
- Dynamic Duo Story time #1, with Ms. Jodi and myself - (472 views).
- Fun Fridays, Little Chefs/Octopus Bites, (424 views).
- Fun Fridays, #Challenge, Chop Stick Challenge, (587 views).
- Fun Fridays, #Challenge, Puzzle Race, (382 views).
- Dynamic Duo Story Time #2, (320 views).
- Fun Fridays, Bird Watching, (248 views).
- Fun Fridays, Frisbee game, (329 views).
- Fun Fridays, Hot Wheels Racing, (497 views).
- Fun Fridays, Spy Camp,
- Fun Fridays, #LOVELAVISTA # Challenge, Cup stacking, (319 views)

Our **Virtual Recreation Center** also features videos activities from our Kids Can Run Program, Fit4Mom program, Yoga program (656 views), one of our self-defense classes (516 view) and our Ballroom Dance Class.

Finally, our Community Center **re-opening video** has over 780 views.

Our Stage 1 initial reopening of Community Center under DHMs Phase III guidelines happened on Monday, July 13.

- Employees work from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Patrons are allowed to come from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. This period gives staff time to ensure proper sanitation guidelines are followed prior to patrons arriving and after they leave the building.
- We are only open to patrons age 19 and above.

Permitted activities during Stage 1:

- Program registration available at the front desk.
- Walking (perimeter of gym and hallway): request 6-foot social distancing while following traffic flow arrows (attached – Exhibit 1)
- Racquetball Courts: Racquetball only -Limited to two people per court
- Our, Grab and Go senior lunch program continues. ENOA will set the date when meals can be served in our facility
- Fitness Center: Follow social distancing guidelines and limit the number of people to six

- City staff supervised activities are permitted. (Senior activities, which Kaily will cover)

Restricted rooms and activities during Stage 1:

- No room rentals or classes.
- Game Room closed (there are too many multi-person touch activities).
- Kitchen closed to the public.
- Locker Rooms and showers closed
- No open gym
- Meeting Rooms closed
- Wally ball not allowed (multi-person touch activity)

Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager

Current Programs

Pre-School Playtime Due to Covid-19, the Community Center is not open for regular programming, and is not open to children.

The Youth Baseball season finished up in late July. Because of Covid-19, we started a delayed and shorten season with practices starting on June 1, 2020 and games began on June 18. Our normal season usually runs from April through July.

Before Covid-19, we had over 80 kids signed up to play but only ended up with 37 players playing with the new Covid-19 rules and guidelines. We had one 7/8 year old team, one 9/10 year olds & one 13/14 year old team.

Youth Softball followed the same schedule as baseball and finished up in late July. Before Covid-19, we had 44 players signed up but ended up with 27 players playing. We had one 7/8 year old team, one 11/12 year old & one 14- 18 year old team.

The **Adult Softball** season began on June 18 for the senior Mon/Wed evening and Friday morning leagues as well as the new Adult Thursday night double header league. These leagues were delayed in starting also, and rather than these leagues having a separate summer and fall season, we combined them into a season that runs from June 18 through the end of September. Even though participation numbers were much lower because of the pandemic, we felt it was in everyone's best interested to get the kids back out on the playing fields but keep them safe by following all Covid-19 guidelines and requirements.

Fall Programs:

Youth Flag Football Fall season starts on August 8 and will run 8 weeks. Numbers are down considerably due to Covid-19 for La Vista as well as Papillion Rec. Offutt Youth Recreation chose not play this fall. We are down from 111 players last fall to 68 players this fall.

Youth Soccer Academy and League registrations are currently going on and the season will start after Labor Day.

Ryan South, Operations Manager

Ryan explained the COVID-19 procedures and rules for the Community Center during Stage 1 of our re-opening on July 13. We are open to the public, adults only, from 8:30am-4:30pm, with the staff being in attendance from 8am-5pm. He also explained that we do recommend that masks be worn, and have them readily available for those who don't have one. Temperatures are taken for every person that comes into the Center. The exercise room is only allowed 6 people at one time, and each person is given sanitizing spray and paper towel to clean off equipment when they are done. The racquetball rooms are for racquetball only, no walleyball, which is more of a contact sport and you cannot social distance in those rooms. Ryan also explained our constant cleaning procedures during the day from our staff.

Ryan said the Recreation Departments three big events – The Splash Bash, Adventure Race and Pump & Run had all been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Ryan said they continually evaluate the situation, and would implement Stage 2 reopening when the time is right.

Member Mechels-Struby asked if there had been any push-back from the public? Ryan stated that people were very understanding.

Member Kupfer asked if we had the criteria already for Stage 2? Ryan said the we follow the Directive Health Measure from the County and State.

Chairperson Lodes asked if the nighttime cleaning company are taking extra precautions due to Covid? Ryan said yes, that they are doing extra sanitizing. He also mentioned that we are now hiring our own custodial person, so that will help in keeping up with the cleaning.

Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager

Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager introduced herself and provided her career and educational background.

Beginning in May, the seniors participated in Parking Lot activities such as Bingo and musical concerts. All of these activities practiced social distancing by parking every other stall and keeping 6+ feet of distance.

304 seniors participated in the parking lot activities in May.

For Grab and Go lunches, which actually began in April, the seniors drive up to the front doors, pay for their meal by putting the money in a dispenser, and their lunch is placed in their back seat. These lunches are catered by ENOA. Also, Ref's Bar & Grill has donated lunches to the senior's and Recreation Dept. employee's every Tuesday since April. This means on that day, the senior's receive 2 meals.

239 Grab and Go lunches were picked up in May, and these senior's also received trivia/puzzle packets to complete at home.

John Worsham of the Merrymakers performed to 24 seniors in our parking lot on May 21st.

31 seniors played Parking lot Bingo on May 28th.

One senior volunteered 10 hours by sewing masks this month and donated them if needed for the bus service.

In June, a total of 612 Senior's participated in Parking Lot activities. We continued to follow the social distancing guidelines for all of these activities.

341 Grab and Go lunches were picked up. These senior's received weekly trivia/puzzle/bingo packets to complete at home as well.

June 11th we had Parking Lot Bingo. 29 Senior's attended.

On June 18th Merrymakers Pamela Sue performed in the parking lot for 29 seniors.

On the afternoon of June 22nd, we held the Farmers Market Coupon Distribution, which lasted 2.5 hours. The coupon bundles were distributed via lottery system, due to there being 80 seniors registered to attend. 65 seniors actually attended that day, and we gave out 54 coupon booklets. During this program, these 54 seniors were provided a nutritional education program.

In July, a total of 698 seniors participated in activities. We continued to follow the social distancing guidelines for all of these activities, and the Community Center opened its doors to hold some activities for the seniors on July 13th.

386 Grab and Go lunches were picked up.

On July 2, Elvis was in the parking lot for a concert. On July 12, the seniors drove up for root beer floats.

Indoor programs that were allowed and began in July were walking, quilting club, fitness workouts, Bingo, calendar planning advisory committee, and Keno.

Member Kupfer mentioned that it sounds like we are serving more lunches than we did before all this? Kaily said yes, we have picked up some new people.

Chairperson Lodes asked Kaily where the seniors pick up their lunches now that the building is open? Kaily said that they are picking them up at the doors on the north side of the building.

Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent

Allen explained that the Parks crew has been renovating Mayors Park behind G. Stanley Hall. They have also been working on the area behind the Library in conjunction with the Boy Scouts. They are putting in a trail, and the Boy Scouts are building bird houses that will be placed along the trail.

Jason also explained the Commemorative Tree Program that Parks and Recreation Departments have been working on. The Board looked at a brochure/application for the program that can be attained online or at City Hall. The brochure explains the types of trees you can request, the park that can be requested, the fees, etc. They have designated 2-3 spots in each of the parks and along the trails for the trees. There will also be markers near the tree with the name of the person, the date of planting and the type of tree.

Stopak explained to the Board that they wanted to present this to the Council at the September 1st Council meeting, and would like the Board to vote on whether to advance it to that next stage. Member Kupfer moved to advance the proposal to Council. Chairperson Lodes seconded that motion. Motion to advance the proposal of the Commemorative Tree program to City Council is approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

Member Mechels-Struby motioned for adjournment. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All ayes. Motion carried. Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.