

City of La Vista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
February 8, 2023

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 8, 2023. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager, Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager, Parks Superintendent Jason Allen and Assistant City Planner Cale Brodersen, Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Struby, and Jason Ryan. Absent: Brian Allen, Community Events Manager

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on February 1, 2022. 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 16, 2022 meeting.  
Motion made by Chairperson Lodes. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All aye. Motion carried.
- Reports from Recreation Director and Staff

#### **VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS** **Report given by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

The annual **Big Brothers/Big Sisters Holiday Party** was held on Sunday December 4. The annual party is so large that it takes over the entire Community Center for their celebration.

The community center hosted the **Midwest Craftorama Craft Fair in the gymnasium** on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 11.

Pickleball court rentals picked up in **December** with a combined one-hour and two-hour court rentals having a combined **105 participants**. In **January** we had **224 participants**.

On January 20, Brian Allen and I taught another beginner Pickleball class to a group of **16 players** from the Cimarron Woods sub-division.

In early January, **Galen Bos** joined us at the Community Center as our new **part-time custodian**. Galen recently retired from the Westside school district and is a great addition to our staff.

## **SENIOR CENTER**

### **Report given by Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager**

In September, a total of 1,792 seniors participated in programs and activities. 252 meals were served, and 1,540 seniors participated in various recreational activities

Some special programs included:

- Outings to Hail Varsity, Master's Hand in Tekamah, Horseshoe Casino, and Papio Bowl
- Movies "On Golden Pond" and "Princess Bride".
- Music by Merrymaker Bill Chrastil and an Elvis impersonator.
- Seniors played Bingo, Happy Birthday Jingo, Pitch, Uno, Poker and Hand & Foot card game.
- Other notable activities were: Crafts with Bob and Cheryl, Banana Split Social, Meditation with David and making Apple Fritters.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Report given by Scott Stopak, Recreation Director**

#### **Winter '22 Programming Attendance**

##### **'Twas the Lights:**

##### **Tree Lighting and Soup Supper (with live entertainment from Elvis):**

Monday, November 28 at City Hall and Community Center from 5:45pm-7:30pm (250-people)

##### **Santa Claus & Reindeer:**

Monday, November 28 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 6:00pm-7:30pm (175-people)

Friday, December 2 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 4:30pm-6:30pm (235-people)

Friday, December 9 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 4:30pm-6:30pm (275-people)

Tuesday, December 13 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 4:30pm-6:30pm (268-people)

Saturday, December 17 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 9:00am-11:00am (64-people)

##### **Santa Paws:**

Saturday, December 3 at Santa's Workshop at Central Park from 10:00am-12:30pm (125-people; 59-dogs)

#### **Spring '23 Programming**

##### **Easter Egg Hunt and Food Drive**

*Saturday, April 8, 10:30 AM; at La Vista Sports Complex (Softball/Baseball Fields)*

Gates Open 9:45 a.m.; Start 10:30 a.m.

Fields #2 and #3 ages 4 and under; Field #4 ages 5-7; Field #1 ages 8-10

Over 16,000 eggs will be spread out between the four fields! This event draws a large amount of people, so plan to come early to allow time to park and walk to the fields. New this year, all age groups will start at the same time to help keep each field age appropriate and safer for all the kids. We will also be collecting food and/or cash donations for the Tri-City Food Pantry.

### **Arbor Day Celebration**

*Thursday, April 27, 10:00 AM; at Southwind Park; Free*

Bring your children to enjoy a storybook walk in the park followed by a tree planting and a sit-down story-time with a La Vista librarian. Afterwards, take home free saplings and special gifts for the children while supplies last.

### **Spring Kite Festival**

*Sunday, May 7, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM; at Soccer Complex; Free*

Bring your whole family to this free event for an afternoon of kite-flying fun. You will see some of the world's largest and most creative kites. Don't forget to bring your own kites to fly and a bag for the kite candy drops, which take place throughout the event.

### **Summer '23 Programming (Save the Date)**

The Salute to Summer festival date is set for Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 12:00 noon to 12 midnight.

## **YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS**

**Report provided by Denny Dinan, Youth & Adult Sports Manager**

### **Pre-School Playtime:**

December totals: Adults = 101; Children = 144; Total=245; Avg = 31

**Januarys: Adults = 133; Children = 168; Total = 301; Avg = 30**

### **Adult Women's Fall Volleyball:**

The 2023 Winter league has all 8 teams returning and began on January 4, and will play a 12-game schedule.

**Youth Basketball League** games started on January 21 and will be played at the La Vista Community Center on Saturday's from 10am – 5:30pm. We have 66 participants this year compared to 77 last year.

The number of teams this year:

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade boys = 2, girls = 1

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade boys = 2, girls = 1

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade boys = 2

**Youth Basketball Clinic for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grades** started on January 14 and will run for 5 weeks. We have 31 participants this year compared to 35 last year.

**Basketball Skills Competition** is taking on a March Madness theme and will be held on Tuesday, March 7. Competition will have separate divisions for 3<sup>rd</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade boys and girls. Competition will include a timed skills obstacle course, hot shot contest and a free throw contest. Participants will have opportunities to receive bonus points by making shots and free throws using designated "money balls" to boost their scores.

## **Spring Programs**

**Registrations are now being accepted for the following spring youth programs:**

- Boy's Baseball
- Co-Ed flag football
- Youth soccer clinic, Academy and League
- Girls Softball
- Co-Ed T-ball

## **B. CENTRAL PARK EAST PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

Cale Brodersen, Assistant City Planner, discussed the options for playground equipment at Central Park East. From their suggestions, two (2) options were defined, and Brodersen discussed these options with the Members.

The Board Members were asked to provide a recommendation for one of the options to the City Council.

Member Kupfer moved to recommend Option 2 to City Council. Seconded by Member Ryan. All aye. Motion passed.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

## **COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Member Kupfer asked about some coyotes that have been seen in Central Park. Jason Allen, Public Works, replied that they haven't had any complaints about coyotes, but would check into it.

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

Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.