



Advisory Board Minutes May 12, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kevin Loos, Vice Chair Jana Dobbs, Kelly Barth, Joe Caldwell and Andy Clayton

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Ernie Shaw, Mark Hecker, Roger Steinbrock, Cynthia Boecker

GUESTS:

- I. Meeting called to order by Chair Kevin Loos.
- II. Approval of April 7, 2009 minutes – Motion to approve by Kelly Barth, second by Joe Caldwell.
- III. Concerns of the Board – Joe said a DCABA coach approached him about standings not being posted on the web. Problem has been fixed and standings and scores are now posted.
- IV. Public Forum – Ernie thanked Roger for all of the hard work and time he has put into the public forum, beginning to end.

Roger discussed the stats of the forum – Roger has the percentages for each area and the number of respondents as well as combining the likely and very likely together for percentage and took the likely and very likely and took out the don't knows in the total of the respondents. In some cases, there were drastic changes and in other cases there was a 3-4% change. The "somewhat likely" responses have been left as neutral ground.

Participants are willing to pay some additional fees regarding aquatics. Special Populations participants are willing to pay a small additional fee for their programs too. Special Populations is definitely a core program and essential to the community. Cardio room and weight room – small fees acceptable. People expect more when they pay for services. Need to look at how much equipment is being used or scaling back facility hours.

Prairie Park Nature Center – people are likely to pay a fee to get in the door. It does scale down as you put in the higher dollar.

Sales tax was mentioned a couple of times in the comments, on-line and public forum. There are a lot of nice compliments about what we do provide for the citizens of Lawrence.

Special Events – 84 percent of survey participants feel that Special Events is essential to the community (band concerts, fishing derbies, fall arts and crafts festival, holiday bazaar, etc.) People are willing to pay a small fee to attend these events.

Summer Camps – small increase in fees okay. 97 percent said that the youth camps are essential. Attendance is big and the nature center camps are usually full. We review these fees on an annual basis and try not to over-price people out.

Lawrence City Band – 65 percent of survey participants said they have attended a city band concert, but 71% say that the funding is good, we should continue supporting it.

Downtown Beautification and Landscape – 96% like it, 80% say it is essential.

When combining both surveys together, over 41% have lived in Lawrence more than 20 years. Demographics 35-44 years of age; and some senior population due to the band concerts; more men attended the public forum but more women filled out the survey and made comments since they are the majority that handles the class registrations.

Some thoughts on the next steps will be a city managers report. Give the city manager and commissioner's links to the information we have received pertaining to the public survey and comments Roger will e-mail the results to the advisory board members.

Meeting adjourned for park tour. Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, June 9th, at Noon, Parks and Recreation Conference Room.