

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
March 16, 2022

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, March 16, 2022. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Administrative Assistant Sue Tangeman, Public Works Parks Superintendent Jason Allen, Parks Crew Member Sydney Bower, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, and Brenda Mechels-Stuby. Absent was Youth & Adult Sports Services Manager Denny Dinan and Member Bobette Jones.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on March 9, 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 November 17, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Member Kupfer. Seconded by Member Lodes. All aye. Motion carried.

2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Director Stopak introduced the new Community Events Coordinator, Brian Allen. Allen gave a short bio about himself to the Board, then explained the events that he has been working on since starting in mid-February.

Spring Events Programming '22

Thirsty Tuesday Trivia Night: Tuesday, April 12 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Kros Strain Brewing; Free; ages 21+; Second Tuesday each month from April – August; Pub Trivia for teams up to 4 with prizes for the top 3 teams

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 16 at 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM at La Vista Sports Complex Softball Fields. Free event.

Spring Cleanup Days: April 18-24 at 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM at Papillion Public Works; Free; Accepting electronics, accessories, iron dump, trees/shrubs, concrete, trash

Arbor Day Storytime and Book Walk: Friday, April 29 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Central Park Lakes; Free; Tree planting and storybook walk w/ treats and special gift for children and Commemorative Tree Program info booth

Spring Kite Festival: Sunday, May 1 at 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM at La Vista Sports Complex; Free; Observe some of the world's largest kites and bring your own. Candy prizes throughout

Thirsty Tuesday Trivia Night: Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Kros Strain Brewing; Free; ages 21+; Second Tuesday each month from April – August; Pub Trivia for teams up to 4 with prizes for the top 3 teams

Sarpy County Senior Olympics: Wednesday, May 18 at 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Papillion Landing; Free; Max 100-participants; A day of sports and trivia for 55+. Deli lunch included.

Summer Events Programming '22

Salute to Summer Festival: Saturday, May 28 at 12:00 PM – 9:30 PM at La Vista City Hall Campus; Free; Featuring a Parade, Live Music, Kid's Zone (with Wilderness Encounters, face painters, balloon makers, arts, crafts, games, and chalk art), Fun Zone (with climbing wall, inflatable obstacles and bounce houses, lawn games, challenges, and activities, 9-square in the air, giant sporting targets, and human foosball), Veteran's Project, Food Trucks, Local Craft Beer Tent (Pint Nine Brewing Company) at the main stage, and La Vista Keno beer garden at the Car Show lot. Fireworks show to end the night at 9:30 PM.

Community Garage Sales: Saturday, June 4 at 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM at City of La Vista; Free; Register by May 23 to be included on city map; City made signs to be picked up and dropped off at La Vista Public Library

Free Ice Cream! Saturday, June 11 at 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM at 4-locations (G. Stanley Hall Elementary, Central Park Lakes, La Vista Public Library, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church; Free; One treat per person. Meet and greet with City Council members and City Staff

Thirsty Tuesday Trivia Night: Tuesday, June 14 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Kros Strain Brewing; Free; ages 21+; Second Tuesday each month from April – August; Pub Trivia for teams up to 4 with prizes for the top 3 teams

Dinosaur Day: Thursday, June 16 at 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM at La Vista Community Center and 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at La Vista Public Library; Free; Learn about dinosaurs

Yappy Hour: Thursday, June 23 at 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at Dog Park at Southwind Park; Free; Complimentary (NA) beverages from Jo on the Go and special treats for dogs

Outdoor Concerts & Movies: Friday, June 24 at 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM at Central Park Lakes; Free; Live Music with a Local Band (Rex Granite Band featuring Sarah Benck) followed by a movie (Despicable Me) on the big screen at dusk. Kat 103.7 prize wheel and food truck available. Blankets, lawn chairs and BYOP (bring your own picnic) encouraged.

Outdoor Concerts & Movies: Friday, July 8 at 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM at Central Park Lakes; Free; Live Music with a Local Band (Ground Zero) followed by a movie (Jungle Cruise) on the big screen at dusk. Kat 103.7 prize wheel and food truck available. Blankets, lawn chairs and BYOP (bring your own picnic) encouraged.

Splash Bash: Sunday, July 10 at 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at La Vista Swimming Pool; Free; Family friendly party with a live DJ, prizes, and free food.

Youth Police Academy (YPA): Tuesday – Thursday, July 12-14 at 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM at Police Department; Free; Middle School ages and max 20-participants; Learn law enforcement practices with work principals of teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem solving/conflict resolution

Thirsty Tuesday Trivia Night: Tuesday, July 12 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Kros Strain Brewing; Free; ages 21+; Second Tuesday each month from April – August; Pub Trivia for teams up to 4 with prizes for the top 3 teams

Hydrant Party: Thursday, July 14 3:00 PM at City Hall Campus; Free; Cool off with water from the hydrant

Outdoor Concerts & Movies: Friday, July 29 7:00 PM – 11:00 PM at Central Park Lakes; Free; Live Music with a Local Band (Kaylyn Sahs) followed by a movie (Encanto) on the big screen at dusk. Kat 103.7 prize wheel and food truck available. Blankets, lawn chairs and BYOP (bring your own picnic) encouraged.

Thirsty Tuesday Trivia Night: Tuesday, August 9 at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Kros Strain Brewing; Free; ages 21+; Second Tuesday each month from April – August; Pub Trivia for teams up to 4 with prizes for the top 3 teams

Fall Events Programming '22 (September/October/November)

Returning annual programs include: Halloween Safe Night; Santa's Sleigh Ride; Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony & Soup Supper

New special events and programs under consideration: Fall Fest; Bark in the Park/Yappy Hour/Dog Park re-grand opening.

Virtual Events Programming '22

Fun Friday!: Select Fridays every month online at City of La Vista You Tube channel; Free; A virtual program from the Recreation Department to help you discover fun activities you can do by yourself or with your family. Led by Dave Karlson, Assistant Recreation director and Jodi Norton, Assistant Library Director.

VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

Submitted by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director

Our DIY Adventures in La Vista featured multiple “Fun Friday with Friends” episodes.

The first episode features me and my special guest, Ms. Jodi, showing our viewers how to make “Snowman Pizzas”. This quickly became a family favorite with over 675 viewers. The next episode featured me and my new Fun Friday’s Friend, Ashley Wemhoff. Ashley is the Teen Librarian at the La Vista Library. In this episode, I taught Ms. Ashley and our viewers how to make their own snow globes using mason jars and a few other simple supplies. This episode has had 351 views.

To round out the month, I was invited to be a guest reader with Ms. Jodi for Library Story Time. The book was titled “We Disagree”. We used this book as a way to show children that it’s OK to disagree with someone, and that there are ways to do it and still remain friends and be respectful to each other. The story time generated over 331 views in the first few days it aired.

Our next episode will be out this week, and I will be joined by another newcomer to Fun Friday with Friends, our very own Ms. Kaily. Ms. Kaily (Stanley) is the Senior Center Manager. This episode featured us showing our La Vista friends how to make “clothes-pin puppets”. This was an incredibly cute craft that families can do together. We have a limited supply of Clothes-pin Puppet Grab & Go Kits available at the Community Center, so families can come on up a get one.

YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS

Submitted by Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager (Report given by David Karlson)

Adult Women's Volleyball: Winter session has played 9 games of a 12-game schedule. The Winter season will end on March 30. The Spring session will start on April 6 and will play a shorter 6 game session.

Youth Basketball League: League finished on March 5. We had 77 players with 9 teams this year which is about the same as last year but way down from 148 players in 2020 pre-covid.

Basketball Skills Competition: This event was held for the first time on Sunday, Feb 27 and included an obstacle course, hot shot contest and free throw contest for boys and girls in 3rd grade through 8th grade. We had 26 participants which we felt was a good number for the first year of this event. The previous years' event was just a 3 point and free throw contest.

Spring Programs

Registration is currently winding down and deadlines are approaching for 2022 Spring and Summer Youth and Adult programs such as baseball, softball, t-ball, flag football and soccer.

Coaches are being assigned and teams are being formed as practices begin on April 4, with games starting in later April and May.

Field Usage

Playing fields will open for use starting April 4, weather permitting. It appears it will be a busy season with most of the fields being utilized throughout the season.

Also, we have a Disc Golf Tournament scheduled for Sunday, March 27 at the Central Park by the lake. Nebraska Disc Golf opened a store at 72nd & Harrison St., and they approached use regarding this event. They are hoping for 90 participants and the event in La Vista is the first leg of several tournaments to be held at different locations in the area.

SENIOR SERVICES

Submitted by Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager

In February, a total of 1584 seniors participated in Senior Center programs.

- 226 Lunches were served in February
- 1358 Seniors Participated in various recreational activities

The senior's continued to practice social distancing during our regular programs. Some special programs included:

- Outings to Copps Pizza, Hurt's Donuts, and the Shrine Circus
- Movies "Notting Hill" and "Something's Gotta Give"
- Music by Merrymaker Joyce Torchia
- Seniors played Bingo, Happy Birthday Jingo, pitch, Uno and Big Bucks Love Song Jingo, and Black History Month Jingo.
- Other notable activities were: Crafts with Bob and Cheryl; and, the Valentine's Day Senior Luncheon which was attended by 175 people.

PUBLIC WORKS PARKS DEPT.

Submitted by Sydney Bower, Parks Crew Member

Bower updated the Board on what the Parks Crew has been keeping busy with over the winter months and now that Spring is approaching.

Luke Wagner is now a full-time parks crew member at the Sports Complex. Luke was previously a part-time employee.

Parks Dept. purchased a new ride-on sprayer/spreader that will make it better for spraying fertilizer and weed control in the parks.

Completed list of tree removals and cleanup of Thompson Creek. Tennis Courts are open. Portable bathrooms are there for use since the permanent bathrooms have been removed during the Thompson Creek Construction.

Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent, also gave an update on the Thompson Creek re-alignment project. He said it should be done in May or June of this year.

B. 5-Year Tree Plan – Presentation by Jason Allen, Parks Superintendent

Allen presented the 5-year tree plan, stating that they are going to update this every year, in approximately February. Allen supplied a packet to the Board for their review. He summarized the contents, discussing the Commemorative Tree Program, Thompson Creek, citizen reports on damage, etc. Also getting the information out to the citizens through videos on website.

Member Kupfer asked what the Tree City certification means. Allen said it tells our citizens that we are doing the best we can to maintain our urban forest. We have to apply for it and report hours of pruning, maintenance, planting, expenses, etc. We have been a Tree City for over 30 years.

We will be getting our own Tree plotter software in the near future, but we have been utilizing a free trial for the software. It shows in the packet provided what can be done with it.

The Board is being asked for a recommendation of approval to present to City Council for approval. Chairperson Lodes made a motion for approval. Seconded by Member Mechels-Struby. All ayes. Motion carried.

[5-Year Tree Management Plan](#) – 2021 Year 1 Update

C. Jaycee Park Playground Proposal – Presentation by Jason Allen, Park Superintendent

Allen said he is going to apply for an NRD grant to match funds for park improvements. Jaycee Park has equipment over 40 years old, so we thought that was a good park to continue the mini-park plan that was started with Eberle-Walden Park in 2020. The packet given to the Board shows plans for the park. The 2nd plan was decided upon from the Park Committee, and now needs approval from the Board to move forward.

Allen said he would like to go back over the mini-park plans, and possibly streamline the plans to make them more feasible and cost-effective to be able to move forward.

[City of La Vista 2022 – Plan 1](#)

[City of La Vista 2022 – Plan 2](#)

Allen said this project would be in the Fall. It was also discussed to possibly have a tour of the parks with the Board members again.

The Board is being asked for a recommendation of approval to present to City Council for approval. Chairperson Lodes made a motion for approval. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

Chairperson Lodes made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Mechels-Struby. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.