

COMMENTS FROM E-MAILS RECEIVED

To Whom It May Concern:

As I will be unable to attend the public forum, I wanted to express my concerns with the Parks and Recs programming. I have found that the activities for the kids that are age 13 to 15 are few and far between. Most classes only allow children up to 12 and then there are no other options until they reach 16. The kids in this age range really need the Parks and Recs to help keep them engaged in healthy activities. Even the summer softball leagues are like this. Kids that have been playing on teams for most of their lives are left with summers of nothing, as soon as they turn 12. I would like to see maybe some classes geared directly to this age group or the classes in progress now expanding the limits as far as age goes. My 14 year old daughter and I are now enrolled in the Monday night Middle Eastern dance class, but this was the only form of dance that she could consider taking as the others would not allow her until she was 16. We love the classes offered and the whole Parks and Recs system and frequently attend activities and enjoy the classes. Please consider finding activities to engage our teens in the Lawrence community as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this gap in the scheduling of classes for the age range 13-15.

In this difficult economy our Park and Rec. still offers wonderful recreation at more than fair prices. I believe who ever uses our facilities should pay . I can no longer afford more property taxes to pay for parks, pools, and sports. A. Meyer

PLEASE BE CAREFUL TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE PARK/RECREATION FEES SO THAT USE OF THE FACILITIES DON'T BECOME SOMETHING THAT LOW INCOME FAMILIES CAN'T AFFORD !! I'm a big supporter of public recreation and have used the city recreation facilities and classes a lot

I can afford to pay a higher fee for the classes I take at Parks/rec and I'd be willing to pay a somewhat higher fee but you'll find me

vocal and opposed to increased fees if there isn't some provision to waive/reduce, etc fees for people who just can't afford it, especially in these tough economic times !

Donald E. Chambers

I am unable to attend the forum and had a few concerns about some of the proposed changes to access to Parks and Rec resources. I work with individuals who fall well below the poverty line and could not afford to pay and access fee to the cardio and/or weight rooms. These are individuals who are both elderly and have at least one, if not multiple disabilities, that impede their ability to work. If there is an access fee charged to the general population I would like for those below the federal poverty line or those who receive disability income to be exempt.

Your offerings are fantastic. I know that you may be making cut backs with the current economy. I ask that you please keep the current hours at the Aquatic Center. If at all possible, please have the center open on Sunday mornings. I would love to take a weight

training class using the universal machines at Holcom Sports Complex. Right now, the strength training class primarily uses free weight, etc. Sincerely, Bonnie Liscek

To Whom It May Concern:

I am unable to attend the public forum next week, but I wanted to send my thoughts on the Parks & Rec programming, facilities, etc. I am a frequent user of the Carl Knox pool, and hope that it's facilities will continue to be available to those of us who live quite far from the LIAC pool. There is an aerobics class each night that Carl Knox is open, which would indicate that it's still being used. There are also a number of us who swim laps a few times a week. We're disappointed that there are not weekend hours, but have adjusted accordingly. It seems that the minimal staffing for this smaller pool would make it possible to maintain equity of facilities between north and south/central Lawrence.

I also have a question about the LIAC--how much do the Aqua Hawks pay to use the pool every day for so many hours? They definitely are given priority over residents swimmers who are forced to swim around the Aqua Hawks, which would be less annoying if I knew that they were paying fees per participant to LPRD. Is that true? Do we make a bundle of cash from the Aqua Hawks?

These are some of my thoughts. I'm sorry I can't make the forum--thanks!

Arla Jones

Lawrence, KS

Lawrence has a well rounded and well managed parks and rec program. Personally I use the golf course. Eagle Bend is well maintained and managed. I would support higher greens fees to insure the course is paying its way as much as possible. Dave Greenamyre, 731 Louisiana St.

My name is Matt O'Reilly. I'm a graduate student at KU and have lived in Lawrence for close to 3 years. Prior to this, I've lived in small towns and large cities, none of which come close to having the services offered by the LPRD.

As a distance runner, I have entered several races sponsored by the parks and recreation department and have enjoyed them all. Nearly everybody I know enjoys the many parks throughout our town.

I realize budgeting is tight, but as the recent overwhelming support for the "T" bus system shows, our community is willing to support services it values. The value LPRD provides to Lawrence makes this town a great place to live. I hope you consider this as you set the budget for future years and avoid cutting the budget for the many events that make this town great.

Sorry I won't be able to attend the meeting.

I'm very happy with the presence of LDPR in our family's life. Except for a few disappointments with swimming instructors, we've enjoyed the classes and on occasion we've been impressed with the quality. It's great to have such a variety of affordable opportunities to enhance our kids' education.

Here is an idea that comes back to me every time I have to deal with KVSA. They charge a lot for very little. The coaches are volunteer parents and you have to find a practice spot on your own. The rent of the field and the administrative costs could not be as high as what they charge!

Couldn't LDPR run a recreational soccer league? LDPR could put that money to better use and offer us parents a break.
Thank you
Fabiana Cesa

Hello my name is Rebecca Rosenthal and a patron of the Parks and Recreation. I just want to say that I value the programs and would be disappointed if there were cuts in the exercise programs. I am even willing to pay a little bit more just to be able to attend the classes! Thank you. Rebecca J. Rosenthal

To Whom It May Concern:

I am unable to attend the public forum tomorrow evening but I do have some suggestions for your consideration.

1. The women's basketball night is only on Friday evenings. This is an inconvenience for some of us with families. I would suggest switching between men and women on Friday nights and weeknights. This may help us get more women involved!

2. I would also suggest that some of the fitness activities like cycling be offered more than just twice a week. Preferable three times a week.

3. Lastly, I would recommend a kick boxing class or a boxing class!

Thanks for taking the time to read my suggestions!

Best regards, Maryse

About 1 1/2 years ago I tore my right arm biceps tendons at work. After much therapy I was sent to Holcolm gym with a workout regimen for my right arm.

I am completely dismayed at the concept of fees for the gym which I'm already paying for many times over as a business owner. This is nothing short of a taxpayer bailout. Get your house in order. What I see every time for almost 2 years at Holcolm is 5 people staffing what should be a one or 2 person job. The only one that works (and I mean when not with the public; she cleans the equipment) is Jamie behind the counter. The rest are playing with one of the office computers and using them (witnessed first hand) for personal use. These are my thoughts. Richard Wolfe

Hello, I will be unable to attend the public meeting on April 16, but I appreciate the chance to give my input by e-mail.

The Parks and Rec. Department is one of my favorite things about Lawrence. I realize that budget cuts are inevitable.

The best parts, in my opinion: A wide variety of classes for all ages. I would be willing to pay a little more for each class.

The landscaping around town is wonderful. Perhaps specifically-targeted donations could help fund plant purchases? I think that asking for volunteers to help with weeding, planting and clean-up is a great idea. I have signed up to help plant flowers downtown and at South Park.

Thank you for all your wonderful service. Sincerely, Beth Murphy

Dear Parks and Recreation Department,

I will be unable to attend the public forum meeting scheduled for tomorrow, April 16th, because I will be in the water participating in a water aerobics class at LHS sponsored by LPRD. I gladly pay for this class as a means of exercise and to reach my personal health goals. I have looked into additional classes and I also rent the LPRD shelters and spaces occasionally. These spaces allow for family and friends to socialize in a way that is not otherwise available to us, and are very important for our family traditions to continue. I urge you to keep

the LHS pool open to LPRD classes which are often so full as to generate a waiting list for class entrance. This pool has more limited hours but serves a greater part of the Lawrence community and I urge you to consider that profitability carefully when looking at budget cuts.

I strongly encourage you to carefully review the budget changes under consideration and to retain the strong community spirit and involvement that helps make Lawrence a great place to live. Sincerely, Shelley K. Sandberg

Hello,

I am unaware of the exact person that this will need to be directed to, but I will be unable to attend this public forum tomorrow but wanted everyone involved to know that myself and my wife among many others feel that it is a must that lights be installed with the new tennis courts at LHS. So many games, leagues and events are taking place at the LHS courts at night. It would be a disgrace to see leagues wiped out completely especially for adults who are playing in these leagues in the evening hours. Please reconsider the idea to not have lighted courts at the LHS school. If any further information or reasoning is needed, I'd be happy to address it with those involved. Sincerely, Dylan and Jessica Schoonover

I am unable to attend the forum tomorrow, but wanted to express my appreciation for the Summer Playgrounds program at South Park. I hope that continuing this program, and working to keep it affordable, will be a top priority. I would certainly be willing to pay more for this program if that is the only way that it can remain. My daughter participated last year and truly enjoyed all of the great activities. She is excited to participate again this year and I'm hopeful that it will be available. Thank you. Vanessa Sanburn

Dear Parks and Recreation committee:

I would like to be at the meeting tonight but cannot attend. My husband and I use the Aquatic swimming pool at LSHS. We can barely afford the prices now, but if you raise the fees for Seniors, they may have no place left to swim. Even the classes, i.e. Yoga and exercise classes are getting too expensive for us. We have lived in several communities in Colorado where they have more facilities and/or longer hours for Seniors to swim. We hope that you will consider this request. Sincerely yours, Marcia and Richard Johnston

On behalf of my son who regularly takes advantage of the wonderful opportunities offered through your Special Populations programs, I urge you to continue to offer those outstanding programs. The benefits for these people to network, socialize and also gain skills are immeasurable! Without the opportunities offered, the lives of the participants would be significantly diminished.

Special appreciation is extended to Annette Deghand and her staff for their commitment to the Special Populations individuals of Douglas County.

With deepest appreciation, Susan Boston

I'm not sure exactly what changes are being proposed, but I really appreciate the variety of classes that are offered. It would be great if a fitness class could be added that is over by 7 a.m., so that I could take an AM class, shower, change, and get to work on time. Margretta de Vries

I cannot attend the forum tomorrow night but I want to send my full support for keeping all programs. Our family uses every facet of LPRD. My children have attended several dance, art, and athletic programs and I am very dependent on the summer day camp (Summer Playground for Youth) and Spring Break camp for my grade school age son. I believe that these Parks and Rec programs are vital to our community and would be very sad to see them eliminated. I would gladly pay a little more to keep these programs available. I hope the forum provides like-minded people to show their support. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion. You all do a great job! Sincerely, Meredith Beightel

I have an annual pass to the Lawrence Indoor Aquatics Center. I appreciate the facility, programs available, and cleanliness of the building.

As an employee who works full time, I also appreciate access to the building during various hours of the day and throughout the week/weekend.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input regarding Lawrence Programs/Facilities. Thank you, Sonja Wood

I may not make it to the forum on Thurs. night.
I have attended several adult exercise classes over the past 7 years. I have found most all of the aerobics, dance and Zumba teachers of a very high caliber (I also belong to a gym).
I think that most of the classes should cost a bit more than they do. I also take Yoga at the Lawrence Yoga Ctr. and for 8-10 week class, I pay \$108. But for that cost, I can also "drop in" and do a make-up class.
I also find that many classes really don't need a beginning and an end. Perhaps, more people would pay to attend, if they could start at varying times. Does NO ONE decide to start exercising in Feb??
I think the Zumba Parties are a fantastic idea.
I work some evenings and on Saturday, so I especially value the daytime classes.
The staff at the Community Bldg are very helpful and make it feel like a safe place.
Perhaps there could be a voluntary fee for use of the gym equipment--- I notice many people "of means" who use the gym because of its convenience.
To recap
• Raise the fees, or create a sliding scale •Allow one-time or drop-ins for a higher fee •Give people options for daytime and evening classes
Thanks. Cecilia Mills

In regard to the forum at LHS that I am unable to attend, I've brought up the idea of allowing people to pay via Paypal during online enrollment. Again, I bring it up because it is something I'd really like to see available. Thank you, Megan Chichester

Due to conflicts, I cannot be at the Parks and Rec forum this evening but I would like to comment.

The Parks and Rec Department, have always done a wonderful job for the citizens of Lawrence. We can be proud of the wonderful system that provides so many great opportunities for our youth and adults of the city of Lawrence.

Our Parks are top of the line. The facilities are kept clean and in top working order.

I have lived in Lawrence for almost 30 years, and have used just about everything that is provided to us. My children played soccer, baseball, softball, basketball and have used the swimming facilities many times. I played softball, coached little league baseball.

My all time favorite has been Eagle Bend. I played on opening day, and now volunteer as a Marshall for the course. The course presents an excellent challenge for the experienced golfer and is a great place to play for those that are just starting in this great sport.

Please rest assured that I support all efforts to maintain the quality that we have all come to enjoy. -Don Boucher

I can not attend the forum but am interested in what the future plans are for additional fields in town. I coach a DCABA team and am practicing at a church field because space is so limited. YSI is a great complex, we just need 2 more of them!!!

I am sorry we are not able to attend your meeting tonight but I would like to address the discussion of downsizing your Parks and Rec Jobs.

Please do not do away with your Programs and Activities. This is a place where many people, adults and children both come to not only socialize but to grow and feel better about themselves. They're are many children that count on your programs and activities. For some, this is all they have. It is your programs and activities that keep our children on the right path. They build self esteem, self confidence, they are reassured that someone cares for them. Your programs help them grow as individuals.

Over the years we have enrolled our children in your programs, and my husband and I have also benefited from your Events. We love being involved in your Holiday Bazaar. We look forward to it every year. We love everything about it. The way it is set up, the live music, the food provided.

We believe that Mr. Duane Peterson and his staff are great assets to your Community and if these jobs are cut, you will be doing the people of Lawrence and the surrounding areas a great injustice. Thank you for allowing our comment. Alan & Cheryl Theno

We need to keep cost down but charge small fees or provide scolarships. Close indoor recreation centers when weather is nice and have them open during inclement weather or high heat. Like when the outdoor aquatic center has to be closed, open the recreation centers. Increase small camps that provide or teach activities that are for small groups or that can be done with the family or few people. Provide programs that go beyond age 12 to age 14 or 15 (i.e. Tennis Camp). Keep special events, special population and youth camps. Cut back sport leagues. Thanks for your time and energy. John Bowen

To whom it may concern;

My question is concerning the taxpayers referendum passed back in 1994 for a \$.01 Recreational tax that was passed but somehow the money that should have went to Parks & Rec department, instead went to streets/infrastructure fund.

Now that the taxpayers have passed a sales tax to pay for streets/infrastructure on it's own, will the Parks & Rec get that \$.01 tax that voters approved in 1994

back to where the citizens of Lawrence designated it to be used for, which is Park & Recreation?

Especially given the tight budgets and possible loss of alcohol tax shortfall monies. I sure do not want this tax passed back in 1994 by citizens of Lawrence, put back into the General Fund. Rather the fund the voters of Lawrence specifically wanted; which is Parks & Rec. Thank you, *Bryan Wyatt*

To Whom this may concern:

I am a mother of 3 and i wanted to express my opinion regarding the cut backs. I know times are rough and many programs are being cut. One thing i would like to say if it means anything is the Summer Playground programs is GREAT! and really BENEFICIAL to working parents!!!! if it wasnt for the summer Playground camps wouldnt have been able to keep my job due to no childcare or anywhere to take my kids for the day. That program was SO helpful and if at all please keep that in mind....my kids were able to have a fun summer with various activities and i was able to work and pay our bills. I hope and wish you all the best of luck when trying to incorporate what will be best for LPRD. Thank You ~mother of 3

I regret that I will be unable to attend the forum tonight. As a Lawrence citizen, I am highly in support of all parks and recreation programs, and especially those for special populations. I would very much like to complete whatever survey that is to be distributed at the forum tonight – please send to this email or mail to: Thanks so much.

Please, please don't cut weekend hours. Our volleyball group of hardworking old geezers, and my 16-year old daughter, have been playing Sundays in the ELC since the beginning of time (at least for Jamie and a few other of our older youngsters).

The other side of the gym is almost always very busy with basketball players. In this day and age of kids with absent parents and little physical activity, to take away one more option for wholesome, healthy activity is obscene.

Please, please, do the right thing. There have to be better, less harmful options.

Our family has used the Parks and Rec services from the time our youngest was born 2002 to the present. We have participated in many programs, classes, swimming, etc.

It would be acceptable to us to have a slight fee increase - we would still keep our participation and interest level the same with a dollar or two increase per class.

As a community social worker for Success by 6/tiny-k Early Intervention, I worry about fee increases allowing for participation in many of our families. The scholarship program may need to be accessed more frequently, or modified to give maybe a 50% fee reduction to qualifying families.

I think shrinking the hours of the pools being open would be OK.

I'm not sure what other cost-cutting measures you are considering, but I do know that Lawrence has one of the BEST Parks and Rec programs around and preserving that

would be a great goal to have! thanks, Jamie Gabriel tiny-K Early Intervention/Success by 6

Parks and recreation should keep the camps for the kids during the summer and the water aerobics classes because these aren't offered at other places here in Lawrence.

I cannot attend tonight's meeting because I will be attending a class put on by the Parks and Rec department. If they decide to have a fee for using the community buildings exercise equipment, could those already enrolled in a class be exempt since we are already paying a fee. Also, if there is a fee imposed it should be very minimal--much lower than any of the gym fees in town. If it is too high, then no one will use the equipment.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion. Teresa Rew

In catching up with my emails, I was advised of another serious issue regarding parks and rec--new tennis courts without lights. Are you nuts?!?

My 16-year-old daughter and I also play in the WTT league on Sunday NIGHTS and have for several years and look forward to it very much. With her hectic athletic, social and school schedule, that league is Jamie's only way to keep a toe in tennis outside tennis season, where she was the No. 1 singles player this past season at LHS. In fact after dusk is often our only opportunity to hit the ball. We can't afford First Serve by any means.

It is unbelievable to me that anyone would even consider putting in new tennis courts without lights. How does that serve the community who is paying for it? Only the unemployed would have unlimited use of the courts. It's crazy.

Please, please consider the taxpayers who use your facilities. What's the use of facilities at all if they are not available for so many of those who use them? It just doesn't make any sense at all to close rec centers ON WEEKENDS and build tennis courts WITHOUT LIGHTS. It's crazy talk.

Dear Parks & Recreation Administrative Office,

I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting because the very class I am concerned may be hurt by budget cuts takes place during the forum.

For several years, I have taken water aerobics classes at the Carl Knox Natatorium. I know that one of the proposed budget cuts was to close the pools at 7:00 p.m. This pool opens at 6:15 p.m. Closing it at 7:00 would mean shutting it altogether.

I really do hope that the office keeps this pool open. It serves the east side of town as well as people throughout town, and is often quite full of lap swimmers in addition to the courses that take place there. The course I attend on Tuesday and Thursday evenings is often full and has a wait list. It provides a great exercise option to people in Lawrence. I would ask that, before considering cutting the already minimal hours of this pool, the department look at other options. First, look at the costs and revenue of this pool. I think you will find that it pays for itself, particularly since the school already has to maintain the pool. If it does not, I would ask that you consider other options in order to keep it

open. One would be to open the classes to more people, thereby enhancing revenue. The classes used to have 50 attendees, then was cut to 25, now to 20. Room certainly could be made for 25-30, so that the classes would have more revenue. Fees could also be increased slightly to ensure that the classes pay for themselves.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at this email address. I appreciate your attention to this issue.

Lea Herron

Mr. Shaw-

I am extremely interested in the Park & Rec. issues that will be discussed at tonight's forum, however, I am unable to attend. Speaking to one of the secretaries in your office, I found out that there will be groups discussing 3 questions. I would still like to share my thoughts with you even though I can't be there tonight.

-1. Is Parks and Rec (P&R) an essential service of the city? This all boils down to what the goals are of the city. If it's to draw people to Lawrence, then having bonus features like P&R will enhance the attraction. If it's to build the mental, emotional and physical well-being of its residents, then P&R fits the bill. Is the P&R department a department providing a service for the good of the community or a department trying to make a revenue? However, during times of economic struggle (and I believe even when times are good), the amount of services or the level to which they may be offered need to be evaluated. Is it an all-or-nothing package deal? Or can we pick and choose to focus on certain activities/facilities? Possibly cutting down the number of organized classes offered would keep employee salary costs down as well as support the residents in their pursuits of saving money and not being tempted by all the options. If people really want to attend multiple aerobic/fitness classes, then the private sector should be able to satisfy that demand. Cutting down days and hours of operation would also help keep costs down. People would learn to work around these changes. Not cutting the grass as often would also help curb costs. Having the indoor pools open one day and then closed the next day when the outdoor pools are open would cut down on lifeguard costs.

Which brings me to a big issue, at least in my mind. I LOVE the South Park wading pool. It is the perfect place for my young children to play and be safe while not having to deal with the crowds at the other pools. They aren't scared because it's nice and quiet and on a much smaller scale than any of the other pools have to offer. If I had to choose between the nature center and the wading pool I'd pick the wading pool (and maybe that's what the public will have to do, prioritize what they are willing to sacrifice for). However, one thing that has always bothered me is the waste of a lifeguard that is on duty there. Every time I go to the pool, which is often, the lifeguards are just lounging under their umbrella READING or even talking on the phone! Not once have they ever appeared to be paying close attention to the safety of the toddler or children. I take that back—Once, the lifeguard told a girl she had to take the clips out of her hair. That's the only time. Whenever a kid wanders too far into the water and falls, all of us parents jump to the rescue. When someone is running around, parents are the ones to tell them to slow down. As parents, we are in the water and constantly scanning the area. I think that the lifeguard position at the South Park wading pool could easily be discontinued and replaced with a sign that there is no lifeguard on duty. The fountains could even be turned off at periods throughout the day to save on utility fees. It is little details like these that could all add up to save costs.

-2. Should user fees be increased so that taxes could be lowered? I think that the cost issue should first be addressed before deciding where to get the monies. The whole department, facilities, services, programs, etc need to be evaluated, picked through and, as I mentioned above, the little details of costs that could be reworked should be. Anywhere that pennies here and there can be cut should be. I'm sure there would be many residents interested in saving money that would volunteer their time to sit on a panel that would help critique current expenditures. I for one would be.

After reconsidering the current costs, only then would it be appropriate to make decisions on funding. Everyone likes getting something for nothing and that's what it feels like when you walk into one of the facilities without having to pay. But I only think that it is fair that people using the services should pay for the services. What taxes exactly cover P&R? If it's property taxes, then all the college students that are using the facilities but not paying those taxes are benefitting at the rest of the residents' expense. If there are people without kids, that have no interest in nature, or swimming, paying for services they won't ever use, that's not fair to them. If the fees are increased, would the city really lower the taxes to put that money back in our pockets? Or would the taxes remain the same since I'm sure it's easy to find another use for it. It also goes back to the question I posed above—Is this a department trying to make money or provide a service at cost? Because if P&R is out to make money, then it is now competing with the private sector. And if fees are increased too much more, people will go elsewhere where there are better facilities—at least in the workout facility area.

-3. What programs or facilities should P&R focus on for the future? This relates back to what your goals are. If you're going for well-rounded department then keeping the nature facility along with a pool or two and then parks throughout the city. But if the hard decisions have to be made, then I would vote for keeping the South Park wading pool open without a lifeguard—it could even stay open through September since young kids aren't in school and it's still hot out. Also, since Topeka's Gage Park already has an outdoor water park maybe Lawrence should focus on the indoor pool. Are there parts of the Nature Center that can be cleaned out or streamlines to cut costs and focus on more specialized areas? Do we really need both the fields at the Sports Complex AND the fields at Holcomb Park to be maintained if there are also school fields that can be used? While it's very convenient having so many nice, small parks throughout many neighborhoods of the city, is it really necessary? I think it's great that there are exercise facilities where families can go together and kids can learn to be excited about keeping their bodies strong and healthy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eliza Johnson

As the parent of a 14 year old son I am disappointed at the lack of programs offered for youth of that age through the Parks and Recreation Department. Most of your youth programs have an age cut-off at 12 or 13 and the adult programs require them to be at least 16 years of age. Out of all the programs in your catalog there appear to be 2 that he would be able to take. Youth sports? Forget it, those appear to end in elementary school. Lest you are tempted to rationalize your total lack of support for these programs by saying they are available through school let me point out that at Southwest Middle School I counted nearly 60 boys at the informational meeting for basketball. Only 10-15

boys were selected for the team and there are no intramural sports available in the middle schools.

These kids are too young for employment and at an age where they are certain to take unhealthy risks if left unsupervised for long periods of time. (The young boys in our neighborhood occupy themselves chasing each other with "air soft" guns during the summer days.)

With the push on getting kids outside and on exercising and developing a health lifestyle you appear to have abandoned an entire age/gender group from your goals. Frankly, I expect better.

Sincerely,

Jeryl Hauptman
Lawrence, KS

I LIKED THE BLENDING OF GRADE LEVEL TO CONSILDATE IF NEED BE IN CLASSES
IT WORKED WELL IN JSOH BASKETBALL AND SOCCER

INCREASE SOME FEES:
FOR COURT TIME
LEAGES TEAM SPORT
CHARGE A FEE FOR WEIGTH ROOM
&
SHOWERS???

GET SOME RETAIL PRODUCT TO SELL???
I THANK YOU ALL
FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK AND WILL SUPPORT IN THE DESSIONS YOU MAKE TO GET
US THROUGH THESE HARD TIMS AND THE DOWN SIZING THAT MAY HAPPEN TO
LAWRENCE POULATION
CINDY MCNICOLL

I won't be at the meeting tonight but wanted to share my thoughts.

I consider Parks and Rec to be very important to kids in town. I played sports through parks and rec as a kid and took swimming lessons, and it was a great experience for me. The lack of softball and baseball fields concerns me. Here are my suggestions.

Add a small fee to each player's regular fee (\$1 to \$5) to play tball/baseball/softball, which will be used ONLY for creating playing fields/repairing lights, etc., and will be collected ONLY until the specific goals, which have been presented in writing, are fulfilled. I do not want to pay more taxes, and don't think people without kids playing ball should have to support this, but as a parent whose kids are playing tball and softball, I would be willing to pay an additional fee to ensure enough fields are in town.

What about the practice fields around town that are in disuse? The two that come to mind are the backstop SE of the large shelter at Broken Arrow, and the

backstop at Prairie Park. I assume it would be less expensive to equip these fields and others like them around town for games than it would be to build a new complex? I would like to hear discussion of options like this.

As for instructional classes for kids, I have always chosen Parks and Rec classes over private facilities (like with tumbling), since the Parks and Recs classes are less intense and less costly, and my kids are just experiencing things and not pursuing Olympic dreams. If the costs are raised so much that they are comparable to a private facility, however, I would likely pay for the private facility instead of Parks and Rec.

I have worked out a few times at the Parks and Rec facilities. I would possibly pay a nominal fee to work out, but likely would not. Thank you for your time!

Paige Marett

To the Mayor and members of the City Council, Lawrence, KS,
The purpose of this message is to express to you my shock and dismay upon learning that the future of the LCB is at peril due to funding issues.

I have made my living for the past 42 years as a professional musician/performer, and my wife enjoyed a long professional career in the field as well. We are both former members of the U.S. Army Field Band in Washington, DC and are currently members of the LCB and consider it a privilege to be a part of it and to work under such a distinguished and accomplished leader as Robert Foster. The band has provided entertainment for and served the community for over 100 years....tradition on this level simply must be cherished, not allowed to die.

We currently make the round trip from central MO to Lawrence and back each Wednesday during the summer concert season and are glad to do so.

We will, in a couple of years, be moving to a new location and have talked about Lawrence as one possibility because we see it as a community that has always been active in and supportive of the arts. The possibility that the LCB may be allowed to die due to lack of funding has caused us to have serious second thoughts about that. We sincerely hope that you, as civic and community leaders, will find a way to save the LCB, which has always served as a shining example of what can be done when a community and its leaders are dedicated to preserving the quality of life enjoyed by their citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Sincerely, Dean A. Somerville

I hear there is to be a public forum on cutting costs for parks and rec... Here are a few thoughts since I can't attend.

Tell them to raise the fees. People who love the programs will pay a marginally higher fee for them. I'd rather pay than not have them at all. At least we'd have the option, then.

Events like the frisbee competition, etc., are what make Lawrence the charming town it is. We'll pay to keep it that way. And I'm poor - and I'll still pay. :)

I attended last night's meeting at Lawrence High School but forgot to leave my email address. I'm Bill Dentler at wdent@ku.edu.

I came in support of the City Band Concerts, which I feel are a unique and special part of Lawrence with a history dating back to the Civil War. I strongly feel they should be supported, particularly because, unlike many athletic facilities, there is little maintenance or other long-term costs associated with the program.

I do have a question about Eagle Bend. I'm not a golfer, although I did play a bit for a few years, but noticed that you said that Eagle Bend actually pays for itself. According to my notes, it requires \$816.629 (08) and returned \$ 918,202, which, in my mind, makes it a fine example of a facility that pays for itself.

However, I also note that there is a "debt service" of \$305,000 that will continue until 2016. I may have written this down wrong, so please correct me, but does this mean that there is a total of \$305,000 debt or that the Department must pay \$305,000 each year until 2016. If this is the case, then Eagle Bend is extremely expensive, and does not come close to paying for itself. If this is the case, then it is not such a "fine example" and, clearly, fees for use should clearly be raised until the place is paid off.

I'm just trying to figure this out for myself and would appreciate any corrections you might have.

Otherwise - I appreciate the meeting last night. I've lived here for 30 years and often take many of the fine Lawrence features for granted.

When I have more time, I certainly will pay more attention to the need for volunteers and will do so.

Thank you for seeking public in-put on recreational issue for the future. Just now much emphasis is put on fitness, so eliminating any programs which encourage activity would be a mistake, as would increasing fees for such activities. Perhaps downtown merchants can pick up their beautification projects (as do places like McDonald's) and others can be curtailed or eliminated. Purchase of new equipment can, of course, be delayed. And, since both pools are on the north end of town for the summer season, equity would require that the Carl Knox pool be kept open as much as possible, and as many programs/lessons be offered there as possible. We in Lawrence value our parks and recreational opportunities and a tax increase just for that purpose would be supported by many as an alternative to cuts or increases in fees. Thank you for all you do for the citizens of Lawrence, Sarah Magnuson

To Whom It May Concern - I have been coaching youth baseball in Lawrence now for 8 years. Each year it becomes increasingly more difficult to gain access to facilities to hold practice. My teams have finished either first or second in their respective league every

year winning at least 85% of our games in Lawrence. With that said, when we travel outside of Lawrence to play, our record against our opponents drops dramatically to 50% at best. I believe this can be attributed directly to the lack of adequate developmental facilities in Lawrence for youth baseball. Our teams simply cannot compete against teams from neighboring cities who have facilities readily available to them not just during baseball season but year round as well. Lawrence cannot even keep up with the demand for facilities during the fair weather months.

My teams play a competitive brand of baseball and my knowledge of how baseball works in Lawrence does help gain access to facilities. However, I can't imagine what it would be like for someone who does not have that knowledge and experience and is trying to put a team of kids together to learn the game of baseball. My guess is there are a significant number of kids and coaches who simply choose not to participate out of frustration. From my point of view, the lack of adequate facilities is simply suffocating the great sport of baseball in our city. In Lawrence, the sport of baseball is rapidly becoming available to only a select few who have access to the scarce facility resources offered by our city. I understand the financial problems our city must be facing and the demand on limited public resources. I run financial operations for 11 hospitals so I am no stranger to financial challenges. As such, I know there are multiple options to solving problems. I do not believe throwing public money at this is the only solution. There is a great deal of private interest in improving baseball facilities in Lawrence. If the city is unable to fully support an initiative to improve facilities, perhaps some sort of a partnership arrangement with the private sector could be considered. Baseball should be the most inclusive youth sport in Lawrence. If we do not come up with a solution soon, it will become the most exclusive, only available to the chosen few. Sincerely, *Scott Pester*

The 1994 sales tax increase of 1 cent was sold to the voters of Douglas County as ... #1
Parks and Recreation

- An addition to the East Lawrence Community Center
- A major recreation center with an indoor swimming pool
- A baseball and softball complex
- Renovation of the municipal pool
- Community and neighborhood park acquisition
- Park development 6 areas
- A nature and outdoor education center in Prairie Park
- Bike trail development
- City entryway landscape improvements

Cost \$12.2 million
(See attachment)

This 1 cent sales tax did **not** have a sunset. Therefore the citizens of Douglas County need to ask where is our 1 cent now that many of these projects are completed and paid for (10 years)? The tax was meant and sold to the citizens to improve parks as the number one priority.

Every citizen in this county needs to hold the elected officials accountable to continue to fund the need of parks out of this 1994 1 cent sales tax revenue.

If the money is taken away from Parks and Recreation, how can we ever vote on another tax to help Parks & Recreation? I served on the Parks and Recreation Board for approximately 7 years from 1999 -2006. I have a great deal of respect for the staff and the way they spend our money. One of Lawrence's greatest assets is its Parks and Recreation Department. Please, do not disrupt the intended purpose of the 1994 1 cent sales tax and continue to adequately fund our Parks and Recreation capital budget and ongoing programs. This department is vital to drawing new industry to Lawrence. Let's not balance our budget on the back of Parks and Recreation. Sincerely, William J. Penny .