

## **LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2017 PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**LENEXA REC CENTER, 17201 W. 87 STREET PARKWAY, LENEXA, KS**

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m. by Chairperson Mike Rzeszut.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Craig Denny, Gary Ewing, Nancy Klunder, Jeff Mark, Diane Schmidt, Aivars Sics, Pat Thomas and Kelly Tines.

Staff members present: Gary Ristow, Parks and Recreation Director; Logan Wagler, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation; Lindsay Hart, Recreation Superintendent; Danny Huntsinger, Parks Superintendent; and Cheryl Doleshal, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant.

### **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of the June 14, 2017 minutes was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Mark, and approved 9-0.**

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion for approval of the adoption of the agenda was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 9-0.**

Mr. Ristow said the Board would take the tour following the meeting.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE – REC CENTER TOUR AND UPCOMING OPENING EVENTS**

Ms. Hart went over the upcoming schedule of July dates. The ribbon cutting ceremony will begin at City Hall at 8:30 am on Monday, July 31 followed by another ribbon cutting at the Rec Center. A dedicated Town Talk newsletter will be issued around August 1 with the schedule of the September to Remember events. Activities and events are planned all month long. The big celebration will be on Saturday, September 23 with a large fireworks display and band.

## **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Mr. Ristow handed out the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Scholarship Program Policy that will be presented to the City Council next week. The purpose of the policy is to establish guidelines for providing financial assistance to Lenexa residents who meet minimum eligibility requirements, and to help such residents participate in Lenexa Parks and Recreation activities and programs. Mr. Ristow shared the funding, financial eligibility criteria and types of scholarships.

**Motion to support the Lenexa P & R Scholarship Program Policy as presented was made by Mr. Denny, seconded by Ms. Klunder, and approved 9-0.**

## **REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

### **Members' Reports**

Diane Schmidt – Ms. Schmidt thanked Mr. Huntsinger and his staff for their quick response in getting the large tree that had fallen on the trail in Parkhurst cleaned up. She also mentioned there is some vegetation within Central Green pond that needs some maintenance. Mr. Huntsinger said he will pass the request to the Stormwater Department.

Nancy Klunder – Ms. Klunder commented on the beautiful flower garden at Prairie Star Parkway and Renner Blvd. She suggested perennial plants be planted to save time and money.

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics reported this year's BBQ event was great and the weather was nice. He complimented all city staff who worked the festival. He inquired what the attendance was. Mr. Wagler said the estimated crowd was 15,000 this year which is about average.

Craig Denny – Mr. Denny said he was out of town last month, but returned just in time for the BBQ, which was a success. He also helped at the Freedom Run registration on July 4<sup>th</sup> but was disappointed the parade was rained out. He enjoys being on the Park Board and volunteering at the events.

Gary Ewing – Mr. Ewing stated he and his wife visited the Rec Center Monday evening and took a tour of the facility. He was very impressed.

Jeff Mark – Mr. Mark shared he ran in his first Freedom Run this year and experienced firsthand the wet event. He said he brought his family to the Movie in the Park event on Saturday, July 8 to see *Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*.

Mike Rzeszut – Mr. Rzeszut encouraged the Board to attend the Rec Center open house on Saturday, July 29 if their schedules allow. He also mentioned some overgrown landscaping at Black Hoof Park around the kids water stream. Mr. Huntsinger said he will have staff take a look at the area.

## **Director's Report**

### **Civic Campus Update**

Mr. Ristow reported city staff is working along with subcontractors to get both facilities ready for opening day. He did indicate the Public Market opening would be delayed until September 1. He also updated the Board on the selected artists for the Civic Campus. Their proposals should be ready in 2-3 weeks. Mr. Ristow said he will forward some Civic Center media story links to the Board.

### **Jenny Doty – NRPA Conservation Advisory Panel**

Mr. Ristow announced that Jenny Doty, P & R Naturalist, was selected to serve on the National Recreation and Parks Association Conservation Advisory Panel. The panel provides feedback, guidance and expertise for NRPA's conservation programs and initiatives.

The Board passed along their congratulations and applauds to Ms. Doty for her service.

### **Attendance Report**

Mr. Ristow shared an updated Lenexa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Attendance Report.

### **Recreation Report**

Ms. Hart also reported the following:

- Weather was very nice at this year's BBQ. The event went well.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> events were altered this year. The Freedom Run started at 7 a.m., but was changed to only a 5K run due to impending weather. The parade scheduled for 10 a.m. was cancelled.
- Midnight Bike Ride is Saturday, July 22.
- The Tiny Tot Triathlon will be held at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park on Saturday, August 5 beginning at 10 a.m.
- Children's Theatre Camp is being held this week at the Community Center. Performances are Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

## **Parks Report**

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- The past month has been largely consumed by festival set up and cleanup.
- Two strong storms caused considerable damage and debris cleanup.
- The planters for the parking garage at the Rec Center to accommodate the Farmers Market have been finished and put in place.
- Summer maintenance is in full swing with watering, weeding and mowing.

## **Projects Report**

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- Signage is 80% completed at the Civic Campus. The remainder should be finished soon.
- The Gateway landscape improvements on the 95<sup>th</sup> Street medians have been completed.
- Work at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park Pavilion and improvements is going full speed. Weather is cooperating.

Mr. Wagler reported the move on Monday brings big changes for the Recreation staff but they are excited and ready for the challenge.

Mr. Ristow led the group on a tour of the Rec Center. Since Mr. Ewing had attended a tour on Monday evening he excused himself from the meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Klunder, and approved 8-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary