

City of La Vista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
February 17, 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, February 17, 2021. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Youth and Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Administrative Assistant Sue Tangeman, Public Works Sports Complex Foreman Jeff Thornburg, Assistant City Administrator Rita Ramirez, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Stuby and Bobette Jones.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on February 10, 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 January 20, 2021 meeting.  
Motion made by Member Mechels-Stuby. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All aye. Motion carried.

#### 2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

##### **Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator**

Ramirez presented updates of on-going projects that the City is currently working on.

- Update on the 84<sup>th</sup> Street Project
  - Developer is in the final stages of financing etc. for the music venue. Hopeful that construction can begin by early summer.
  - Interface Project – This is a building that the City will construct, which will hold restrooms, concession stands, etc. for the park, and will also be leased by the music venue for their outdoor events. This project will get started once the music venue starts construction.
  - A 2<sup>nd</sup> parking garage has been designed and will ultimately be constructed where the current Chili's restaurant is located.

- West of 84<sup>th</sup> Street (currently Kelly East and West) is now part of Central Park. RDG is designing plans for a multi-use space that would be used for festivals, events, etc.
- Council asked to see plans for a pool in the area west of 84<sup>th</sup> Street as well, so RDG is drawing up plans for that also.
- City previously gathered data by asking residents what they would like to see in our parks. They did this by holding public engagement events such as a night at Heights Draft Room when it opened. The Board asked if they could see a copy of the input results. We will get them a copy.
- Ramirez also discussed Dog Parks. The City has decided to utilize land on the north side of the Library/MCC for a temporary “pop-up” dog park. This is on a trial basis, but could become permanent if used and well-liked.
- The City is just starting on a wayfinding project. One of the goals is to erect new signs in all of the City’s parks. The new signs will have the new branding and logo design also.
- Work will continue on the Thompson Creek Trail along Park View Blvd with channel and trail work on the next section of land, as was done from 72<sup>nd</sup> to Edgewood.
- Work is estimated to begin on the Applewood Creek trail that goes under Giles Road into the Portal Ridge neighborhood in early 2022.
- Lastly, Ramirez said they are still looking to construct a Memorial Plaza, that will be on the City Hall campus. Once future campus plans are determined for City Hall and the Community Center, then plans for the Memorial Plaza can be finalized and construction can begin.

Chairperson Lodes asked Ramirez if the music venue and amphitheater were one in the same? She said yes it is. It will be privately owned, and will be an indoor/outdoor venue. They will lease space in the Interface building for concessions, etc.

Lodes also wanted to state that in his opinion, the City needs to set plans and get them done, instead of consistently backing down because of one or two residents. The City needs to look at the big picture and what the majority of residents want, otherwise progression keeps getting stalled.

Member Mechels-Stuby asked what they can do to be more involved. Ramirez said that they would keep them more updated, and there would be instances where they could be on sub-committees for projects, and/or give their input on projects that are underway.

### **Scott Stopak, Recreation Director**

Stopak gave updates on the Recreation Department:

- Bijon and Laurie Hamzie, the concessionaires for city facilities terminated their contract due to retirement. The City will be going out for contract bids to take over running the concessions at all city facilities except the pool.
- We have taken possession of the new Special Services Bus, and it is in the shop getting detail with the new City logo, name, etc. on it. It will be in service soon.
- Google has awarded a grant to the Senior Center to be used for technology upgrades.
- The Community Center is still operating under the guidelines that were set during

Covid-19 with limited hours, visitors, etc. We are consistently monitoring the current conditions to determine an expansion of hours and programming.

### **David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

The **Virtual Recreation Center** featured a variety videos from mid-January through early February. Those included:

- Origami Paper Boat Races. (247 Facebook views)
- Making ice cream in a plastic bag. (430 Facebook views.)
- Introducing our new monthly “Recreation @ Home” calendar, which encourages school-aged children and their families to become more physically active and to take steps towards a healthier lifestyle by participating in a different activity each day throughout the month. (195 Facebook views.)
- Part 1 of a 2-part series on Magic.

Grab-N-Go Easter Egg program will provide a safe alternative to our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The program would be like the Grab-N-Go Halloween Safe Night program where participants will drive through our distribution area to receive a bag of (20+) Easter eggs and have a chance to see several Easter bunnies.

The following is a list of our top Fun Friday Virtual Recreation Center videos, rated by the number of Facebook views they have generated. As mentioned last month, we had over 26,000 people view our Fun Friday videos on our Virtual Recreation Center web page or social media platforms.

- #1 Facebook Live Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony (1,700+ views)
- #2 Greetings from the Easter Bunny (1,300+ views)
- #3. Introducing our new Senior Services Manager, Kaily Stanley (1,300+ views)
- #4 Fun with your Imagination, a one boy baseball game (1,000+ views)
- #5 Halloween Safe Night, Parts 1 & 2 (1,000+ views)
- #6 #LoveLaVista Hashtag Challenge, parts 1 & 2 of the Airplane Challenge (862 views)
- #7 La Vista Community Center Re-opening plan (803 views)
- #9 Spy Camp, parts 1 & 2 (783 views)
- #10 Fun Friday #1 An Introduction to our Fun Friday series (663 views)
- #11 #LoveLaVista Hashtag Challenge, Chopstick Race (591 views)
- #12 Eberle-Walden Park drone tour (531 views)
- #13 Lil Chefs, Muffin Tin Pizzas (506 views)
- #14 #LoveLaVista Hashtag Challenge Hot Wheels Racing (503 views)
- #15 The Science of Rocket Cups (475 views)

## **Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager**

### **Current Programs**

The winter session of Adult Women's 2021 Winter Volleyball started on January 6 and have currently played 4 sessions of a 12 session season.

Youth Basketball League practices started on January 4 and games started on January 23 and will run through March 6. The La Vista Community Center is schedule for basketball games on Saturdays from 8:30 AM through 5:30 PM.

Youth Basketball Clinic for 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders started on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 AM-9:30 AM and ran for 5 weeks, finishing up on February 6<sup>th</sup>. We had 18 boys and girls participating in the clinic this year. Participation was limited due to Covid-19.

### **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
- Adult Softball

## **Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager**

In January, a total of 1,037 senior's participated in Senior Center programs.

- 307 Grab 'n Go Lunches were picked up in January.
- 730 Seniors Participated in various recreational activities.

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

- Outings to Hurt's Donuts, Joslyn Art Museum and Cracker Barrel
- The Alzheimer's Association presented "10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's and Dementia" via Zoom
- Fancy Hot Chocolate Grab 'n Go
- Movies "Last Holiday" and "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles"
- Hedbanz,, Bingo, Jingo, Pokeno games
- Music by Merrymaker "Billy Troy"

## **Submitted by Jeff Thornburg, Sports Complex Parks Foreman**

- The Public Works Parks crew have been keeping up with snow removal on the sidewalks and trails.
- Thornburg stated that there were openings for full time and seasonal workers for Public Works in the Parks and Sports Complex divisions. If anyone knows of people needing employment, direct them to the website for directions on applying.
- Thornburg reported for Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent, who wanted the Board to know there have been 5 tree requests for the Memorial Tree Program, and that the planting would start in April, weather permitting. The first memorial tree planted will be for former Mayor Harold "Andy" Anderson.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

Chairperson Lodes made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Jones. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.