



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 11, 2016**

The Park Board of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers with Chairperson Bob Bazin presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Board Chairperson: Bob Bazin

Board Members: Jack Kline, Michael McClellan, and Lonnie Kunz

City Council: Steven Town

City Administrator: Nathan Law

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: Residents of the Lake Subdivision

Item 1: Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2: Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kunz. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 3: Approval of minutes

A motion was made by Lonnie Kunz to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2016 Park and Tree Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 4: Public Comment

Graham Sharp (Resident of Starbrooke Subdivision) mentioned that he takes his sons to L/Y Park to play with their Remote Control (RC) cars in the tractor pull area. Sharp wanted to know if he would be allowed to construct a semi-permanent RC Course in the tractor pull area that everyone may enjoy. The course would include dirt ramps and hills that the RC cars can drive on. He mentioned that the tractor pull area is only used once or twice a year and the rest of the time its unused space. Sharp's proposed RC Course would be removed whenever events are held in the tractor pull area. Once events are done the RC Course would be reconstructed.

Chairperson Bob Bazin explained that the tractor pull area is managed by the American Legion. Bazin suggested that Graham Sharp obtain approval from them and then come back the Park and Tree Board for further discussion.

Jack Kline stated that an RC Course sounds like a good idea. Kline suggested that Sharp return with a hand drawn site-plan to discuss his plans further.

Graham Sharp added that he would require a chain or cable across both ends of the tractor pull to prevent people from driving their vehicles onto his RC Course and destroying it.

No further action was taken by the Park and Tree Board at this time.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: Discussion with residents of the Lake Subdivision concerning tree trimming and cleanup around City Lake.

Approximately 23 residents from the Lake Subdivision expressed their concern with the cleanup around the lake. All of the residents who spoke at this meeting expressed their appreciation for the two people that have spent countless hours clearing the brush and dead trees around the lake. Chuck Golba and Boyd Akins have volunteered their own time and resources to do the work. Most people at the meeting love the work being done. It was mentioned that the lake has never looked better.

The Lake Subdivision residents are unhappy with the Park and Tree Board's decision to discontinue the cleanup around the lake. The Park and Tree Board received complaints during February 8th meeting concerning the cleanup around the lake. It was mentioned during the February 8th meeting that the cleanup is destroying the habit and harming the natural landscape that will cause erosion around the lake. One resident stated that he moved to Louisburg many years ago because of the natural appearance of the community. Another resident mentioned that if he wanted to live on a golf course he would have moved to Overland Park. The Park and Tree Board decided to stop the cleanup south of the footbridge on the east side of the lake. The Board agreed to have the volunteers continue to clear the tree line behind the cemetery along the jogging trail. This decision has upset the Lake Residents that are in attendance at this month's meeting. They want the entire area around the lake cleared of unwanted brush and dead trees.

Pros and Cons concerning Lake Cleanup were discussed. Both sides made passionate arguments. Jack Kline offered to meet with anyone interested in the lake cleanup. He suggested that there may be a middle ground that will make most people happy. The meeting will be held on Wednesday April 20th at 9:00 am at bridge on the N.E. shoreline.

No further action was taken by the Park and Tree Board at this time.

Item 6: Discussion with Jason Forst representing Powell Observatory concerning requests to improve their facilities and property.

Jason Frost was not present at this meeting. Jack Kline mentioned that he will talk to Jason Forst concerning his suggested improvements. Michael McClellan also offered to meet with him to discuss their options. Below is a list of suggested improvements and questions:

1. What is the extent of mowing that is performed by the city/parks dept. around the observatory? I am considering the hiring of a commercial firm to provide services to the observatory and to do that I must understand the boundaries of the area that is mowed by the city/parks dept.

2. We have several over-grown evergreens next to our building that will be removed. We also have permission to remove several of the trees on the east property line that interfere with visibility from the telescope. I'd like to know if the city/parks dept. would approve removing the cut-up brush/trunks into the woods to the south-west of the observatory. Or, if there is some other disposal option that would at no-cost to the observatory?
3. Would it be possible for the city or parks dept. to assist with augmenting the small gravel pathway which leads from the vehicle drive to the gate of the observatory? Is there a project coming up for the city from which the observatory could get the small rock for this augmentation?
4. We would like to make the area, usually known as 'the observing field', which is west of the observatory to the gravel drive, off-limits for public parking. Does the city or parks dept. have a recommendation on marking/blocking the drive or the field to prevent vehicles from parking in that area?
5. Does the city/park dept. have the ability to make additional signage for the park, specifically to address parking? We would like to have only handicapped parking on the south side of the street, with all other parking into the lot on the north side of the street. This might necessitate installation of pedestrian crossing signage/markings.
6. Ideally, could we use the area south of the street, and west of the drive, for handicapped parking? Currently, there seems to be a transport trailer parked there, is it possible to relocate that trailer to enable the handicapped parking in the area suggested?

Item 7: Discussion concerning field improvements at L/Y Park.

Multiple items that needed to be repaired on the ballfields were discussed. The following motions were made:

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to purchase three LED motion activated security lights for the ballfields. A request for \$900 will be forwarded to the City Council for parts and installation of the lighting system. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline and passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 8: Discussion concerning Football and Cheerleading Club of Johnson County (FCCJC) field usage at L/Y Park.

Chairperson Bob Bazin explained that he informed FCCJC that they may use the baseball fields for football practices. However, if the baseball fields are wet FCCJC is to refrain from using the Baseball fields. This will avoid the damage that has occurred to the baseball fields over the past couple of years.

No further action was taken by the Park and Tree Board at this time.

Item 9: Discussion concerning a plan to install an access gate between fields B and C at L/Y Park.

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to purchase two collapsible traffic bollards that will be installed between Fields B and C. A request for \$1000 shall be forwarded to the City Council for parts and installation of the traffic bollards. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline and passed 4-0.

Item 10: Discussion concerning the 21st Annual Fishing Derby.

All agreed that this item shall be tabled until the next Park and Tree Board meeting scheduled for May 9, 2016.

REPORTS:

Item 11: Discussion concerning the cost to light the fields at L/Y Park.

In effort to close the shortfall for the actual lighting costs a motion was made by Jack Kline to increase the field use fees to \$15 an hour. This fee increase shall take effect on January 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kunz and passed 4-0. This recommendation shall be forwarded to the City Council for final discussion and possible action.

Item 12: Powell Observatory 2016 Schedule of Events

The 2016 Powell Observatory Schedule of Events was provided to all Park and Tree Board members. No negative comment was made. No action was taken.

Item 13: Park and Tree Board Budget

It was explained by Nathan Law that the Park and Tree Board has no official budget. All recommended expenditures by the Park and Tree Board will be forwarded to the City Council. All Park and Tree Board recommendations shall be discussed at the City Council for action.

Item 14: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Lonnie Kunz. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting concluded at 8:39 pm.

The next meeting will be held on May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham
Recording Secretary