

# City of Lawrence

## Parks & Recreation Advisory Board September 12, 2006



MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair, Bill Penny, Kelly Barth, and Sharon Spratt

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Bracciano

STAFF PRESENT: Fred DeVictor, Mark Hecker, Ernie Shaw and Roger Steinbrock

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Meeting was brought to order by Chair Penny. Minutes of the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. No quorum in July, no meeting in August.

DeVictor reported an opening remains on the Board and will rely on the Mayor and City Commission to make an appointment.

DeVictor reported that Chapter 9; Park Recreation and Open Space was approved by the City Commission including parks with ¼ mile service access. The Board discussed implications of this new policy and asked how this would be accomplished. DeVictor said he would invite key Planning Department staff to a meeting in the future to discuss their involvement in meeting this goal. The Board, on a motion by Spratt, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Barth requested a letter be sent to the City Commission explaining we would work to make this happen for future parks but emphasized the need for impact fees for funding these additional neighborhood parks.

DeVictor reported the proposal with the Treanor Architects team to complete the PLAY Committee needs assessment was approved. Since Chris Schumm resigned from the Board and served on the PLAY Committee, Chair Penny asked for a replacement. Kelly Barth volunteered to represent the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on the PLAY Committee.

Staff discussed a letter received from the Lawrence Art Guild about using the Carnegie Building. Staff met with several members of the Guild. Fees would be required if the Arts Guild uses the building after the renovations and would need to schedule it like other users. Additional meetings and dialogue will continue with them.

DeVictor reported the City Commission approved beginning to acquire land east of 59 Highway near Mount Blue for the Wakarusa River Reclamation Facility. He showed the site area map where the City will acquire 530+ acres for the second sewer plant. Park staff is interested in being part of this process to help preserve some of the land that will be used as "buffer areas" and not be used directly for the construction of the plant.

Staff invited the Board to a public meeting at 7:00 P.M., Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at Langston Hughes Elementary School to show the plans for the 40-acre greenbelt park and gather additional feedback. About \$200,000 has been allocated for phase one development. Several staff attended a September 1<sup>st</sup> walkthrough to look at the terrain and recently mowed trails.

Staff reported on bidding park projects including Clinton Park restroom and shelter, trail design for Burroughs Creek Rail Trail and Sesquicentennial Point. Other infrastructure and maintenance projects include resurfacing recreation center gym floors, reopening of the indoor aquatic center after major cleaning and pool painting, crack filling at tennis center, drainage work on #15 fairway at Eagle Bend Golf Course, YSI ball diamond irrigation and ball field fencing on Ice Field at Holcom Sports Complex.

Shaw reported fall classes have started and are going well. Enrollment and recreation revenue is up from last year. He is reviewing golf course operations and will be tweaking the volunteer golf marshalling program. Golf revenue is up about 12% for the year.

The Board was informed the City is participating as one of the sponsors of a Chamber of Commerce event to be held Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. "Get Downtown Lawrence Live" will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> Street between Massachusetts and New Hampshire Street from 5:30 P.M. – 10:30 P.M. and include bands, food and beverages.

The Board was invited to a September 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M. recognition of the xeriscape garden at the Rotary Arboretum. Due to a conflict on October 10<sup>th</sup>, the next meeting will be held October 17<sup>th</sup>.