

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2023, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY
BOARD MEETING
BLACK HOOF PARK, 9053 MONTICELLO ROAD**

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, Mike Rzeszut, Diane Schmidt, Aivars Sics and Pat Thomas.

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

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

Lenexa resident Nicole Fergus and her daughter Maddox Fergus planned to attend the meeting tonight for a government class requirement for Maddox. Ms. Maddox Fergus was not able to meet her mother at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the April 12, 2023, minutes was made by Mr. Ewing, seconded by Mr. Rzeszut, and approved 5-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of the adoption of the agenda was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Sics, and approved 5-0.

**DONATION REQUEST OF PARK BENCH – LITTLE MILL CREEK PARK
(RENE MEREDITH FOR JOE MEREDITH)**

The department has been offered the donation of a bench with a plaque at Little Mill Creek Park by Rene Meredith. Ms. Meredith has asked for a new bench to honor her husband, Joe Meredith. Ms. Meredith would like the bench to be placed off the northern section of the trail, past the bridge and overlooking the creek. Requested wording for the plaque is:

In Loving Memory of
Joseph (Joe) Meredith
($a^2 + b^2 = c^2$)

Motion for approval to accept the bench donation and plaque at Little Mill Creek Park from Rene Meredith was made by Mr. Ewing, seconded by Mr. Rzeszut, and approved 5-0.

Ms. Hoernicke and Ms. Kiewiet arrived at 5:36 p.m., Mr. Thomas at 5:37 p.m., and Ms. Aquino-Brech at 5:40 p.m. during Members' Reports.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Mike Rzeszut – Mr. Rzeszut mentioned the skatepark renovation is moving along. He uses the tunnel to visit Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park to keep up to date on all park construction. He enjoyed volunteering at the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Open House held on April 29.

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics recently attended an event at the Grand Pavilion in Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park. He stated the park looks nice and green. Also, he is glad to see Friday Night Sound Bites back. It is a nice free family event held on the civic campus.

Diane Schmidt – Ms. Schmidt also attended the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Open House and was glad to offer her input on future programs, trails and events. She thanked the city for the Volunteer Recognition Dinner at Sierra Grill that she attended in April. She enjoyed the event.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet is volunteering at the Art Fair on Saturday. She inquired about the Buy Back Bradford Pear Tree Program. Mr. Huntsinger said it is the Callery Pear Tree Buyback program which is a county program . At the May 20 Farmers Market from 8-11 a.m. a free native tree will be given to those who have removed a Callery Pear Tree from their yard.

Pat Thomas – Mr. Thomas reminded the Board that the Lenexa Art Fair is this Saturday.

Director's Report

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- On Monday evening he attended a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting.
- Updates on the Comprehensive Plan were presented at a joint City Council and Planning Commission meeting Tuesday evening.
- The skatepark reconstruction, as Mr. Rzeszut mentioned, is in full swing. While work is being done on the new area, visitors continue to use the current site.

- At the May 16 City Council meeting an update will be presented on the Old Town Activity Center project which is shaping up nicely.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- About 150 people attended the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Open House held on April 29. The event was successful. Ms. Danler thanked those who were able to attend and Mr. Rzeszut who volunteered.
- There will be another open house held in September.
- Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center renovation work continues with lots of dirt being moved around and the pool area stabilized.

Ms. Shartzler reported the following:

- The two outdoor pools open on Saturday, May 27. Aquatic staff are working on last-minute training and finishing prep work.
- The current Art Gallery exhibit is Kevin Horvath, Alphabetica, Handwriting and Typographic Works of Art.
- T-Ball and coach pitch at Freedom Fields started last week.
- This week the 3.5 pickleball league on Monday evening kicked off.
- The Senior Center held its first Mah Jong tournament last week.
- Seventy-four seniors enjoyed the Fiesta lunch event last Tuesday.
- Recreation Supervisor Jenny Doty led a Girl Scout planting at Fire Station #3.
- Opening day, April 29, at the Farmers Market drew a good crowd. There were 26 vendors onsite (both returning and new).
- Volunteers completed the Herb Garden clean up last Saturday at SKPT Park.
- As mentioned, the Lenexa Art Fair is this Saturday.
- There currently are 166 BBQ teams registered for this year's event on June 23 and 24.
- Shining Stars dance recital is Friday, May 19.
- The Outdoor Concert Series kicks off with the M180s on May 21.
- The first Movie in the Park is Friday evening May 26.
- The youth fishing derby is Saturday, June 10 at Roses Pond at SKPT Park.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- Outdoor pools are the main focus of the facilities crew. Flat Rock Creek will be filled this week along with the installation of a new pump. Painting is being done at Ad Astra.
- The turf crew is busy mowing and taking care of weeds.
- A counter was installed at the 18-hole disc golf course at Black Hoof Park. In the first 3 weeks, there were 3,500 golfers.

- Board member Wanda Kiewiet's daughter and friend served some community hours work removing invasive honey suckle at Black Hoof Park.
- Goats are returning to SKPT Park in June and September this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Kiewiet, seconded by Mr. Thomas, and approved 9-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary