

City of Lawrence Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

November 13, 2007



MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kelly Barth. Vice Chair Bruce Muzzy, Sharon Spratt and Bill Penny

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Bracciano

STAFF PRESENT: Mark Hecker Ernie Shaw and Roger Steinbrock

GUESTS: Adam Barmann, University of Kansas Intern

- I. Meeting was called to order by Chair Kelly Barth
- II. Approval of the October 9th minutes on a motion by Bruce Muzzy, 2nd by Sharon Spratt.
- III. Muzzy reported he contacted a Westar representative concerning the tree clean up at Burcham Park and there was a miscommunication on what was to be done. LPRD will help Westar get the areas cleaned up. Barth reported was contacted by someone who felt the grasses along the levee near the old landfill look very good. Spratt asked about group of citizens wanting places to ride horses. LPRD staff will meet Thursday and discuss options that might be available.
- IV. Hecker reported staff is working on IPM manual during the winter months and may be able to meet with the public sometime this winter. Hecker reported the Kansas State grant applied for was denied, the committee felt the project could not be completed in one year.
- V. Shaw reported the Tom Wilkerson Awards deadline is November 16th. Awards are given at the Staff Christmas lunch December 14th. There are three categories, Full-time, part-time and outside person/group. The Board is invited.
- VI. Muzzy reported at the Sesquicentennial Point dedication he handed out a flyer that suggested moving the Founders Rock located at Robinson Park be moved to Sesquicentennial Point. Muzzy reported a positive response. He also reported many citizens were not aware of the rock or its location. Muzzy stated it would be approximately \$250 an hour for the rock to be moved by a crane company. The rock is estimated to be between 20-26 tons. Muzzy will research history, costs, etc. Staff will writer letter to City Commission. **Muzzy motioned to pursue possible relocation of the Founders Rock to sesquicentennial Point. Spratt second.**
- VII. Shaw reported the City Commission study session was held at November 1st at the Prairie Park Nature Center and the 31st Street extension was discussed. Three plans were presented. LPRD felt two of the options were interesting. One that would run south to O'Connell Road. One that would go west of Mary's Lake dam, swing south toward a wooded area. This would involve some cost to purchase land and have to cut through a rock ledge. This would also extend Mary's Lake and create buffer, animal crossing and natural area.

VIII. Hecker reported KU and Landplan Engineers discussed tree concerns. Would need to identify trees to be displaced. Approximately ten trees would need to be removed, some large, some not in great shape. Hecker reports the trees removal should not have a major impact on the area.

IX. Staff Reports

- a. Shaw reports October golf revenue better than 2006, still behind for the year. EBGC is \$120,000-130,000 in the positive from expense side. Recreation is doing well, the last 3-4 years revenue continues to increase. Notes economy has been rough, citizens stay home, spend money at home. Shaw reported the City plans to convert to a unified Logo. LPRD will try to keep some of its current logo. Feels LPRD logo is well known throughout the community, is colorful and states "fun". LPRD staff will voice at next meeting on November 13th the Boards support to keep the current logo. Staff states it would have to spend time and money educating the community on a new logo. Staff stated current logo is on all gym floors, plaques, park signs, trophy's etc.
- b. Steinbrock reports a history book for the Sesquicentennial Point steps was put together. Staff will need to determine how many steps are possible. Muzzy commented that 1953 was the last year a class graduated from Liberty Memorial High School, may want to purchase a step for that year. Steinbrock reported the winter/spring activities guide "Stretch Your Limits" will include articles highlight keys to keeping kids healthy and fit, written by LPRD marketing intern Laurel Kupka.
- c. Hecker reports staff completing grass seeding and planting. Staff also completed an in house evaluation to improve Eagle Bend Golf Course. There were some negative public comments about EBGC. The cool wet weather helped in correcting some of those issues. Hecker reported staff was hanging holiday lights downtown from 6th to 12th Streets. Hecker reported a park and maintenance staff resigned, currently are down three staff department has not been able to replace.

X. Miscellaneous

Shaw reported Utilities Department has a sewer project on its agenda. NE to SW connection through the bypass. They are acquiring land, possible future trails. Might be more of a nature type trail to keep costs down. There are also concerns of increased pedestrian population from landowners.

- a. Sesquicentennial Point dedication. October 24th, - Had a great turnout and still continuing to sell steps. Park hours for the winter are 9AM-5PM.
- b. DeVictor Park dedication, October 26th. Went very well – park looks good and had a large turn out with Fred and Children cutting the ribbon.
- c. Staff nominated Fred DeVictor to Kansas Recreation and Park Association for induction into the Hall of Fame. He will be inducted in January at the KRPA annual conference.
- d. Sharon and Bills 2nd terms will be completed December of this year. Sharon served 10 years, Bill two terms. Mayor will appoint two new members.
- e. Lighting ceremony November 22 for the Holiday lights downtown.
- f. November 3rd, Prairie Park Nature Center had a work day to clean beds that will be used for the demonstration gardens in the spring for sustainable gardens.

XII. Adjournment 1:00PM. Next meeting January 8th.