

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE APRIL 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 5:33 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Aivars Sics.

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member absent: Jeff Mark.

Staff members present: Mandy Danler, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Danny Huntsinger, Parks Superintendent; Marisa Shartzler, Recreation Superintendent; Erika Geering, Rec Center Manager; Ryan Wiebe, Aquatics Manager; Nicole Deuvall, Aquatics Supervisor; Joe Crome, Aquatics Supervisor; and Cheryl Doleshal, Senior Administrative Assistant.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the March 13, 2024, minutes 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. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Kiewiet, and approved 7-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE – ERIKA GEERING (2023 REC CENTER ANNUAL REPORT) AND AQUATICS TEAM (2023 AQUATICS REPORT)

Ms. Geering shared the 2023 Rec Center Review. Items presented were: New in 2023; Focus; Members Over Time; Membership Breakout; Member Retention Efforts; Member and Day Pass Visits, including Reasons to Visit; Program Engagement; Cost Recovery Comparison; Revenue – Expense Comparison; Personal Training; Birthday Party Recap and Rentals; Rec Shop Recap; Events,

Underwater Egg Hunt and Naughty or Nice Games; Staff Retention Efforts; and New in 2024.

2023 saw a record of 11,007 members in March and ended with 10,330 members in December. In May, the first fee increases since the facility opened in 2017 took effect. In November, fresh vending was introduced with five healthier options. Splash with Me on Saturdays, Equipment Replacement Program Continued, Website Update and Facility Improvements (HVAC and sound system updates) are what's new in 2024.

Mr. Wiebe introduced himself and his two Aquatic Supervisors: Nicole Deuvall, (operations) and Joe Crome (programming and events). The 2023 Aquatics Indoor and Outdoor Review was shared. Items presented were: New in 2023; Focus and Goals; Member Acquisition Efforts; Outdoor Pool Memberships; Visits (along with Reasons to Visit); Indoor Swim Lessons; Outdoor Swim Lessons; Lenexa Lasers Swim and Dive Team; Aquatics Staffing; Aquatics Staff Training; and Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center (newly renovated) opening May 25.

Ms. Aquino-Brech arrived at 5:48 p.m. for the meeting.

**PARK BENCH DONATION REQUEST – LITTLE MILL CREEK TRAIL
(DWAYNE AND BECKY MARTZ FOR HAYLEY REYES)**

The department has been offered the donation of a park bench along Little Mill Creek Trail by Dwayne and Becky Martz. Mr. & Mrs. Martz took in their two nieces and nephew after their mother passed away last year. The memorial bench will honor their mother, Hayley Reyes.

Motion for approval to accept the park bench donation request along the Little Mill Creek Trail from Mr. & Mrs. Martz was made by Ms. Aquino-Brech, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 8-0.

**PARK BENCH DONATION REQUEST – SAR-KO-PAR TRAILS PARK
(FAMILY AND FRIENDS FOR BOBBIE MOLLOY)**

A donation request of a new park bench at Sa-Ko-Par Trails Park has been requested from Nancy and Mark Molloy to honor their husband/father; Bobbie Molloy who recently passed away. The family requested money be sent to the Lenexa Foundation in lieu of flowers to go towards the bench. The city received adequate funding through the donations to cover the costs.

Motion for approval to accept the park bench donation request at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park from family and friends who donated to the Lenexa Foundation in honor of Bobbie Molloy was made by Ms. Kiewiet, seconded by Mr. Rzeszut, and approved 8-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Diane Schmidt – Ms. Schmidt attended the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and commented that it was a nice event and that the Park Board and Arts Council had a good attendance. She is not happy with the pond at Central Green. Mr. Huntsinger clarified that Parks is only responsible for the fountain feature. The Stormwater division maintains the pond.

Mike Rzeszut – Mr. Rzeszut inquired if the city owns the area west of the Shawnee Mission Aquatic Center. It is an eyesore due to dandelions and other weeds. Mr. Huntsinger said that property is no longer owned by the city.

Nathalie Aquino-Brech – Ms. Aquino-Brech also stated the dinner last evening was a good time and well put together. She recently was at Black Hoof Park on a warm day and was surprised that the restrooms and water fountains were not operating. She heard people commenting that there were no facilities for families to use. Mr. Huntsinger said the restrooms were opened and the fountains turned on this past weekend (April 5-7). Typically, the annual day is around April 15.

Director's Report (by Mandy Danler)

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Thanks to everyone who was able to make it to the dinner last evening. It was a great time and we appreciate all that the Board does.

“Amusing Breeze”

Staff discovered that the mosaic glass tile installation is completely failing. There are large cracks throughout the grout, tile is popping, leaching of water through the grout, and the adhesive is crumbling. It is now believed that the damage was not due to vandalism but the failure of the adhesive. At this point staff does not plan to repair the missing tile, as this would only be a temporary solution. Staff is exploring options for a better long-term solution.

2025 Budget

We have completed and submitted a recommended budget for 2025. This includes some recommended increases for rising costs of supplies, utilities and contractual services and also includes some requests to grow recreation programming, specifically at the Lenexa Old Town Activity Center.

Old Town Activity Center Renovation

Underground work continues including replacement of stormwater pipe across the site, footings and building pad for new senior (Haskins) wing, and site grading for new parking area.

Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction

We have completed a selection process for an architectural design team and working with them to finalize a scope, fee, and contract. Once that is approved by City Council we hope to kick off design in May.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- Isaac Heinen, Rec Services Manager, left his position on March 29. The position has been posted and applications are being accepted.
- Progress continues on the **Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center Renovation**. Pleasant weather has helped keep everything on time. Decking is coming together. A punch list for the concession area, new guard house and restrooms have been compiled,
- Staff hopes to have access to the facility around May 15.
- The May 8 Park Board meeting will be held at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park for a site visit of the aquatic center.

Ms. Shartzer reported the following:

- Aquatics staff are doing a spectacular job getting ready for the summer season.
- Outdoor private swim lessons return.
- Movie in the Pool will be held on July 26 at Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center. The movie presented will be "Moana".
- The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center is May 21.
- Seniors finished a trip last month to New Orleans.
- Preparations are underway for summer camp. The largest week has 105 kids. Camp will be using new software (Epact) this summer.
- Peace Poles Exhibit will be on display at Black Hoof Park on May 1.
- We are working with Evan Brown a.k.a. Doodle Dood for some public engagement opportunities around the mural.
- The spring season of soccer and flag football started last Saturday. There are 449 participants for soccer and 35 for flag football.
- Jenny Doty will be leaving the department on April 12 for new employment. She will be missed.
- Farmers Market Saturdays open April 27 with a Native Plant sale. Staff continues securing new vendors, sponsors, artists and musicians for the season.
- Legler Barn continues to provide private tours. There is a week-long youth summer camp planned also.
- Five new Legler interpretive signs will be installed this year.
- Lenexa Art Fair is Saturday, May 11. Currently we have 50 artists, 10 sponsors, 9 wine and distillery vendors and 5 food trucks along with the Farmers Market from 8am – noon.

- Outdoor Concert Series kicks off on May 19 (Old No. 5s)

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- Turf Crew
 - Back to full mowing schedule
 - Irrigation startups
 - Spring seeding and sodding
 - Broadleaf weed control
- Landscape Crew
 - Spring tree and landscape planting
 - Mulching all landscape beds
- Facilities
 - Restrooms and drinking fountains are open for the season
 - All city fountains have been turned on.
 - Starting pool preparation early because Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center will occupy time learning the new systems
- Staff continues to make improvements at the **Black Hoof Park** Disc Golf Course.
- The **Cedar Station Park** project is near completion. Work continues with getting electrical service into the park and finalizing landscape and turf in-house. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony scheduled for April 30.
- Installation of the replacement playground at **Buffalo Meadows** will begin later this month, with completion scheduled around mid-May.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Aquino-Brech, seconded by Ms. Kiewiet, and approved 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary