

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
MUNICIPAL SERVICES CENTER, FLEET FACILITY, 7700 COTTONWOOD
ST., LENEXA, KS**

The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Chair Aivars Sics.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Jenny De Cicco, Gary Ewing, Sarah Hanson, Wanda Kiewiet, Diane Schmidt and Pat Thomas.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members absent: Jeff Mark and Mike Rzeszut.

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

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the June 11, 2025, minutes was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Kiewiet, and approved 7-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**BENCH DONATION REQUEST – BLACK HOOF PARK (TAYLOR REECE
FOR KATHERINE REECE)**

Ms. Taylor Reece has offered the donation of a park bench and plaque at Black Hoof Park in memory of her daughter Katherine Reece. Location for the bench will be on the trail below the dam looking toward the spillway. Ms. Reece chose this location for its quiet and peaceful atmosphere. Total value of the donation is \$1,300.

Motion to accept the bench donation request at Black Hoof Park by Taylor Reece was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Hanson, and approved 7-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics expressed his thanks to park board member Pat Thomas for his hard work and leadership as the Head BBQ Ambassador at the Great Lenexa Barbeque Battle held in late June. He also thanked member Gary Ewing who served as an ambassador and the Parks and Recreation staff along with other city departments who have a part in making the event a success.

Mr. Sics welcomed Jenny De Cicco to the meeting. Ms. De Cicco was appointed by Mayor Julie Sayers in early July to serve on the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The group looks forward to getting to know and work with her.

Gary Ewing - Mr. Ewing thanked staff and the many volunteers who helped make the BBQ an amazing event. He enjoyed serving as an ambassador.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet inquired about the dog swim since Ad Astra Pool is closed for reconstruction. Paws in the Pool is scheduled for Saturday, August 9 at Flat Rock Creek Pool from 8am – noon. Ms. Kiewiet would like the event to grow and go back to how it was several years ago with sponsors, Animal Control in attendance, vendors and some fun pet events. Ms. Danler said the ancillary pieces lost momentum and support from our partners over the years. Staff became focused on the core initiative of facilitating the dog swim portion.

Mr. Sics asked if they could discuss the July 4th parade. He did not think the entry “We Are the Government in America” was appropriate for our family-friendly patriotic parade. He wanted it on record that he would like us to re-examine our parade rules allowing political bashing in a parade. Mr. Wagler said he understands his concerns and explained how freedom of speech in public forums, like a municipal community parade, is protected under the first amendment. The city’s rules and registration process strongly emphasizes that the parade is family friendly and that entries should incorporate patriotic themes. He also explained the format that goes into registering to be in the parade. There is a form that is filled out by the organizer of the float/entry. There is also a pre-participant’s meeting that the organizer attends sharing the rules which are also listed on the website. Staff did not see or hear any behavior that would not allow members of that group to continue.

Mr. Thomas said it is very common around the country for groups to express their beliefs in similar style. Mr. Sics ended the discussion with stating it is his belief the purpose of the Lenexa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is to advise city staff on these types of concerns.

Director's Report

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- Since all permits have been acquired for the **Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction Project** work has begun. The Lenexa Arts Council is currently finalizing a recommendation for a new art sculpture and some benches recycled from wind turbines that artists can paint and decorate. Location for the new art has not been finalized but will be included around the project (pool, park, parking).
- Next month's Park Board meeting is on-site at the Ad Astra shelter house. After the meeting the board will have a quick tour of the project site.
- Work continues on the **Rec Center Improvement Study**. A new central staircase to the second floor which will enhance the flow and improved noise/safety control for the Kid Zone are being considered.
- The dedication last month for the **Lenexa Old Town Activity Center (LOTAC)** was well attended. Feedback from the event was very favorable.
- The new trail along 95th Street and Loiret Blvd. is completed.
- The land swap at 60-acre park (around 91st & Mize) between the city and a developer has been approved.
- The city has begun having discussions regarding the 2026 World Cup. Talk includes increased activity on city trails and shelter rentals, Rec Center usage and other facilities. Payment options and language barriers are a few things to consider.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- The Rec Center has been quite busy this summer. Two-day camps are using the indoor aquatic center along with the party rooms, Rec Room and 1st floor activity gym. Fitness class attendance continues to increase. The month of July features Group Fitness Bingo which is very popular. On July 22 there is a Senior Happy Hour planned.
- Work continues on the **Cemetery Master Plan Project**. Parks crews are currently digging holes and testing the soil. This plan will be a future road map for the cemetery. The finalized plan will be presented to the Board after it is completed.
- LOTAC is seeing lots of outdoor activity along with rentals, events, programming and leagues gearing up.

Ms. Hirst reported the following:

- There are only 3 weeks left for summer camp. Last day of camp is August 1. Camps at both locations (Rec Center and LOTAC) have been very successful this summer.
- Missoula Theatre is next week at the Lenexa Old Town Activity Center. There will be two performances of "Hansel and Gretel".
- This Saturday at the Farmers Market is the Teddy Bear Picnic which is always popular.
- The Summer Food Truck Frenzy is Saturday night, July 19 in Old Town. Following is the Moonlight Bike Ride that begins at 10pm.
- Movie in the Pool is on July 25 at Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center. Movie is "Luca".
- Two orchestra concerts remain: July 19 at SMNW High School and August 2 at SMW High School. Concerts begin at 7pm.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- The park fared well with BBQ this year. The Thursday evening rain helped moisten the ground. Very little repair work was needed.
- Staff has been busy with events. After cleanup work was completed on the BBQ event, staff did prep work for the Freedom Run and 4th of July Parade along with being on-site for the two events.
- Next, they will be setting up for the Food Truck Frenzy and Moonlight Bike Ride events in Old Town.
- The **Trails Alignment Study** is underway. Next week staff, along with Vireo Architecture Landscape, will tour Lenexa trails to see what new trails and trail connections might be needed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Kiewiet, and approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary