

City of La Vista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
October 21, 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, October 21, 2020. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Operations Manager Ryan South, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Youth and Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Public Works Parks Superintendent Jason Allen, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Stuby and Bobette Jones. Admin. Asst. Sue Tangeman and Member Nick Moyer were absent.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on October 14, 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 August 19, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Member Mechels-Stuby. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All aye. Absent: Moyer. Motion carried.
2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

##### **David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

Our **Virtual Recreation Center** featured a variety of videos in late September and early October. They included the following:

**Pirate Grab & Go Fun Kit** surpassed our Spy Camp Grab & Go kits with over 50 pirate kits handed out.

**Fun Friday episode 22** featured a **science camp** where we discovered the science behind dissolving the shell off an egg leaving only the membrane. Eggshells are made of calcium carbonate crystals and when soaked in an acid (5% vinegar) the chemical reaction starts right away with carbon dioxide bubbles forming over the eggshell as it dissolves. The educational takeaways learned during the experiment were about osmosis, semipermeable membranes and soluble solutions. (235 views)

Ms. Jodi from the library and I did our fourth **Dynamic Duo Story Time** which featured our “**Park Views**” promotions which took place the last week of September to October 2nd (382 views). There were eight “Park Views” events inviting the public to give us input on the design of our new Civic Center Park.

The Events included three **Fit Friday Morning Trail Walks**; a **Brew Views** done just outside of the new Heights Draft Room in City Centre; a **Saturday in the Park**; **Yoga in the Park**; an **Afternoon at the Playground** with kids and families; and, a **Full Moon Hike**.

Next, I did a **Build Your Own Dream Park video** with my 8-year-old friend, Trenton Beaumont. The video was done as another promotion for the “Park Views” events.

We are currently putting the final touches on our **Halloween Safe Night Grab-N-Go Halloween event** that will run from 4-6 p.m. on Halloween. We have pre-filled 2000 bags with candy and prize to give away. (Over 50,000 pieces of candy.) The event will have patrons drive through our parking lot, which will feature giant hay bale pumpkins, and illuminated pumpkin patch, 15 Halloween inflatables and over 1000 Halloween lights and decorations.

## **Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sport Manager**

### **Current Programs**

The **Adult Softball** season began on June 18 for the Senior Monday/Wednesday evening and Friday morning leagues as well as the new Adult Thursday night double header league. The season is winding down for these leagues and they will all be ending in early – mid October.

The **Youth Flag Football Fall season** will finish up on Oct 3. Numbers are down considerably due to Covid-19 for La Vista as well as Papillion Rec. Offutt Youth Recreation chose to not play this fall. We were down from 111 players last fall to 68 players this fall.

**Fall Youth Soccer Academy and League** was scheduled to start on Sept 8 but was rained out. The season will run through early October. Participation is down due to Covid-19. We had 38 participants this fall compared to 67 last Fall. After talking to several other soccer associations, they have seen a large decrease in participation numbers due to Covid-19.

After several internal discussions we decided to open the gym on Wednesday nights only to accommodate **Fall Adult Volleyball League**. We have a full league with 8 teams registered with the matches starting on September 23.

**Fall Youth Coed Volleyball** registration are open for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Final registration deadline is October 5. Games will begin in November. We will partner with BJSa for this league as we have done in the past.

**Winter Youth Basketball** registration is scheduled to open in October. We will be partnering with the Sarpy Community YMCA for basketball this year as PRO has decided to go solely with just an internal league.

Mechels-Stuby asked if there is a benefit to teaming up with the YMCA instead of PRO?

Dinan explained that PRO chose to play in-house this year due to the pandemic, and the YMCA was willing to partner with us.

### **Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager**

In September, a total of 1,131 senior's participated in Senior Center programs.

- 420 Grab 'n GO lunches were picked up in August.
- 711 seniors participated in various recreation activities.

The seniors continued to practice social distancing during our programs which included:

- A Spelling Bee,
- Guided Meditation W/David Karlson,
- Manicures,
- Ageless Grace Exercise,
- Fall Centerpiece Craft,
- Family Feud,
- An outing to the Stations of the Cross exhibit,
- Balloon Hockey,
- a few themed Jingo games; and,
- Bingo on Fridays

We also had Donuts with the Mayor at Community Center (September 9<sup>th</sup>), entertainment in September was Merrymakers John Worsham (September 3rd,) and a Movie & Popcorn day, in which "The Theory of Everything" was shown.

### **Jason Allen, Public Works Parks Superintendent**

Additional irrigation system was installed at Civic Park.

New outfield fence was installed at City Park # 2.

Crews are beginning to work on the x-mas lights displays.

### **B. One-and-Five Year Tree Plan Presentation**

Jason Allen, Public Works Parks Superintendent presented the One-and-Five Year Tree Plan.

Chairperson Lodes asked if the board will be voting on a recommendation to send to Council the One-and-Five Year Tree Plan. Stopak answered yes, after the Board votes to send on to the City Council it will be placed on a future Council meeting for approval.

Member Kupfer made a motion for recommendation. Seconded by Member Mechels-Stuby. All ayes. Absent: Moyer. Motion carried.

## COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

## COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Kupfer asked if we will be opening in the evenings. Stopak explained that yes, we would, after approval and we have enough staff hired and trained we could then extend the hours.

Member Kupfer asked if anything could be done about the on-street parking by South Wind Park, where the curve in the road makes it dangerous to park. Stopak said his concerns will be passed along to the appropriate person.

Member Mechels-Stuby asked about the Park View Events questions that were asked of the public. Stopak said the findings will be presented once all information is compiled.

Member Kupfer made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Mechels-Stuby. All ayes. Absent: Moyer. Motion carried. Adjourned at 6:45 p.m.