

City of Lawrence  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
July 10, 2018 minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Allen Humphrey, John Blazek, and Mandy Enfield  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sue Hack  
STAFF PRESENT: Derek Rogers, Roger Steinbrock, Lee Ice, Mark Hecker, Tim Laurent  
PUBLIC PRESENT: Kim Anspach, Bart Littlejohn, Gayle Sigurdson, Helen Schoes, Jasmin Moore

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The meeting began with a presentation (listed as No.VI on the agenda) Jasmin Moore, sustainability coordinator, and her staff provided a presentation on the STAR Community Rating System (see attached slideshow for what was covered)

- I. Meeting called to order by Humphrey
- II. Approval of June 12 minutes  
Amendment to the minutes – it was suggested in the May 8 minutes by Blazek that Greg Dannevik, with EBGC, be promoted to supervisor status. Blazek had also complimented staff at SPL for the cleanliness of the facility. It was suggested that we should get the minutes out earlier in the event of corrections needing to be made.  
Approval was motioned by Blazek; Enfield seconded. Motion carried 3-0.
- III. Highlights/Concerns  
Blazek complimented staff (Gayle Sigurdson and Alison Dudley) on assisting a local dance group finding a new location for their dances.  
Blazek is going to speak to the City Manager about staff that work for the City of Lawrence and live outside the city limits. He believes they need to live within city limits, especially managers and supervisors.  
  
Enfield expressed her concerns about limited space for senior citizens activities.
- IV. Update on Ordinance No. 9510 – Expansion of Advisory Board Membership  
Ordinance 9510 went before the commission. Steinbrock provided an update on the process to-date: It will be on the second reading tonight (July 10). They did not take the recommendation of the board to expand the board to seven members. Instead they chose to expand the board to nine members, which passed on a 4-1 vote. The second reading will be on the consent agenda for final approval.
- V. By-laws Review

Steinbrock read the changes to the bylaws verbatim so the board knew exactly what they were to vote on. Purpose of the bylaws is to establish the rules of the board and how business is conducted. If and when the advisory board makes changes to the bylaws, the changes don't automatically take effect at the time that a change is voted on by the advisory board. It is a recommendation for the City Commission to consider the advisory board's decision. Board discussed section five and eight of the bylaws, staggering the terms of new appointments, and the number of absences allowed. Motion to approve by Blazek; seconded by Enfield. Motion carried 3-0.

VI. Presentation – STAR Community Rating System

VII. Staff Reports

- a. **Parks** – Hecker reported that there was a lot of construction work this time of year. A lot of asphalt and concrete problems, playground concerns, repairs. Averaging about four or five calls a day from the public with various concerns. Forestry has been hit hard with storms, almost every single weekend – when that happens we're hit with 40-50 service request calls.
- b. **Recreation** – Ice received the revenue recreation report for the first six months of the year. Everything is looking pretty good on the recreation side, on track revenue wise. Aquatics is having a good month. Winding down on youth softball/baseball games. Adult softball and kickball leagues will be starting their fall leagues soon. Basketball tournaments coming up at SPL the weekends of July 20 and July 27, with 200 teams. Tim added that expenses are down considerably, staff has been keeping an eye on their expenses budgets.
- c. **Other Staff** – Steinbrock spoke about the various videos that his staff has made recently, dog park, one for the 20th anniversary of EBGC (July 3rd), one coming up for the Lawrence Nature Park and staff is now filming the various parks so folks can see the amenities of the parks online as a virtual tour. Steinbrock reported he'd changed the SPL Instagram page to a department Instagram page. We are continuing to test a number of social mediums to see what is best to serve the department.
- d. **Director's comments**– Rogers mentioned customer service, trying to do a better job of following up on complaints from the public. Mentioned the bike share program, two types of bike share programs – smartdocked or smartbike. Big picture is why do we need an agreement with the bike share and it comes back to the right-of-way. There will be bikes that come down from campus or residents will take them somewhere else and to not present a walking or sidewalk hazard. We don't want complaints, we want to be as proactive as we can about having the bikes be respectful of everybody and safety reasons of pedestrians.

Rogers mentioned that some policies needed to update– some that date back to the 1980's. We're a tobacco free park and people are still vaping and smoking in the parks. Some policies deal with the ADA on our trails, in our

parks multi-use paths – an example would be motorized personal scooter or electric wheelchair, by all means these individuals should be able to use the multi-use path. At the same time, from our perspective, you take an off-road vehicle (ATV, snowmobiles, and other off-road vehicles) which can be considered as other personal mobility device are not compatible for use on our trails, parks, multiuse paths, and sidewalks. ATVs, snowmobiles, ORVs and other similar devices pose a considerable threat to the safety of citizens using the park system due to the speed and design of the vehicles. They are not conducive in a sports or active use area due to the mix of transportation (walking, jogging, biking, skateboarding, etc.) and the age of users, as well as the traffic patterns and needs of a particular play activity. We need to catch up to technology and the laws that have happened since then, he said.

Steinbrock and Hecker spoke about a public meeting 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 18, at the Carnegie to talk about the Lawrence Loop signage. Going to present signs as our answer to finding your way around the Lawrence loop. Also going to present a map that shows the spots they're thinking of putting the signs.

Hecker reported there was a fire on the roof of the Community Building, about a 20 x 20 section of a brand-new roof. About \$3,000 to repair in unexpected maintenance.

- VIII. Next Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Monday, August 13.  
Discussion was held about getting additional people to apply to be on the advisory board.
- IX. Public Comments  
No public comments
- X. Other

Meeting adjourned.