

City of Lawrence
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
April 8, 2019 minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Marilyn Hull, Bart Littlejohn, Pat Collette, Pat Phillips,
Sandy Hull, Val Renault, Jacki Becker, and John Nalbandian
MEMBERS ABSENT: John Blazek
STAFF PRESENT: Derek Rogers, Roger Steinbrock, Lee Ice, Mark Hecker, Brandy
Shoemaker, and Lori Madaus
PUBLIC PRESENT: None

I. Meeting called to order by Hull

Members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of March 11, 2019 minutes

Motion to approve March 11 minutes by Littlejohn, seconded by Phillips. **Motion carried 8-0.**

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Highlights/Concerns

**a. Staff follow-up Items from Previous Meeting
(Concerns of Board/Agenda Items)**

a. Wi-Fi at Indoor Aquatic Center

Shoemaker reported that it has been ordered/requested. Equipment is supposed to be delivered this week and installed within the next couple of weeks.

b. Levy Trail grading

Hecker reported that the department are working with MSO, we provide them with some funding to buy materials and they will spread it as they have time or it's dry enough to do it.

c. Patron/Indoor Aquatic Center/Swim pass

Staff has not been able to contact the patron in question.

d. Lawrence Loop Signage

Still progressing and hope to be finished by the end of April.

e. Summer Food Program Grant

Steinbrock reported the department did not receive the grant funding.

f. Summer Programming

A lot of our summer programs are already set. Need to relay to staff about looking at sites for next year and working with the school district way ahead of time. Will need to evaluate after this summer.

b. New Concerns/Items of Interest

Renault inquired about the opening date of park restrooms and recycling container at ELC. Steinbrock said a release would be sent out prior to April 15 the day shelters/bathrooms/water fountains would be open and operational.

Renault had a concern about submitting items through the city website.

Steinbrock responded the site she was referring to was the main City form link. If it was an item for the department, it would be sent to us for follow up, Steinbrock said. Steinbrock said we have links on the LPRD webpage that comes directly to him and he distributes to the person for follow up.

Renault was inquiring about feedback on city contractors who trim trees in the ROW. Hecker instructed Renault to notify our office if there is an issue.

Collette/Phillips inquired about the hot water at the IAC being sporadic. Hecker reported that we're trying to figure out the problem. Nalbandian mentioned he was in Silicon Valley and met with the P&R Director there. He said they have programs that are pay as you go. He then passed out their activities guide for those that were interested.

Becker asked about recycling at city parks. Hecker reported that we have tried recycling at a couple of areas, but we found that other people picked it up and/or people were throwing trash into the containers.

V. Budget/CIP

Hecker reported that we are in the process of working on line item budgets that are due April 26.

Hecker said any item more than \$100,000 has to go on the CIP. He said the City is in the third year of using the CIP as it exists. Hecker said most of the CIP projects have been on the list for years. He said the City Commission might pick some projects they want that aren't on the list submitted. An example of this would be the Lawrence loop sections that were put on the CIP last year, Hecker said.

Discussion was held regarding a splash pad for east Lawrence. Hecker reported the department would be putting out an RFP to see what could be built for \$85,000.

Rogers relayed that all parks within the city should be treated equal and said we are trying to do this with improvements to Burroughs Creek Trail and Linear Park, the parking lot at East Lawrence Recreation Center and outdoor fitness equipment along Burroughs Creek Trail.

VI. Park Master Plan at new Police Facility

Hecker asked the board to review and approve the plans for the master plan for the park being planned near the new police facility. The plans will be going to the City Commission at the May 7 meeting. Hecker said he would like to tell the Commission the LPRD Advisory Board voted in support of the concept plan.

Hull motioned to approve, seconded by Collette. **Motion carried 8-0.**

VII. Master Plan update Brochure

Steinbrock gave an update on the master plan brochure, a basic draft.

Steinbrock said he hopes to get the draft done this week and out to the board at the next meeting.

VIII. Staff Reports

- a. **Parks** –Hecker said April and May are crazy/busy months. He said a volunteer group working on an invasive honeysuckle growth removal at DeVictor Park. He said the arboretum parking lot replacement will begin next week.
- b. **Recreation** – Ice said Lawrence High School will be hosting junior varsity meet at the Indoor Aquatic Center the end of April. He said staff is busy trying to identify and hire summer staff for officials/umpires, lifeguards, and noted we are still accepting applications. Ice said the third session of youth volleyball just started with 135 kids registered and DCABA baseball started their season after spring break, as well as the adult outdoor leagues. He said the last volleyball tournament of the season was held at SPL and basketball tournaments will be starting this weekend.
- c. **Other Staff** – Steinbrock reported the activity guide will drop April 28. The cover is in honor of Prairie Park Nature Center, celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2019. He said he is trying to hire part-time staff to assist with marketing, as well as a part-time person to assist with sponsorships.
- d. **Director's Report** – Rogers reported the Outdoor Aquatic Center requires 25 staff to be fully operational and the Indoor Aquatic Center requires 12 staff to be fully operational. He said staff has discussed staffing issues when college/high school students leave to go back to school, and how it has become more difficult keeping both pools open through Labor Day and operating them safely. Rogers announced this year we will be closing the Outdoor Aquatic Center earlier than normal because of safety and having all features open. Our promise is to have one pool open at all times. Cost savings by closing early is approximately \$2,000 a day. He said Management Analyst Position has been offered and accepted, just waiting on the background check to go through to make the announcement of who was hired.

IX. Other:

Hull stated that she would like to see the board start working on an annual calendar for items that typically come up each year.

Nalbandian inquired about the board revisiting the idea of naming rights.

Next Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 13

Meeting adjourned.