

City of Lawrence  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
July 8, 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, Mark Hecker, Lee Ice, Penny Holler, and Gayle Sigurdson

PUBLIC PRESENT: Boog Highberger, Kerry Altenbernd, Virgil Dean, and John Thornburg

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**I. Meeting called to order by M. Hull**

**II. Approval of June 10, 2019 minutes**

Two minor corrections were noted.

Motion to approve amended June 10 minutes by Renault, second by Littlejohn. **Motion carried 9-0.**

**Approval of June 20, 2019 minutes**

One correction was made.

Motion to approve amended June 20 minutes by Collette, second by S. Hull. **Motion carried 9-0.**

**III. Public Comments**

None.

**IV. Presentation on NAACP Swimming Pool History Project**

Boog Highberger gave a presentation regarding the NAACP Swimming Pool History Project. Would like to have a historical sign installed at the outdoor pool explaining the history of the pool and to honor former mayor Dick Raney.

Board members asked a few questions regarding the project.

**Board supports Highberger's project, 9-0.**

Highberger asked if the board would endorse city funding of \$1,000 to match private donations to make this happen. Rogers suggested that instead of \$1,000 we split the cost 50% not to exceed \$1,500 project total.

**Nalbandian proposed that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board recommend the City Commission approve a 50% match for the project. Second by Blazek. Motion carried 9-0.**

**V. Recommendation for the City Commission's July 9 Meeting**

Board members discussed Draft 2 of the proposed adoption of recreation facility security and user fees.

**Blazek motioned to approved Draft 2 as shown. Second by Collette. Motion carried 9-0.**

On the Health Equity Impact Assessment, Board members discussed Section 5: 5b.

Phillips has suggested that we put in a statement that says we will follow standard LPRD City requirements for communicating with affected groups.

**Becker motioned to approve the Health Equity Impact Assessment as amended. Second by Collette. Motion carried 9-0.**

Board members looked over the cover memo that M. Hull prepared after the last board meeting that will be going to the Lawrence City Commission.

**Phillips motioned to approve the cover memo for inclusion in the packet of materials going to the City Commission. Second by Littlejohn. Motion carried 9-0.**

M. Hull asked if everyone had a chance to look at a link that Holler provided regarding the City Budget Work Group recommendations in regards to a number of issues that the City Commission wants to revisit regarding the 2020 budget and five year CIP. Commissioner Boley and Mayor Larsen have proposed delaying all of the city manager recommended budget adjustments for a year. They have worked out a detailed plan for how to come up with the funds to delay this for a year.

Board members and staff discussed M. Hull's presentation at the next City Commission meeting. The statement that M. Hull will make at the meeting is that the Advisory Board is in favor of implementing a security card system for data collection and safety as soon as possible, using operating funds that are already allocated to the Department as budget and facilities allow.

Nalbandian suggested that staff (Holler) take some time to find out more systematically about fees in other places so that we can either agree on whether they are common or not; second, we ought to find out what other places do for people who can't afford the fees; third, we ought to ask questions about some other places in terms of safety of their facilities, how concerned are they, what kind of problems have they run into; fourth, we ought to find out if they collect data on their patrons and what kind of data they collect; and last, what they use the data for.

## **VI. Future Agenda Planning**

Board members discussed future agenda items.

- Better messaging about the recreation centers, their functions and benefits.
- Better messaging about the economic impact of the sports pavilion. Rogers mentioned that we need to sell our story a little better on what we provide to the community.
- Review the master plan
- If the Community Building remains a city asset, discuss the future of the CB. What if we make it into more than a recreation center?
- Tour the recreation centers
- Input for CIP
- Look for opportunities to have subcommittees for different subjects

## **VII. Staff Reports**

- a. Parks** – Hecker reported that the restroom at the arboretum is going in next week; YSC soccer field #14 is being graded, leveled/renovated; new playground equipment being ordered for Ludlam Park; working on a playground renovation for Park Hill Park, hope to have it finished in 2-3 weeks; Burial vault at the cemeteries is primarily done and will be moving on to the mausoleum later this month; downtown tree grates will start up again after the sidewalk sale; replacing a sand filter at the outdoor pool; replacing the UV system at the indoor pool; Burcham Trail is still closed due to the high waters of the Kansas River; Sports Pavilion will be closed Aug. 25th-31<sup>st</sup> due to refinishing all of the floors; Indoor aquatic center will be closed July 28<sup>th</sup>-Aug. 18<sup>th</sup> for cleaning. Working on sidewalk and trail repairs. A small group will be working on a slope rating for the trails for handicap accessibility.
- b. Recreation** – Ice reported summer programming is slowing down. Baseball and softball will be winding down in a couple of weeks. As for the budget and revenue, we're right where we should be for this time of year.
- c. Other Staff** – None
- d. Director's Report** – 4<sup>th</sup> of July went well, had some reports of people riding motorized scooters down on the trails, which were closed. Didn't hear or read one negative comment about the bicycle race downtown. Rogers gave a brief report of the budget.

#### **VIII. Concerns/Items of interest of the Board**

Blazek thanked Ice for assistance on soccer nets for Special Olympics. Renault asked Rogers when he reviewed the Work Group's recommendations if there was anything that really stood out. Rogers responded that he would like a sustainable budgeting model that takes us into the future so we don't end up with in a similar budgetary situation again in upcoming years. The adjustments recommended by the Budget Work Group are one-time fixes. He hopes through this process that we can get a sustainable budget and a model that works.

#### **IX. Other:**

Next Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. Monday, August 12

Meeting adjourned.