



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 8, 2019**

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Wayne Knop, Dave Maddax, Michael McClellan, Ernie Reinhart and Jack Kline

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Council: Thorvald McKiernan

City Staff: Jean Carder

Rec. Commission: Diana Moore

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: None

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ernie Reinhart, seconded by Michael McClellan, to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ernie Reinhart mentioned that he had one correction to the March 11, 2019 minutes. Reinhart requested Item 7, paragraph 6 to be amended as indicated below:

“Michael McClellan said if two new baseball fields were built and the other two fields were refurbished he could guarantee rental money for the fields to be used as overflow fields with tournament teams coming down from the metro area. Ernie Reinhart said the soccer fields would have to be nicer than what Heritage offers to get teams to come here. Louisburg Recreation Commission Director Diana Moore said LYP fields are on par with Heritage fields.”

A motion was made by Wayne Knop and seconded by Ernie Reinhart, to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2019 Park and Tree Board meeting as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: A discussion concerning a request from the Heart of America Fly Fishers to schedule their annual fly fishing tournament at City Lake on Saturday June 1, 2019 from 8am to noon.

After a brief discussion Ernie Reinhart made a motion to approve the proposed Fly Fishing tournament as indicated above. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline. The motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 6: Finalization of the Master Parks Plan.

Ernie Reinhart mentioned that the Park and Tree Board was not consulted on the improvements /enhancements planned at the Aquatic Center.

Dave Maddax stated he attended the March 18, 2019 City Council Meeting. During that meeting, the City Council voted 5-0 to use a design bid build option for improvements to the Aquatic Center. The City Administrator was then directed to begin the design process using comments/information collected from a 2018 Community Aquatics Center Survey. Maddax mentioned that the city received 142 responses to the survey. It was mentioned that this was a higher than normal response rate for surveys. Maddax went on by stating that 95% of the returned surveys indicated that the city needs a pool. Over 50% of the responses suggested that additional amenities should be added to the Aquatic Center. Items such as a lazy river, different slides, more shade and expanded swim were suggested amenities to be added. There were several positive comments with some interest in an indoor pool facility. Maddax then mentioned that he reviewed the survey results and it was apparent to Maddax that people want a larger pool with more features.

Ernie Reinhart stated that he doesn't disagree with Maddax's assessment. He agrees that people want a larger pool with more amenities that rival Overland Park and Leawood. Reinhart suggested that the Aquatic Center survey may have been done in a vacuum. Reinhart mentioned that the survey specifically solicited feedback concerning the pool only and no other parks or amenities were discussed. Reinhart asked, if given the choice with information concerning other parks and deteriorating amenities would people still select expansion to the pool over other recreational areas such as ballfields. He suggested that people may choose a more a more phased (tradeoff) approach to making improvements to the recreational areas within the city. Reinhart asked if knowing the conditions of the existing amenities would the community choose expanding the pool over other needed improvements in our parks. Reinhart suggested that the survey should have solicited information from the community concerning the entire parks system and not just the pool. Reinhart stated that the Parks Board selected a 4-plex ballfield complex at L/Y Park as their number one priority.

Reinhart then mentioned it was the Parks Board's understanding that the money used to pay the debt for the Aquatics Center could be used for other recreational areas once it was paid off. Reinhart stated that his first concern is the overall condition of the entire parks system. His seconded concern is how to best use the scarce resources the city has available to improve the parks system in its entirety. Reinhart understands that this body is an advisory to the City Council. The City Council has the final say on how funds are allocated. However, it would have been better if Staff or the City Council Rep ask the Park and Tree Board their opinion on the improvements to our recreational facilities.

Michael McClellan stated that he talked to MSP. McClellan explained that MSP runs all kinds of tournaments. Basketball, baseball, soccer, flag football tournaments are just some of the events this organization puts on. McClellan was told that if Louisburg constructs a 4-plex ballfield with the right amenities they could guarantee as many tournaments as we want. MSP is always looking for more facilities. McClellan stated that Paola went from one tournament last year to 4 and possibly 5 this year. McClellan suggested that Louisburg is missing out on tournament

opportunities. He also stated if we get the right facilities we can also get soccer tournaments here. MSP may also be interested in the flag football fields if we have the right amenities. McClellan stated that he went to a tournament in Gardner last weekend. McClellan ate at a local restaurant and was told by the manager that the 20 team tournament brought in an additional \$4,000-\$6,000 boost to his establishment. McClellan asked is the pool going to bring that kind of economic impact to the city.

McClellan said that the Park and Tree Board was informed that L/Y Park is the most underutilized area in the city. It's McClellan opinion that L/Y Park is the area that needs the most repairs. McClellan mentioned that he was informed last night that one of outfield fences was damaged. He is worried that there are safety hazards and the city may be sued if someone gets hurt. McClellan stated that he has been the L/Y Park Liaison for 4 years and he has watched the facilities deteriorate. McClellan mentioned that he doesn't want the city to dump a ton of money into a pool. The pool does not generate enough revenue to recoup the cost. Enhancing the amenities at L/Y Park will bring business to our community. Once people understand that aspect they will get excited.

Jack Kline stated that the City Council is ultimately the arbiter of what the residents want. They also determine how they spend the money. However, Kline feels a little bit miffed on why the Park Board was not asked for input concerning the proposed pool enhancements. Kline was concerned that the Park Board was not consulted on this project. Kline then mentioned it matters what the board thinks but ultimately the City Council is the final determining body. Kline wanted to ensure that the Park Board members have an advisory input on the all planning stages for future projects with the parks system. In this case this was not done.

Wayne Knop asked since we have already decided to design build something what is it going to be. City Administrator Nathan Law stated the only thing that has been decided by City Council is to seek out services for design and consulting. No funds have been committed. Law explained that improvements to Aquatic Center was one of the City Council 2019 Budget action items. During the March 18, 2019 City Council Meeting it was requested that Staff move forward and seek out design/consulting services. At that point, the Park and Tree Board should have been brought into the discussion. Law apologized that this did not occur. Law assured everyone that no funds have been committed. No RFQ or RFP have been sent out for bid. Law reminded everyone that the Master Park Plan Process has been an on-going discussion for 7-8 months and during that time, no Aquatic Center Representative or Park Board member has provided input concerning the pool. Law ended by asking the Park and Tree board how should staff proceed.

City Councilman Thorvald McKiernan mentioned that it never occurred to him that the Aquatics Center fell under the Park Boards preview. McKiernan stated that he agreed with many of the comments made by the Park Board members tonight. He also said that it may be possible to forgo improvements to the Aquatics Center for a few years and use those funds to improve amenities at other parks. McKiernan then suggested that he may not necessarily agree with a new 4-Plex at L/Y Park. He still needs to understand how the facility will pay for itself. The field usage fees and additional revenue generated by tournaments may not offset a multi-million dollar facility. McKiernan stated that this is only his second meeting as the City Council Rep to the Park Board and he is listening to the concerns of its members.

Ernie Reinhart mentioned that it discussed during a recent Park Board meeting if a new 4-plex ballfield at L/Y Park pay for itself. The answer was no, but neither does the Aquatic Center.

Wayne Knop asked what is the budget for improving the Aquatic Center. Law replied we don't know. Law explained that we have no idea what each option will cost. Law stated that it could cost from a couple of hundred thousand dollars to several million. It all depends upon what the residents wants. The consultant would have taken the results from the 2018 Aquatic Center Survey and provided a pricelist of options. From that priciest of options staff would have to gather additional public input.

Thorvald McKiernan suggested that the City work with the Rec Commission to fund the new ballfields using their taxing authority.

Bob Bazin mentioned that he was promised for 20 years that new ballfields would be built in L/Y Park and he was assured that once the Aquatic Center was paid off the fields would be built.

Administrator Law mentioned he understands the thoughts of the Park and Tree Board their concerning priorities. Law stated that he has the list of projects with cost estimates that will be presented to a budget workshop with City Council members to discuss the allocation of funds.

Jack Kline mentioned that he noticed an asterisk next the Farmer's Market on the Master Parks Plan. Law explained that the Farmer's Market does not fall under the scope of the Park and Tree Board. The City Council has asked staff to consider options to establish a Farmer's Market area and shelter near the water tower on South Broadway behind City Hall.

Both Ernie Reinhart and Wayne Knop asked that Lee Baer be removed and Dave Maddax added to the Master Parks Plan.

After additional discussion, a motion was made by Ernie Reinhart to approve the Master Parks Plan with the above name change. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. The motion passed 6-0.

REPORTS:

Item 7: Individual area of responsibility updates:

Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – no report

Dave Maddax (Aquatic Center) – no report

Ernie Reinhart (City Park) – Mentioned a list of issues that need to be accomplished at City Park.

Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – no report

Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – Mentioned that he talked to Craig Huffard cornering a repair to the outfield railing. He also mentioned that he received positive feedback concerning the new dugouts at the softball field.

Diana Moore (Rec. Commission) – no report

City Administrator – no report

Item 8: ADJOURNMENT:

Jack Kline made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Wayne Knop. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting ended at 7:22pm.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham
Acting recording secretary