

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
LENEXA JUSTICE CENTER, 17371 PRAIRIE STAR PARKWAY, LENEXA, KS**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Aivars Sics.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Gary Ewing, Sarah Hanson, Jeff Mark, Kelly Rasor, Diane Schmidt 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; Marisa Shartzter, Recreation Superintendent; and Cheryl Doleshal, Senior Administrative Assistant.

Police Chief Greg Bogart was also in attendance to lead the Justice Center tour following the meeting.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Three visitors were in attendance this evening: Isaiah Blackmon, Mark Ayers and Jim Schuessler. They wanted to attend the meeting and observe the department's leadership.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the March 12, 2025, minutes was made by Ms. Kiewiet, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 7-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of the adoption of the agenda was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 7-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Diane Schmidt – Ms. Schmidt is excited she was elected vice-chair of the Board and is looking forward to serving Lenexa and getting to know more residents. She also shared she signed up for the beginner's instructional pickleball league.

Pat Thomas – Mr. Thomas shared that all holiday lights have been removed from the trees at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Parks and that the park restrooms are now open.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet said there are lots more blooming flowers along the daffodil walk this year. Mr. Wagler said 12,000 donated bulbs were planted the first year and staff adds about 5,000 each year. He estimates there are well over 20,000 now along the trail. There are many bulbs still in bloom north of 79th Street.

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics thanked the Board for electing him chair for the upcoming year and is looking forward to leading the group. He also said his son is participating in this weekend's disc golf tournament at Black Hoof Park.

Director's Report

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- The annual Lenexa Volunteer Recognition Dinner is April 22 at Grand Street Café. This event is a nice way to honor the city boards and volunteers.
- Great news: the **3/8-Cent Sales Tax Renewal** passed. This sales tax provides an essential capital funding source for Parks and Recreation and will allow our continued strong investments across the community. The tax is in effect until 2048.
- The design phase of the **Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction** is in final review. Work is scheduled to begin June 2025 with a slated opening of Memorial weekend 2026.
- **Lenexa Old Town Activity Center** opens the main lobby on Monday, April 14 with 85-90% indoor completion. Doodle Dood begins work on the new outdoor mural "Meet me in Lenexa" on April 21. Ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony will take place on June 10.
- Outdoor Lights will be ordered and installed at **Rolling Magic** skatepark this summer.

Mr. Mark arrived to the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- The **Central Green Playground and Fitness Equipment Project** is moving along. The city is meeting with Advent Health to partner on the fitness piece.
- Rec Center attendance is getting back to normal with families gearing up for outdoor activities. After hour rentals (prom and graduation parties) are strong in late April through May.

Ms. Danler also shared the following Parks Division update:

- Turf crew is back to their full mowing schedule.
- Startups on irrigation systems have begun.
- Spring seeding, sodding and broadleaf weed control is in full swing.
- Tree and landscape planting along with mulching beds continues.
- Outdoor restrooms are open for the season.
- Facilities are firing up fountains throughout the city.
- Outdoor pool prep has begun. Filling Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center is scheduled for May 5.
- New-raised community garden beds are being built at Scouting Park.
- Three of the top firms who submitted RFQs will be interviewed for the **Trails Alignment Study**.

Ms. Shartzer reported the following:

- Birthday parties and rentals for the Old Town Activity Center start the first week in June. Reservations open April 21.
- A new 50+ instructor has been hired to help with programs.
- The first adult overnight trip was successful.
- For the spring youth soccer/flag football season a record number of participants are enrolled (535).
- Alison Perez Gomez has been hired as Recreation Coordinator.
- Dance program, Shining Stars, is gearing up for their spring recital.
- Flat Rock Creek and Craig Crossing interpretive signs are being redesigned.
- Kayaks and standup paddleboards are available to rent at Lake Lenexa.
- Farmers Market Saturday season opens April 26 and is presented by Advent Health City Center location.
- The KC Symphony has a concert at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park on April 23.
- Aquatics is gearing up for their summer training. Lenexa is fully staffed with lifeguards, concession workers, swim and dive coaches and swim instructors.
- The Lenexa Art Fair is on Saturday, May 10.
- Team registration for the Great Lenexa Barbeque Battle stands at 153 teams.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary