

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2023, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY
BOARD MEETING
HERITAGE FOREST PARK, PFLUMM ROAD & 83 STREET, LENEXA, KS**

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

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member absent: Chair Jeff Mark.

Staff members present: Logan Wagler, Parks and Recreation Director; Mandy Danler, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Danny Huntsinger, Parks Superintendent; Marisa Shartzter, Recreation Superintendent; Julian Marquez, Crew Leader -Turf Division; and Cheryl Doleshal, Senior Administrative Assistant.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Karsten Coleman, former intern and current Farmers Market Attendant, is attending the meeting tonight for a research college project. He attends Kansas State University.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the March 8, 2023, minutes was made by Mr. Rzeszut, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 8-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE –Julian Marquez (Equipment Demo)

Mr. Marquez demonstrated how the department's brand-new leaf vacuum, the Trac Vac-288, functions. The machine holds 8 yards of debris and weighs 3,000 pounds. It is also self-dumping with easy access and has an open top which helps keep the debris packed evenly. The crews spend around 40 hours per

week, October through the winter, on leaf and spring bed cleanup. Staff are extremely excited about the new machine and look forward to using it. Mr. Huntsinger shared the leaves are then made into compost which the city offers free along with mulch to the community.

DONATION REQUEST OF PARK BENCH – LITTLE MILL CREEK PARK (MAX FLOYD FOR BRIGITTE FLOYD)

The department has been offered the donation of a bench with a plaque at Little Mill Creek Park by Max Floyd. Mr. Floyd has asked for a new bench to honor his wife, Brigitte Floyd. Mr. Floyd and his wife have walked this trail hundreds of times with their Scottie dogs. He felt this location would be a place for their family to find solace and reflect in her honor.

Motion for approval to accept the bench donation and plaque at Little Mill Creek Park from Max Floyd was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 8-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Gary Ewing – Mr. Ewing enjoyed the disc golf course dedication. It was a very nice event. He took the grandkids to see the course on Thursday and it was not too busy, but when they visited on Friday the lines were quite long. He had trouble finding a parking place. The course is already being heavily used.

Nathalie Aquino-Brech – Ms. Aquino-Brech was at Black Hoof Park on Easter and found space to grill and eat with her family. When they walked over to the disc courses there were no openings to play, so they walked the course to see the area. She heard lots of positive comments. She also shared questions she heard from people at the playgrounds in regard to the wood chips instead of the rubber surfaces. Mr. Wagler said cost is the main factor, and the department has always felt better about focusing the available funds into the playground equipment instead of using it for the playground surface.

Diane Schmidt – Ms. Schmidt also attended the disc golf course dedication and said the information on the partnership with Henderson Engineers was interesting. She attended the opening day events on Saturday, April 1 and felt the chilly weather kept families away in the morning. Ms. Schmidt wanted to thank Isaac Heinen for teaching her some basics of disc golf. He went into great detail which was very helpful.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet and her husband played the 9-hole course after the dedication ceremony. She had a fun time. She noticed there are loose wood chips under the trees and inquired if the wood chips would remain.

Mr. Huntsinger stated since it will be extremely hard to get grass to grow under the tall trees, the wood chips will be staying.

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics went out early on April 1, opening morning, and stood back to observe everything that was going on. He stayed by hole 1 and watched the tournament play begin. He met an older gentleman and while conversing learned some extensive information on the sport.

Director's Report

Volunteer Recognition Dinner (April 24)

Before Mr. Wagler reminded the Board about the dinner on April 24, Mr. Sics shared his experience from the dinner last year. He encouraged everyone to attend, if possible. He met many new people, and the entire night was nice. The event is at the Sierra Grill, which recently opened a new location in City Center.

Mr. Wagler thanked Mr. Sics for sharing his experience from last year's event, and also hopes everyone can attend.

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- Thanks to everyone who attended the disc golf dedication and opening day events. It was noted that Park Board member Gary Ewing made it to the second round of the Ring of Fire event.
- Black Hoof Park Disc Golf Course is currently the highest rated course in Kansas. Stats from the U-Disc app were shared. There are over 400 ratings from the first week and a half.
- Construction work on the new skatepark is scheduled to begin later this month.
- The Lenexa Old Town Activity Center project is in the schematic design phase.
- On April 18, the Public Art Committee will present to the City Council their recommendation of the wall mural for the new Lenexa Old Town Activity Center. Three artists have been selected to submit their proposed mural. The results will be available to the public to share their comments and help select the final design.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- An email was sent to all Rec Center members announcing the rate increases which will go into effect in May.
- The annual Rec Center report was presented by Erika Geering and Kevin Bruns at last night's City Council meeting.
- Demo continues to move forward on Indian Trails Aquatic Center.

- The second Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee meeting was held last week. Plans continue to move along. Several goals and stats were discussed. An open house is scheduled for Saturday morning, April 29 from 9-11 a.m. at the Rec Center for the public to come and share their needs and wants for programs, events, trails and parks. This event coincides with the opening of the Farmers Market which will increase the number of people visiting the Lenexa Commons area that day.
- The city is planning on being a part of the Parade of Hearts event again this year. Plans are to host one of the hearts, at Black Hoof Park or City Center.

Ms. Shartzter reported the following:

- Rental kayaks will be available at Black Hoof Park May 1 – October 15. The fire department and our aquatics department are working together to establish some safety rules and videos to educate the public.
- The summer pool season is almost here. Currently the department has 150 lifeguards hired and trained. A new software, Hydro Apps, is replacing lots of our paper processes which will save time and money.
- There is one more Kids Day Out session for the school year. Summer camp begins in June. Camp numbers range from 94 – 109 registered campers each week.
- On April 18, the LAC will present their annual report along with their updated priority art locations list to the City Council.
- There is one last session of the Learning About Lenexa program for third grade students planned for this spring. This session was the first full program held since 2019.
- The Saturday Farmers Market season kicks off on April 29. There are 26 vendors lined up for opening day along with artists and musicians.
- Lenexa Art Fair is Saturday, May 13 with 50 art vendors, food trucks, musicians and craft and wine vendors on hand.
- The first Movie in the Park event is Friday, May 26 at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.
- There are two outdoor concerts scheduled in May (21 and 28) at the Grand Pavilion in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park. The concerts begin at 5 p.m.
- Both the parks and recreation teams are gearing up for the 41st Annual Great Lenexa Barbeque Battle on June 23 and 24.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- The turf crew has started their weekly mowing schedule and their spring duties are in full swing.
- Sprinklers/irrigation systems are firing up.

- Spring seeding and sodding are being finalized with the majority of the work at Black Hoof Park.
- Broadleaf applications are being applied to combat dandelions and other weeds.
- Landscape beds are being mulched and prepared for spring planting.
- Park restrooms are all open except Ad Astra. Work continues on getting all the city fountains on.
- Outdoor pool preparations will get underway in a few weeks at Flat Rock Creek and Ad Astra.
- Holiday lights still need to be taken down at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park.
- Design revisions are due back this week for the Cedar Station Park project. It should be ready to go out for bid soon.
- Playground renderings should be available soon for Buffalo Meadows Park.

The group decided that the May 10 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be held at the first hole on the 9-hole disc golf course at Black Hoof Park. Business will be addressed during a short meeting. Following the adjournment, Isaac Heinen, Rec Center Customer Service Manager and disc golf professional player, will instruct and lead the group in a friendly 9-hole course round.

If inclement weather occurs, the Board will take a shuttle tour of city parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Rzeszut, and approved 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary