

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
January 20, 2021

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 20, 2021. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Youth and Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Admin. Assistant Sue Tangeman, Public Works Sports Complex Foreman Jeff Thornburg, Advisory Board Member Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Stuby and Bobette Jones. Chairperson Pat Lodes Member was absent.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on January 13, 2021. 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 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

Director Scott Stopak called the meeting to order.

Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Stopak asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2020 meeting. Motion made by Member Mechels-Stuby. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All aye. Absent: Chairperson Lodes. Motion carried.

2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Submitted by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director

- Walking in a Winter Wonderland exhibit was held on Tuesday, December 8 and 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The exhibit gave La Vista residents a chance to see Santa and his reindeer from a safe distance and stroll around an enchanted lake next to Santa's workshop that was decorated in holiday fashion. Over 1,000 people attended the exhibit over the two-day period.
- Our Sprouting Sports, youth sports camp finished its six-week camp on Saturday, December 19.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City has produced 150 videos from all the departments, which has had over 97,000 total views. The Virtual Recreation Department videos has over

26,000 views. Our Virtual Recreation Center featured a variety of videos from mid-December through early January including the following:

- A Fun Friday episode featuring our Reindeer Games Grab-N-Go activity packet. Over 65 packets were picked up by the public between the release date of December 18 and December 23.
- Other episodes included a segment on “Things You Didn’t Know, You Didn’t Know” and,
- a science episode featuring the “Science of Rockets”. My helper Trenton and I built Rocket-Cups and studied the science of Kinetic Energy. The video was released on Friday, January 15 and by Tuesday, January 19 it has had over 463 views so far.

Submitted by Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager

Current Programs

- Youth Volleyball: League finished up on Dec 19, 2020.
- Adult Women’s 2020 Fall Volleyball: League ended on December 16th.
- Adult Women’s 2021 Winter Volleyball: League is full with 8 teams and will begin a 12 game season on January 6, 2021.
- Youth Basketball League: Practices begin on January 5th and games will start on January 23. We have partnered with the Sarpy Community YMCA this year. La Vista teams will be playing almost all their games at the La Vista Community Center. We will host games from 10:00 am until 5:30pm for 7 Saturdays starting on January 23rd and ending on March 6. No games will be played on Sundays at the La Vista Community Center.
- Youth Basketball Clinic: for grades 1 & 2 starts on Saturday, January 9th from 8:30 am–9:30am and will run for 5 weeks. We have 18 boys and girls participating in the clinic this year. Due to Covid-19 we limited the number of participants.

Spring Programs

Registrations are now being accepted for the following youth programs:

- Boy’s Baseball
- Co-Ed Flag football
- Youth Soccer Clinic, Academy and League
- Girls Softball
- Co-ed T-ball

Submitted by Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager

In December, a total of 1,210 senior’s participated in Senior Center programs.

- 418 Grab ‘n Go Lunches were picked up in December.
- 792 Seniors Participated in various recreational activities.

The senior’s continued to practice social distancing during our programs which included:

- Outings to the Ref’s Bar and Grill and two Christmas light tours.
- Senior volunteers decorated the Community Center for Christmas.
- Held a Human Christmas Tree Contest.
- Made Pinecone Christmas Ornaments, Gingerbread Houses and made Christmas Body Scrub gifts.
- Seniors chose the movies “Christmas Vacation” and “A Christmas Story” for Movie & Popcorn days.
- An Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest and Christmas Entertainer “Pamela Sue”
- A New Year’s Party
- Big Bucks Christmas Jingo

Submitted by Jeff Thornburg, Sports Complex Parks Foreman

- The PW crews had been working on winter projects around the shop, fixing equipment and keeping up with snow removal.
- Park Superintendent Jason Allen has submitted the Tree City USA application for the year.
- Eagle Scouts Birdhouse project is finished and they are installing those around the city.
- Using a slide presentation, Thornburg went over the extensive renovation of the Sports Complex Baseball Field (#1) that took place this past year.

Member Kupfer asked who plays on this field. Denny Dinan said that the field is busy everyday from April 1st to July 1st with youth and adult baseball, and from July to October with Senior Baseball. He said the renovations they did were amazing and that they did a tremendous amount of work on it. He said the entire metro area is frequently asking to rent the field, and now will be even more popular with the renovations that took place.

B. Officially Naming the Area Currently Referred to as Civic Center Park

1. Stopak opened the public hearing. He then went over the background information and reasoning for the proposed official naming of the area currently referred to as Civic Center Park. Stopak asked for any comments from the public. As there was none, the public hearing was closed.
2. A recommendation is being requested from the Park & Recreation Advisory Board to advance to City Council the naming of the current Civic Center Park area to the official name of Central Park. A first motion from Member Kupfer, seconded by Member Jones. All aye. Absent: Chairperson Lodes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Kupfer had a question on the revenue numbers for the Recreation Department, and why it was showing a deficit. It was explained that the deficit comes from subtracting the revenue taken in by the expected revenue, which is set by Council during the budget process. At times there is a plus, sometimes a deficit, depending on registrations, field rentals, room rentals, etc., all of which are down this year because of COVID.

Kupfer discussed the trails through La Vista during the winter months. He walks Southwind trail, but imagines it is the same on the other trails, that the plows frequently take out chunks of sod when clearing the paths. He was wondering if there were some kind of permanent markers that could be placed, especially on the curved areas, so the plows would know where the boundaries are. This may save time and money in the spring. Thornburg said he would look into it.

Kupfer also discussed with Stopak and Karlson the exercise rooms, and if it would be worthwhile to have the front desk person squirt hand sanitizer into people's hands along with taking their temperatures, which they are doing now. Karlson mentioned that we do have hand sanitizer for people to use that is located throughout the facility. Staff said they would review current Covid procedures and make any adjustments if needed.

Member Mechels-Stuby asked if there was any concern over the financial implications of the lost revenue during the pandemic. Stopak said at the moment we are monitoring the expenses and revenue.

Member Kupfer made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Mechels-Stuby. All ayes.
Absent: Chairperson Lodes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.