

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
LENEXA CITY HALL, COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W. 87 ST. PKWY.,
LENEXA, KS**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chairperson Jeff Mark.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Gary Ewing, Amanda Hoernicke, Mike Rzeszut, Diane Schmidt, Aivars Sics and Pat Thomas.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members absent: Nathalie Aquino-Brech and 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; Bettie Partington, Recreation Supervisor – Seniors; and DeeDee Jones, Senior Administrative Assistant.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the October 11, 2023, minutes and the December 13, 2023, joint meeting was made by Mr. Ewing, seconded by Mr. Rzeszut, and approved 7-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

**PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE – BETTIE PARTINGTON
(SENIOR PROGRAMS AND TRIPS)**

Ms. Partington has been with the city for 29 years. She started as a fitness instructor, worked with the youth and finally found her passion with the seniors. In 2023 she introduced seven new programs and is looking forward to offering several more when the Lenexa Old Town Activity Center (LOTAC) opens. She shared information about several programs and the 24 trips that are scheduled for 2024. Several of the trips are partnered with the Bonner Springs recreation

department. The annual travel show is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, which highlights most of the year's trips. A January and February calendar was handed out that shows daily, weekly and monthly scheduled activities.

DONATION REQUEST OF PARK BENCH AND TREE – FLAT ROCK CREEK TRAIL (KURT MANSKE FOR MARLA HEMBREE)

The department has been offered a donation of a bench and tree along Flat Rock Creek Trail. The request comes from Kurt Manske as a memorial for his mother, Marla Hembree, who recently passed away. Ms. Hembree was a long-time Lenexa resident, former city council member and volunteer. Mr. Manske suggested the new tree and bench be placed along the trail close to their previous house.

Motion for approval to accept the bench and tree donation, including plaques from Mr. Manske, was made by Mr. Sics, seconded by Mr. Rzeszut, and approved 7-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics congratulated Mr. Wagler on his interview highlighting Sar-Ko Aglow that he did for Olathe Northwest High School's student media video.

Gary Ewing – Mr. Ewing also mentioned how special the lights are at Sar-Ko-Par Park. Every year they never disappoint. Mr. Huntsinger said they will come down after this weekend.

Mike Rzeszut – Mr. Rzeszut commented how great Lenexa streets and trails have been taken care of during our winter weather lately. He also mentioned at Little Mill Creek Park soccer fields there is a sign at the backside close to the mulch pile that needs to be replaced.

Director's Report

2024 Focus and Priorities

The Parks and Recreation Department Focus and Priorities List for 2024 was handed out. Items discussed:

- Administrative and Community Based
 - New Mayor and Council Members
 - Staffing (Retainage and Training, Old Town Activity Center Manager)

- Foundation (Fundraising and Strategic usage of funding)
- Public Art (Mural, Black Hoof Park Sculpture)
- Rental Programs (Bike Share and Kayak Rentals)
- Capital Projects
 - Indian Trails Renovations (SKPT Park Parking and Pedestrian Improvements)
 - Lenexa Old Town Activity Center
 - Parks & Recreation Master Plan
 - Cedar Station Park, Phase I
 - Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction
 - Little Mill Creek Trail Reconstruction
 - Playground Replacement Program (Buffalo Meadows)
- Operational
 - Rec Center (Operational Proforma, Major Repairs, Equipment Replacements)
 - Lenexa Old Town Activity Center (Operating through construction, Grand Re-opening, Strategic program growth)
 - Sar-Ko-Par Trails Aquatic Center (Grand Re-opening, Staffing)
- Long-Range Planning
 - 3/8 Cents Sales Tax Renewal
 - New Trail Construction Program
 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan Initiatives

Park Board member Amanda Hoernicke will be stepping down when her term expires in February. She will be moving out of Lenexa and taking a new employment position. Mayor Sayers and Mr. Wagler will meet with a few interested parties and the mayor will appoint a new board member in the near future. Ms. Hoernicke said she enjoyed her time on the Board. The members thanked her for her service and extended their good wishes.

Lenexa Old Town Activity Center (Community Center/Senior Center) Renovation

Work is beginning on the renovation. Contractor will be showing up next week and demolition will begin on the Med-Act building. There will be a small kick-off ceremony on Tuesday, February 6 at 5 p.m. Invitations to follow.

Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction

First steps will be to hire a design consultant and we will be using a construction manager at risk who will help with the design process and construction cost estimation. Budget has been set aside for 8 million. Public

engagement will also be included in the design phase.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- Rec Center daily visits have been very high during the holiday break and snow days (1,500-2,000) per day.
- Five new treadmills have been purchased for the fitness floor.
- It's exciting to see the work moving along at Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center. The pool walls have been shot treated and pool floors have been poured. Tubes for the slides and lazy river have been ordered. The asphalt on the parking lot has been laid.
- As of now construction is on time with completion scheduled for April. There will be a grand opening celebration.
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update approval is on track for the February 20 meeting.

Ms. Shartzler reported the following:

- The new aquatics supervisor will be starting in a couple weeks. They will be over aquatic events and programs.
- The last lifeguard/concession pool recruitment event was a success. We received applications for 24 lifeguards and 6 concession workers.
- Aquatics manager Ryan Wiebe passed his LGIT certification.
- Registration for returning summer camp families is next Wednesday, January 17.
- Call for Peace Pole designs are due at the end of the month. Display begins May 1 at Black Hoof Park.
- HeART of Lenexa Show begins on January 23 with the reception on February 1.
- January basketball league started at the beginning of the month.
- Old Town Throw Down Pickleball Tournament is February 3-4.
- January 27 is the next Winter Farmers Market.
- Farmers Market staff are lining up vendors, artists and musicians for the regular Farmers Market season.
- Cupid's Gems Jewelry Show is Saturday, February 3.
- City Center Live performance by Amado Espinoza had about 95 people in attendance.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- The number of people visiting Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park to view the holiday lights was over 44,000 with a one-day max of 2,500. Daily averages of 1,300 have been steady since December 1. The lights will be turned off on January 15.
- Turf and Landscape crews are working on tree pruning, planting and removals this time of year.

- Refinishing and construction of new tables for the public market are keeping the Facility crew busy.
- All three of the parks' crews have been busy with snow removal on city streets, facility parking lots, trails and sidewalks.
- Cedar Station Park project phase I is almost complete. Most of the trail is in along with the structures. There is some electrical work and the landing at the lake left to finish. The landscaping and turf will be done in-house when the weather allows.
- Buffalo Meadows playground replacement will be installed in spring. The shipping date has been confirmed for mid-March after very long manufacturing delays.
- The Hidden Woods Park boardwalk is being replaced. The current one is 12-15 years old. The pedestrian counter records over 50 people crossing the boardwalk daily. Work is scheduled to begin in February.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

DeeDee Jones, Recording Secretary