

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
October 15, 2008

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 October 15, 2008. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Chairperson Greg Johnson, Pat Lodes, Randy Cahill. Absent: George Forst III. Staff members David Karlson and Eddie Burns were also present. Absent: Rich Carstensen

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on October 8, 2008. 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

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Advisory Board Member Lodes.

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

Recreation 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

Chairperson Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by Committee Member Lodes. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Recreation Director Scott Stopak reported that the fiscal year ended September 30, and the golf course had a great year. The round count was down approximately 150 rounds from last year (which was an exceptional year), but still topped the 20,000 mark. The revenue this year was higher than last year, factoring in time and day of play, more cart rentals, higher concessions, etc. The concrete path between hole #2, 7and 5 is actually the top of an earthen dam, and not really a path as it's always been used. Additional concrete will be added to each side of it to make it wider and an actual cart path. The work will be done this fall, weather permitting.

The Community Center is expanding the fitness room by taking over the dance room. The wooden doors separating the two rooms will be removed so people can pass from one to another. Two flat screen televisions have been purchased, one for each room, and will be mounted on the walls. The former dance room will carry mostly weight equipment and the original fitness room will be aerobic (treadmills, etc.)

Assistant Director David Karlson reported that the Health Fair will be Friday, October 17, 2008 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm in the gymnasium. Also, the Recreation Dept. will be hosting the annual Halloween Safe Night on Friday, October 31, 2008 from 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm. The LVFD are again donating and serving hot dogs, chips and drinks. So far, we have some new businesses that are donating their time and candy for Safe Night.

Program Coordinator Burns reported that tackle football and cheerleading are on-going. Soccer has one more week, and youth volleyball begins Saturday. Youth wrestling and basketball registrations will be in November. Adult softball and volleyball are also on-going.

Chairperson Johnson asked about the number of participants this year for volleyball and football. Burns said that there are four teams for volleyball, and grades 3 through 6 had to be mixed. Football numbers are also down, with two 9/10 yr. old teams and one 11/12 team. There is no 13/14 team this year.

Member Cahill said that state legislation has changed, and there are more games being allowed at the junior high level, so more children are playing at the school instead of recreation leagues.

Director Stopak stated that Program Director Rich Carstensen is at the National Recreation and Parks Association conference in Baltimore, MD this week. He will return next week, and beginning Monday, October 27, 2008 will be on leave for 10 weeks. Asst. Director Karlson will be handling the Senior Center in Carstensen's absence and Recreation Director Stopak will be handling the Special Service Van.

B. SWIMMING POOL CONCEPT DISCUSSION

This item has been placed on the agenda to allow the public to discuss the swimming pool concept.

Public Hearing was opened for comment.

No comments.

Public Hearing was closed.

C. IDENTIFY COMPETITIVE YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOCCER PROVIDER

This item has been placed on the agenda to identify, in writing, primary providers of competitive soccer and baseball for the City of La Vista. The proposal has been made to identify Lancer Soccer Club and the Panthers Baseball Club as the primary providers. Both of these Clubs have previous long-term relationships with the City. Both Clubs are based in La Vista and primarily have La Vista residents on the roster. Identifying these groups in writing will give the City a means of explanation as to why they have priority over other Clubs using the fields.

Lancer Soccer President, Richard Richt and Jodee Drake-Soto from Panthers Baseball both confirmed, when asked, that they would like to be identified as the primary providers of competitive soccer and baseball for La Vista.

Ms. Drake-Soto also stated that the Panthers had elected to stay separate from the Recreation Dept. earlier this year. However, the fees the Recreation Dept. will be charging them for field usage could be a burden. She provided information of other cities/clubs in the metro area, and the fees they are charged. Some clubs/organizations take care of the maintenance of the fields.

Chairperson Johnson stated that is probably not possible with the City of La Vista, since the Public Works Dept. maintains the fields. Recreation Director Stopak also confirmed that all field maintenance has to be done by the City only due to liability concerns

Richard Richt, Lancer President stated that he understands the predicament between the recreation leagues and private leagues using the fields, but the biggest issue would be for them to have to pay what the public pays for the fields. The fees would also be a burden on the Lancers as well. He said he does not have enough information on the issue of joining the Recreation Dept.

Chairperson Johnson made a motion to accept Item C, Identifying Lancer Soccer and Panther Baseball as primary providers for La Vista competitive sports. Member Lodes voted yes, with Member Cahill abstaining. Motion carried.

D. FIELD USAGE POLICY

This item has been placed on the agenda to make changes to the Council Policy Statement, Recreation: Scheduling, Operation and Maintenance of City Field. The current Council Policy Statement, Recreation: Scheduling, Operation and Maintenance of City Fields was presented with the staff recommended changes.

Member Lodes asked if the action taken of identifying the Lancers and Panthers as providers of competitive soccer and baseball, were we taking care of the fee issue also. Stopak explained that at the meeting in August, the board had table both Item C. (Identify Competitive Youth Baseball and Soccer Provider) and Item D. (Field Usage Policy). The fee structure is not part of this discussion. The fees for fields were set by the City Council.

Recreation Director Stopak said that Recreation Staff previously met with the Panthers to discuss agenda item C. and D. and also the fees involved and at that time no mention of not being able to financially afford the field usage fees were mentioned.

Due to a lack of quorum, this item will be carried over to the next meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

No comments.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Member Lodes said his feelings on the fee structure is that he would like Stopak and his staff to come up with other options for the clubs as opposed to the fees now in place such as charging a per-participant fee that would be beneficial to both clubs. Also, he would like to see further discussion with the clubs on possibly joining the Recreation Dept.

Chairperson Johnson would like to see a breakdown of the Recreation participant's fees.

Member Lodes wanted to make it clear that nothing has been finalized. However, he thought the amount of current fees for the clubs would be a financial burden to them. The clubs do a lot of volunteering and donating for the City and if they have to pay these fees, they would not be able to do these other things.

Richard Richt added that his group is not opposed to paying a “doable” fee, but these current fees are too high. A per person or per team fee would be more feasible.

Chairperson Johnson stated that the fees are set by Council, and we have not had a problem until so many groups wanted to start using the fields.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Johnson made the motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Member Lodes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.