

City of La Vista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
November 10, 2010

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on November 10, 2010 . Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, and Advisory Board Members [Vice-Chairperson] Pat Lodes, George Forst III, Shannon Wiig and Corey Jeffus. Absent was Member Jeff Kupfer. Recreation staff members present were Assistant Recreation Director David Karlson, Program Coordinator Richard Carstensen, and Program Coordinator Eddie Burns.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on November 4, 2010. Simultaneously given to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice are attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to attendance of the public. Further, all the subjects included in said proceedings were contained in the agenda for inspection within ten working days after said meeting, prior to the convened meeting of said body.

CALL TO ORDER

Recreation Director Stopak called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes.

Recreation Director Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Stopak made an announcement of the location of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference and read the Emergency Procedures Statement.

A. CONSENT AGENDA

Director Stopak made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes. Motion carried.

Committee Member Jeffus made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2010 Advisory Board meeting. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Stopak made an announcement that Triple Crown Sport, the organization that runs the Omaha Slumbuster Tournament each year, presented a plaque to the City of La Vista in recognition for their cooperation, hard work and dedication to the tournaments held in La Vista. Special thanks to the Recreation Department, Police Department, Public Works and especially the Public Works grounds crew for providing excellent conditions for the games.

B. REVIEW PARK PLANS

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator addressed the Advisory Board Members and public, describing the background of the review of the city parks in La Vista; and that this meeting is 1 of 3 meetings scheduled to gather input from the Board Members and the Public of the conceptual plans that have been drafted for that purpose. The City would like comments and suggestions from the Board and the Public on the drafted plans, plus any other input they would like to give. These comments and suggestions will be presented to Mayor and Council. Ramirez stated that this is a long process, and that all the parks are not going to receive improvements at once. It takes time and funding, but eventually the City would like to update all the parks.

Ramirez described the Eberle-Walden Park plans, with a scenic overlook on the backside to the east. A shelter was discussed, but decided there was not enough room.

A dog park has been proposed for Mayors Park. It is an under-used park sitting behind G. Stanley Hall elementary school. It is a pretty green space, but not many people know its there.

Ardmore Park is one of the newest parks. It will not receive much in the way of new, but mainly updating such as repair or replace cracked concrete, landscaping, trails, etc.

A discussion of these parks began, with questions and comments geared toward Public Works, and the thought processes of having two dog parks and the locations that were chosen.

Karen Conoan, a resident from the east side of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, gave comments on Eberle-Walden park, which she has used for years. In her opinion, it is too small for a shelter, and no parking. It is basically a walk-to park, and a nice size for children. An overlook would be nice, as long as it is safe. Any improvements to the park need to be child-friendly. Ms. Conoan also stated that the sand often contains cigarette butts and glass. At Mayor's Park, Ms. Conoan didn't think it was a very choice place for a dog park, since there is no parking except for the school, and it is too close to school children.

Director Stopak stated that all the parks that are renovated will have a rubberized resurfacing instead of sand.

Linda Wilson, an Ardmore resident, said that the Ardmore park is not kept up. The sidewalks and edging around the sand are broken because of the Public Works heavy equipment being driven over it. The bushes are not trimmed, and she or her husband has to call Public Works to get the work done. There is also a lot of vandalism at the park.

Brian Lukasiewicz stated that the park crews never drive over the grounds with heavy equipment, and do the best they can at keeping the bushes trimmed. Some residents have requested them short, others want them left higher. They have made many repairs due to vandalism.

#### COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Karen Conoan stated that the idea to put diagonal parking at Children's Vista Memorial Park is not a good idea. It is on a hill, with a lot of traffic, and you would not be able to pull out.

John Kottman, City Engineer, stated that he thought it would be safer and easier to get by than it is now with curb parking.

#### COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Forst made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Vice-Chairman Lodes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.