

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 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 5:34 p.m. by Chairperson Jeff Mark.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Nathalie Aquino-Brech, Gary Ewing, Wanda Kiewiet, Kelly Rasor, 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; and Cheryl Doleshal, Senior Administrative Assistant.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of the February 14, 2024, minutes was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Ms. Aquino-Brech, and approved 9-0.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of the adoption of the agenda was made by Mr. Rzeszut, seconded by Ms. Kiewiet, and approved 9-0.

CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR ELECTIONS

Current Chair Jeff Mark and Vice-Chair Aivars Sics agreed to continue in their current position for another year.

Motion for approval to have Mr. Mark and Mr. Sics continue as chair and vice-chair was made by Mr. Ewing, seconded by Mr. Thomas, and approved 9-0.

**BENCH ADOPTION DONATION REQUEST – SAR-KO-PAR TRAILS PARK
(TRISTAN BERGERHOFER FOR ZEPHANIAH ELLIOT JACKSON)**

The department has received a donation request to adopt an existing park bench at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park near the playground from Tristan Bergerhofer. Mr.

Bergerhofer is dedicating this adoption to the Jackson family on behalf of their son Zephaniah who passed away recently. The Jackson family enjoyed the park on sunny days and also viewing the holiday lights. This bench was selected so family, friends and other children can continue to enjoy the park.

Motion for approval to accept the bench adoption donation request at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park from Tristain Bergerhofer was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 9-0.

**DONATION REQUEST OF PARK BENCH – AD ASTRA PARK TRAIL
(DEBBIE TURNER FOR CAROL JO STEALEY)**

A donation request of a new park bench along the Ad Astra Park Trail has been requested from Debbie Turner, a retired teacher from Christa McAuliffe Elementary School, who would like to honor former third grade teacher Carol Jo Stealey who passed away in October 2023. A group of former teachers would like the memorial bench to be on the Southeast side of Ad Astra Park facing the rain garden at Christa McAuliffe School.

Motion for approval to accept the park bench donation along the Ad Astra Park Trail from Debbie Turner was made by Ms. Aquino-Brech, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 9-0.

**PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE – LOGAN WAGLER AND
MANDY DANLER (PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN REVIEW
AND ACCEPTANCE)**

A copy of the completed Parks and Recreation Master Plan was sent to the Board to review before tonight's meeting. Ms. Danler and Mr. Wagler shared a brief summary of the updated plan.

Motion for approval to recommend acceptance of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the Governing Body was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Aquino-Brech, and approved 9-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Mr. Wagler introduced new Park Board member Kelly Rasor. Ms. Rasor shared some background information on herself. She is looking forward to being a part of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The other eight members introduced themselves and shared how long they have served on the board. Everyone welcomed Ms. Rasor.

Members' Reports

Aivars Sics – Mr. Sics said he recently read an article about pickleball noise in a surrounding city. He inquired if Lenexa has had any issues with noise. Mr. Wagler said we do, but continue to work with neighbors to address their concerns. As new courts/parks are added the department will take into consideration location of surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Sics also commented on the impressive percentage of residents who can reach a park within a 10-minute walk.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet introduced her daughter Erin who came to the meeting with her tonight. Erin attends Iowa State University.

Jeff Mark – Mr. Mark commented Cedar Station Park looks great. It will be a nice addition to Mize Lake. He recently played the Black Hoof Park Disc Golf Course with his son and thought the course was in great shape.

Mike Rzeszut – Mr. Rzeszut encouraged everyone to get out and enjoy the 10,000 daffodils planted along the Little Mill Creek Trail. They are in peak bloom now with the warmer temperatures. He is also happy with the new sidewalk from the skatepark to Sar-Ko-Par Trails Aquatic Center which will be a nice addition to the park.

The group discussed safety concerns from trail walkers due to bicycles traveling too fast. Trail etiquette signs were suggested. Mr. Wagler said in the updated P & R Master Plan there is an initiative for signs and wayfinding.

Director's Report

LOTAC (Lenexa Old Town Activity Center) Renovation

Great progress continues on the east side wing demolition. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

LOTAC Mural

At last week's City Council meeting the mural "Meet Me in Lenexa" by artist Evan Brown a.k.a Doodle Dood won approval. Working on the contract is the next step.

Ad Astra Pool Reconstruction

Interviews for the design team will be scheduled next.

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- The last lifeguard recruiting event of the season is this Saturday, March 16. Currently, our lifeguard numbers are good.

- March 30 is the last Winter Farmers Market. Saturday Farmers Market season opens April 27.
- Black Hoof Open Disc Golf Tournament is April 12 &13.
- Construction on the **Sar-Ko-Par Aquatic Center** is coming together. The project has benefited from our nice weather and is on schedule. A ribbon cutting is planned for May 21.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- Unusually warm temperatures have forced us to begin spring maintenance tasks ahead of schedule.
- All holiday lights have been taken down and returned to storage.
- Drinking fountains and restrooms are being prepared for the year.
- Public Market tables have been rebuilt and the facilities division is currently building new tables for the commons area.
- Native grass burnings are near completion.
- First application of pre-emergent is going down.
- The turf division is making turf improvements at the disc golf course.
- The community gardens are prepped for spring planting.
- Winter tree planting and street tree pruning are completed.
- Spring mulching will begin soon.
- The **Cedar Station Park** project is 95% complete. Work continues with getting electrical service into the park. Sod and seeding have been completed and trees will be going in soon.
- The replacement playground for **Buffalo Meadows** will be delivered this month with installation scheduled for April.
- Materials for the boardwalk replacement at **Hidden Woods Park** are coming late this month. Work should be completed shortly after.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary