

City of Lawrence

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

June 10, 2019 Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Marilyn Hull, Bart Littlejohn, John Blazek, Pat Phillips, Sandy Hull, Pat Collette, Val Renault, Jacki Becker, and John Nalbandian

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Derek Rogers, Penny Holler, Roger Steinbrock, Lee Ice, Mark Hecker, Brandy Shoemaker, and Gayle Sigurdson,

PUBLIC PRESENT: Sonia Jordan, Chris Tilden, Dan Partridge, Beth Llewellyn, Rochelle Valverde, Stuart Boley and Courtney Shipley

I. Meeting called to order by Hull

Penny Holler, new management analyst for Parks and Recreation, was introduced to the board.

II. Approval of May 13, 2019 minutes

Motion to approve May 13 minutes by Collette, seconded by Littlejohn. **Motion carried 8-0.**

III. Public Comments

None.

IV. Presentation of Health Equity Report

Dan Partridge, with the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, gave a Health Equity Report presentation.

Board members asked a few questions regarding the report.

V. Health Equity Assessment

Hull reported that the health department has provided a tool that is available to other groups in the community to use as a way to systemically work through as a policy we are considering. Is this something that the board would be interested in doing? After discussion, **Collette motioned that the board move forward with applying this tool to this specific issue in terms of the user fees and potentially in the future to the extent that we can in this budget cycle and certainly in the next one. Second by Nalbandian. Motion carried 8-0**

Sandy Hull, Val Renault and Jacki Becker volunteered to be on the task force.

VI. Cost Recovery/Security Maintenance Card (User Fee Proposal) Update

Rogers went over the pyramid/tier system with the board. The recreation subdivision is funded by the general fund which is property tax, the sales tax support and lastly by the users. Instead of putting the burden more on the taxpayers, it puts a little more of the burden on the user.

Holler went over the updated version of the user fee proposal.

Rogers reported as part of the parks and recreation budget submission to the city manager and the finance office, we need to present a balanced budget. Based on the

information from finance, we were given the framework on how we need to balance our budget. As a department we can cut expenses and we can increase revenue. The City Manager's budget will be presented on June 18th. The numbers and the budget we will submit to the city commission will probably continue to change daily. We need to close the gap.

Hecker reported that there are two ways to address this: one, we either increase revenues or two, we reduce expenditures. Hecker went over proposed ideas to increase revenues and reduce expenditures.

Staff answered questions regarding security maintenance cards and user fees.

Nalbandian proposed to present to the city commission the pros and cons of a free structure rather than a recommendation. Littlejohn agreed with Nalbandian.

Marilyn Hull mentioned in her notes that she has a general statement of concern about budget cuts; pros and cons of having a user fee/card fee; request use of city platforms and resources for data collection analysis.

Motion by Marilyn Hull. Second by Collette. Motion passed 8-0

A sub-committee was formed consisting of Marilyn Hull, Bart Littlejohn and Pat Phillips. A special board meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 20th at 5:30.

VII. Sponsorships

Steinbrock discussed the sponsorship policies and levels of sponsorships. Steinbrock said there is some structure in place; however, it will need to be reviewed if approval is given to the budget as it stands because it recommends a third party to secure sponsorships for the department. Steinbrock said cultivating and selling sponsorships takes time.

VIII. Staff Reports

- a. Parks** – Hecker reported that a mowing contractor went out of business due to health reasons. We have some contractors back and starting to catch up. Burcham trail keeps flooding. Had a lot of collateral damage with the tornado/straight on winds around town. Cemetery prep was struggling with all of the rain. Pool opened without a hitch. Have a lot of summer programs going on each week at SPL.
- b. Recreation** – Ice reported that Coach Self's basketball camps are going on. Basketball tournaments coming up, volleyball camps finishing up and programs taking place in the evenings. Ball diamond crews have been busy getting the ballfields and sand volleyball courts ready for leagues. Sigurdson reported on the Life Long Recreation programs as well as the Special Populations summer camps.
- c. Other Staff** – Steinbrock reported that the department is getting ready for the Bill Self golf tournament. He said he is also working on a naming policy for facilities and parks.
- d. Director's Report** – Rogers reported he has had requests for splash pads and that the pools are busy. The Prairie Block Grant Project was one of the biggest turnouts for the Burroughs Creek Kanza Pavilion shade structure and that a lot of sponsors made that possible.

IX. Concerns/Items of interest of the Board

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

a. Lawrence Loop Signage – completed and finished the grant proposal and all the signs are up.

b. Trail Safety – Trailhead | Algae Growth on Trail – Hecker reported that this is an ongoing issue, especially with all of the rain. New issues are popping up. Will be putting cones in the areas to alert people and putting stuff out to kill the algae. 8th and Oak Street trail concerns – Signs will be posted to alert the public to not leave valuables in their vehicles. Same signage will be posted at the arboretum.

c. Ballfield Lighting Update – Rogers met with a lighting contractor and has an estimate on the cost of about \$300,000 to fix all the lights. Maybe a future CIP project.

b. New Concerns/Items of Interest

Nalbandian inquired about turning the natural grass area at the buffalo sculpture into a sunflower garden. He also suggested asking the hospital into buying into the splash park, maybe they would pay half of the costs. It would tie into sponsorships.

X. Other:

Hecker went over park designs for Ludlam Park.

Next Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 8

Meeting adjourned.