



# City of Lawrence

PARKS AND RECREATION

## Advisory Board Minutes January 8, 2008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Kelly Barth, Vice Chair Bruce Muzzy, Tom Bracciano, Jana Dobbs and Kevin Loos

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark Hecker, Ernie Shaw, Roger Steinbrock and Laurel Kupka

**GUESTS:** Bill Penny

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- I. Meeting called to order by Chair Kelly Barth.
  - II. New members--Jana Dobbs and Kevin Loos introduced themselves to the board. Dobbs works for Corner Bank, has been a youth coach in the past and enjoys biking. Loos works for ICL chemical plant, has lived in Lawrence for 12 years, enjoys running on area trails and has three young sons who will begin playing sports soon.
  - III. Approval of the Nov. 13 minutes on a motion by Tom Bracciano, second by Bruce Muzzy.
  - IV. Bracciano reported receiving questions about City development plans for vacant space on Louisiana street south of Centennial School site. The school district has future plans for facility additions for LHS at that location. Shaw said he would look into it.
  - V. Muzzy nominated for Chair; Loos for Vice Chair by Bracciano; Barth seconded. Vote carried 5-0.
  - VI. **Item XIII moved up to VI.** At the Sesquicentennial Point dedication ceremony, Muzzy handed out an information sheet on Founders Rock and most people didn't know it existed. Shaw said he researched Muzzy's suggestion of moving Founders Rock to another site. The rock weighs 20 tons and will cost \$14,500 to move. Shaw said City Manager David Corliss suggested a historical review, which Shaw will look into. Barth and Bracciano recommended speaking to Lynne Zollner (Historical Planner) to see what hurdles are projected before looking to fund the project.
  - VII. **Item VI and following items through XIII moved down.** Steinbrock reported online enrollment saw a 40 percent increase over last year and Web site hits are up 11 percent. In 2008, only two activity guides will be published instead of three.
  - VIII. Shaw said an individual is raising funds to build 12 youth ball fields on the 1612 leased area of Corps property. There is also discussion of revising master plan at YSI and changing the location of planned adult soccer fields. Hecker said the 1612 master plan must be updated before the Corps approves any new projects. Public Works will work on the new plan in-house.

- IX. Shaw reported the KU Crew team and the City are continuing to work together on the new boat house being constructed for the team's use. Hecker discussed the buildings placement and commended there are problems with its proximity to utility lines and water wells. KU may be paying to move one of the water wells before the building can be given approval for construction to begin.
- X. Shaw said the City Commission met in November for a study session, and some of the proposed plans for the 31<sup>st</sup> Street extension have the opportunity to put more land in Prairie Park Nature Area, which would be good for animal flow in and out of the area. He will keep an eye on the planning process.
- XI. Hecker reported complaints of horseback riders using the mountain bike trails in Riverfront Park. He said he met with a group headed by Chris Mensch to discuss developing some bridle trails along the levee in the north area of the park. He thinks the group would manage the trails themselves as the Mountain Bike Club/Patrol does.
- XII. Hecker said the tree ordinance is being updated because parts of it date back to the 1960s. A rough draft is nearly completed and it will hopefully go before the City Commission in two or three months.
- XIII. Hecker presented a list of 2007 projects and their status. At present no 2008 sales tax projects have been scheduled to move forward.
- XIV. Staff Reports
- a. Shaw reported the revenue from recreation programming was approximately \$105,000 above projections. Eagle Bend's revenue was down in 2007 which had a lot to do with the weather. He said staff is working on implementing suggestions for changes in 2008.
- b. Marketing--No report.
- c. Hecker said the recent snow duty was draining on staff, but he hopes to be planting trees soon if weather permits.
- XV. Sharon Spratt and Bill Penny were recognized for their service to the City. Penny served on the Advisory Board for seven years, Spratt for 10.
- XVI. Miscellaneous
- a. Shaw said 12 staff members will go to Wichita for the KRPA conference Jan. 22-25. Former Director Fred DeVictor will be inducted into the Hall of Fame that week.
- b. Teamwork awards were given out at the staff Holiday Lunch Dec. 14. Awards are given in three categories: full-time staff, part-time staff and outside agency. The full-time staff award was presented to Karen Risner, the part-time staff award was presented to interns Levi Donals and Laurel Kupka and the outside agency award was presented to the Mountain Bike Club/Patrol.
- c. The AFA National Girls Softball Tournament will be held in Lawrence again in 2008. Shaw said 130-140 teams played last year. Parks and Recreation is working on a long-term contract to keep the tournament in Lawrence.
- XVII. Adjournment 1:30 p.m. Next meeting Feb. 12.