

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2023, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY
BOARD MEETING
LENEXA CITY HALL, COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W. 87 ST. PKWY**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Jeff Mark.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Nathalie Aquino-Brech, Gary Ewing, Amanda Hoernicke, Wanda Kiewiet, Diane Schmidt, Aivars Sics and Pat Thomas.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member absent: Mike Rzeszut.

Staff members present: Logan Wagler, Parks and Recreation Director; Mandy Danler, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Danny Huntsinger, Parks Superintendent; Marisa Shartzter, Recreation Superintendent; Ashley Nguyen, Recreation Supervisor; DeeDee Jones, Senior Administrative Assistant; and Cheryl Doleshal, Senior Administrative Assistant.

Todd Pelham, Deputy City Manager was also in attendance.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the May 10, 2023, minutes was made by Ms. Kiewiet, seconded by Mr. Sics, and approved 8-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of the adoption of the agenda was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Sics, and approved 8-0.

**PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE – ASHLEY NGUYEN
(LEARNING ABOUT LENEXA, LEGLER BARN AND LENEXA CEMETERY)**

Ashley Nguyen, Recreation Supervisor, History, has been in her new position for about a year. She oversees the Lenexa Cemetery, Legler Barn Museum & Depot and the Learning About Lenexa (3rd graders program). The department began management of the cemetery in January 2023. Since that time there have been seven plot sales and four burials. A new website, Lenexacemetery.com has recently been launched. The city also took over complete management of the

Legler Barn Museum & Depot in July 2022. A comprehensive needs assessment was completed for the museum and depot. Lenexa history bus tours continue collaboratively with the Lenexa Historical Society. A summer camp, Life on the Prairie, was recently held with 16 kids in attendance. Future projects were also shared. This year the Learning About Lenexa program was restructured and implemented at full capacity for all Lenexa elementary schools. Nine schools took part this past year. This program is for Lenexa 3rd grade students. The morning stations are at the Civic Campus and the afternoon sessions at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park. The handbook is being revised for the 2023 school year. The new edition will be available to teachers digitally.

BENCH ADOPTION DONATION REQUEST– BLACK HOOF PARK (JACKSON MILLER FOR RODNEY DEAN MILLER)

The department has received a donation request to adopt an existing bench along the trail at Black Hoof Park including a plaque. Jackson Miller liked this location for his family to enjoy as a spot of reflection in memory of Rodney Dean Miller.

Motion for approval to accept the adoption donation request of a bench along the trail at Black Hoof Park was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Aquino-Brech, and approved 8-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics inquired about the road work around Freedom Fields. Mr. Wagler stated there is a new traffic light going in at 83rd & Monticello Rd.

Jeff Mark – Mr. Mark thanked staff for their fantastic job with the Lenexa Art Fair. Great event!

Diane Schmidt – Ms. Schmidt attended the Art Fair, and she agreed it ran very smoothly. She heard positive feedback from the artists, especially regarding how Lenexa includes the tent fee and setup with their registration fee. Ms. Schmidt also mentioned that a critter is digging up the banks of the pond at Central Green Park. She sends her thanks to the stormwater division for clearing up the water.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet volunteered at the Art Fair and was very impressed with the public's appreciation of the event and how well it was organized. She also has been attending the concert series and reported the music is great and there have been nice-sized crowds.

Pat Thomas – Mr. Thomas is on the board at the gun club which neighbors Black Hoof Park, specifically the disc golf course. He heard that an arrow was found recently in the trees and was concerned that it might have come from the archery range at the club. Mr. Huntsinger said they have not heard of any safety issues. When they were clearing the course, several old arrows were found along with tree stands and he assumes the arrow was from hunting.

Amanda Hoernicke – Ms. Hoernicke attended the M80's concert at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park recently and was amazed at the number of people who attended. The music was great, and she is looking forward to seeing the Stolen Winnebagos on June 18.

Nathalie Aquino-Brech – Ms. Aquino-Brech shared her enthusiasm for the new disc golf course. She has visited it a few times with her family, and they are enjoying the new experience. She was happy to see park board and arts council members at the Art Fair. She shopped, ate and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Director's Report

Mr. Wagler introduced DeeDee Jones to the board. DeeDee is the Senior Administrative Assistant for the parks division. She is the person who works with families on the donation program. Her communication and compassion shines through these delicate conversations. He also welcomed his boss, Todd Pelham, to tonight's meeting. Mr. Pelham tries to attend a few meetings a year to show his support for the parks and recreation team and the board.

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- The City Council and the public have been notified that there is a leak at Flat Rock Creek Pool. Staff are considering their options and will work until an acceptable solution is found.
- The skatepark reconstruction is moving along. Currently they are working on the flow bowl. The old skate park is no longer there. At a future meeting, a visit to the job site may be scheduled.
- At the June 26 Planning Commission meeting the DD (design and development) phase of the Lenexa Old Town Activity Center renovation will be presented. Next, it will be presented to the City Council at an early August meeting for their approval.
- Several City Council seats are open this election along with the mayor position. Staff have been advised to send all park and recreation related inquiries to him from any of the candidates.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan public engagement piece. Attendance at the first open house on April 29 was around

80-100 people. Results were shown from the open house and the statistically valid survey that was sent to a random sample of households in the city. Lenexa residents believe it's important for the City of Lenexa to provide high quality parks and recreation programs, facilities and trails. Next steps are the park and facility assessments, financial review, benchmarking, and stakeholder sessions. For the July Park Board meeting, a stakeholder session may be held.

She also reported the following:

- The Rec Center is holding steady at over 10,000 members. There are several specialty camps and day camps happening.
- At this year's BBQ event there will be a mobile pay option.
- Renovation work on Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center is on schedule. The deep well has been dug and the foundation on the new guard house is in.

Ms. Shartzter reported the following:

- Pools are open. Opening weekend attendance including memberships and day passes at Ad Astra was 939 visits and 853 at Flat Rock Creek.
- Applications are now being accepted for the Lenexa Artists' Show and Spinach artisan craft and jewelry vendors.
- Coach pitch, T-ball and our pickleball leagues are wrapping up this month.
- Young Explorers returned to Black Hoof Park for the summer session.
- Attendance has been a record high this year at the Farmers Market. New vendors are continuing to be brought in.
- Ashley Nguyen did a great job with her history/cemetery presentation this evening.
- BBQ is standing at 174 teams this year. The event is next Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24.
- The Outdoor Concert Series has been very popular this year with over 1,000 people in attendance at the first concert. The average attendance is 300 each.
- The next Movie in the Park is Friday, July 21 at Electric Park.
- Numbers for the fishing derby held at Roses Pond last weekend were 634 catches, which is a record number for the event.
- Freedom Run and July 4th community parade are just around the corner. Currently, there are 600 runners registered.
- There is a dedication scheduled for Tuesday, September 12 for the new skate park (Rolling Magic).
- Kayak rentals at Black Hoof Park continue to be popular.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- General late spring/early summer maintenance is in full mode. This includes regular mowing, managing broad-leafed weeds, insecticide treatments for EAB and bagworms, and watering trees and new plantings.
- Facilities crew performs daily pool monitoring and maintenance.
- All annual landscape bed planting has been finalized.
- Goats are back at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park to assist with weed control. They are there through the month of June. They continue to draw visitors to the park.
- This week and next week the entire parks division is busy with BBQ preparations.
- The request for bids is out for Phase I construction on the Cedar Station Park project. Bid opening is scheduled for the end of the month with construction anticipated to begin late summer/early fall.
- Two design options have been created for the playground replacement at Buffalo Meadows Park. A public engagement will be planned at the park for interested parties to provide feedback and select which option they like best.

Mr. Ewing asked Mr. Pelham to give an update on the Lenexa Justice Center.

Mr. Pelham gave a brief status update on the justice center. He mentioned it is exciting to see the facility take shape and to visualize how and where the different sections of the building are coming together.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary