

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
LENEXA CITY HALL, GREEN ROOM, 17101 W. 87 ST. PKWY., LENEXA, KS**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Chairperson Jeff Mark.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Gary Ewing, Sarah Hanson, Kelly Rasor, Mike Rzeszut, Diane Schmidt, Aivars Sics and Pat Thomas.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member absent: Wanda Kiewiet.

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

**BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion for approval of the August 14, 2024, minutes was made by Mr. Rzeszut, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 8-0.**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

**REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

**Members' Reports**

Diane Schmidt – A resident from Bristol Ridge subdivision reached out to Ms. Schmidt and shared that they would like a trail connector to City Center from their neighborhood. Mr. Wagler said there actually is a route they can use.

Sarah Hanson – Ms. Hanson commented that the Pedi-cabs at the Lenexa Spinach Festival on Saturday were steadily rolling along all day.

Jeff Mark – Mr. Mark said it looks like the goat program is going well. Mr. Huntsinger said they are doing their job and were on the news recently. At the

Spinach Festival they were in an area just east of the dam and drew many spectators.

### **Director's Report**

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- The City Council approved the 2025 recommended budget.
- Work continues on the 2025 and beyond CIP process. The Parks and Recreation Department will probably not have many new projects but will focus on wrapping up their current projects.
- Preparation continues on the renewal of the 3/8 cent sales tax for next year.
- With the World Cup 2026 coming to the metro, there is a Pitch Lenexa group trying to get people to visit Lenexa. At the appropriate time staff will most likely become involved.
- A plan is in place to repair the weather damaged sphere on *Amusing Breeze*.

The art piece *Windswept* has been relocated to the new Justice Center. The Justice Center opened to the public on August 26. The Parks and Recreation landscape and turf divisions will be responsible for upkeep of the grounds.

- Progress on the **Lenexa Old Town Activity Center Renovation** is moving along. The Haskins wing will be open for the Senior Center operations to move to in early October.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final **Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction** open house is tonight. Tonight's open house will share the final two concepts. The feedback from the surveys and open houses has been tremendous. Demolition of the pool could begin in early October.
- The October 9 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting at Black Hoof Park, Oak Shelter, will be followed by the annual tree planting event. Meeting starts at 5:30p.m.

### **Staff Reports**

Ms. Shartzter reported the following:

- The Spinach Festival had an attendance record of 9,000 this past weekend. The event was great along with perfect weather.
- Lenexa Chili Challenge will be held Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12 followed by the Enchanted Forest on Thursday, October 24.
- Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center closed the season on Labor Day, September 2. Attendance was stronger than expected. Great first season!
- Bettie Partington's retirement party was held today (September 11). Her last day will be September 30. She has been employed by the city for 29 years. She will be missed.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- Facilities' staff has been closing/winterizing the Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center.
- The turf and landscaping crews are busy with their annual fall schedule (aerating, seeding, applying fall/winter applications, planting fall annuals).
- Work begins on holiday lights next month.

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Rasor, seconded by Mr. Sics, and approved 8-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary