



Advisory Board Minutes February 12, 2008

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jana Dobbs

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Hecker, Jimmy Gibbs, Roger Steinbrock and Laurel Kupka

GUESTS:

- I. Meeting called to order by Chair Bruce Muzzy.
- II. Approval of the Jan. 8 minutes on a motion by Kelly Barth, second by Kevin Loos.
- III. Barth inquired about the status of the KU Crew boathouse. Hecker said it is close to being completed. The University opted to move the City water wells rather than move the boathouse location, and the Department recently performed a tree assessment.

Muzzy also asked if Bill Penny's letter to the Lawrence Journal-World about the sales tax had any impact. Hecker said the money has already been allocated for this year. Most of the sales tax money is currently being used for streets and sidewalks instead of parks and recreation. The Department received only \$400,000 this year, and \$200,000 is needed for immediate repairs at East Lawrence Recreation Center. This means all other projects are on hold. Sales tax also pays for some maintenance and positions. Hecker said it is an important issue to push for the 2009 budget.

- IV. Hecker reported the Department studied the options several other golf courses are offering and decided to propose an annual pass system at Eagle Bend. The annual pass will be sold for \$750 and entitles golfers to unlimited rounds and range use for one year to the date of purchase. Cart fees are not included. Hecker said the Department hopes the pass will keep people playing at Eagle Bend instead of moving around to multiple courses as many golfers often do. The annual pass would also require payment up front, so revenue will not be affected by weather, which has always been a problem. If the pass system is implemented, employees at the golf course will monitor its usage to evaluate the success of this option.

Bracciano suggested looking into a corporate option that would give people the opportunity to bring clients or co-workers from out of town to play at Eagle Bend. Hecker said Eagle Bend will also be offering free golf for up to two children under the age of 12 when accompanied by a paying adult in an effort to get more young people interested in golf and acclimated to Eagle Bend.

- V. Hecker said the Army Corps of Engineers will turn over Dam Toe Road to the City if the Commission approves. He said most of the traffic on the road is to and from

Parks and Recreation facilities, so it makes sense for the City to maintain it.

- VI. The Lawrence Tennis Center is jointly maintained by Parks and Recreation and the Lawrence School District. Bracciano reported that the courts are beginning to sink and fall apart, and the school district is looking to improve the courts and several other Lawrence High School facilities. He showed the Board two plans that include new tennis, baseball and soccer/football fields. The school district will submit a master plan to the Board of Education, which has allocated \$2.5 million for use at Free State and Lawrence High Schools. Bracciano estimated the total cost to be around \$14 million. Hecker said Parks and Recreation could potentially split the cost on some of the new facilities because they would be excellent to use for programming and as community resources. The Board unanimously expressed its support for this idea. Bracciano added that the new facilities would create more equity between Lawrence High and Free State, and could attract competitions to town.
- VII. Already covered during item III.
- VIII. Hecker reported Ernie Shaw spoke to Lynne Zollner from HRC. She said she anticipated there would be a few hurdles but saw no problem with proposing the idea to the HRC.
- IX. Staff Reports
 - a. Hecker said the Recreation Division made a record-setting \$1.5 million last year. Golf revenue in January was approximately \$4,000. The course was open only three days due to weather; most of the revenue was generated through advertising.
 - b. Steinbrock reported the Marketing Division is currently working on the summer-fall activities guide. These have been two separate issues in the past, but are being consolidated into one book to cut costs. This year's Friends of the Park reception is also being planned.
 - c. Hecker said most projects have been slowed down or postponed by the winter weather. His crews will begin preparing facilities for spring soon. The Department is also looking at ways to shift the responsibilities of staff members because five full-time positions are open and will probably not be filled. He has a meeting with the City Manager's office coming up.
- X. Miscellaneous
 - a. Adjournment 1 p.m. Next meeting March 11, 2008.
 - b. Gibbs took the Board on a tour of the Indoor Aquatic Center, an award-winning facility that has been featured in multiple publications. He said it is a good model for other facilities, and he has had several requests for information from other municipalities since it opened in April 2000.