

City of La Vista

Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes

November 16, 2022

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2022. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Youth and Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Community Events Manager Brian Allen, Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Stuby, Parks Foreman Rob George and Assistant City Planner Cale Brodersen.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on November 9, 2022. Simultaneously given to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee and a copy of their acknowledgment of receipt of the notice are attached to the minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated, in advance notice to the members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter were taken while the convened meeting was open to attendance of the public. Further, all the subjects included in said proceedings were contained in the agenda for inspection within ten working days after said meeting, prior to the convened meeting of said body.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Director Scott Stopak called the meeting to order.

Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Stopak made an announcement of the location of the posted copy of the Open Meetings Act for public reference and read the Emergency Procedures Statement.

**A. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Stopak asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2022 meeting. Motion made by Member Kupfer. Seconded by Member Mechels-Stuby. All aye. Motion carried.
- Reports from Recreation Director and Staff

**VIRTUAL RECREATION CENTER, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS**  
**Report given by David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Midwest Collectible Toy Show was held November 5. It was a holiday themed show this time. They had 1,200 people come through, which was lower numbers than was expected. It was Husker game day, and they usually schedule on a bye week, however this year they did not.

Karlson said to watch on our social media sites for the latest Fun Friday with Friends online videos which will be coming out soon.

Karlson reminded everyone that the center would be closed November 24-25 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

**SENIOR CENTER**

**Report given by Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager**

**October Meals and Activities:**

- 1,667 seniors participated in Senior Center programs.

- 217 Lunches were served in October
- 1,450 Seniors Participated in various recreational activities

### **Special Programs included:**

- Outings to Sickie's Garage, Bellevue Berry Farm, PLHS Theatrical Play "Clue" and the new Talas Restaurant in Papillion.
- Movies "Practical Magic" and "Addams Family"
- Music by Merrymaker Joyce Torchia
- Seniors played Bingo, Happy Birthday Jingo, Pitch, Uno, Halloween Jingo and Hand and Foot card game.
- Other Notable activities were Crafts with Bob and Cheryl, Potluck and City Update with Mayor Kindig and City Council Members, the Senior Carnival and a Halloween Party.

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**Report given by Brian Allen, Events Coordinator**

### **Fall '22 Programming Highlights**

**Howl-O-Ween:** For the new event debut, we had over 150-people (and their dogs in costumes) attending the event on Thursday, October 20 from 4:30 PM – 6:30p.m. at the La Vista Dog Park. Public Works built custom Halloween themed backdrops for photo opportunities provided by the Communications team. They later uploaded the pictures to our social media channels. Additionally, we handed out La Vista SWAG items, baked dog treats, and provided free hot drinks and smoothies from a local beverage service.

**Halloween Safe Night:** After a 2-years hiatus from being indoors, we celebrated Halloween on Monday, October 31 from 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM with over 900-people trick or treating indoors at the community center with 24-booths representing businesses from the local community and City departments. After trick or treating, the public was treated to free Hot Dogs that were sponsored by the La Vista Community Foundation, Five Points Bank, La Vista Keno, FNBO, and Weitz. Outdoors, families had Halloween themed backdrops for photo opportunities, free hot cocoa from the Police Department and hayrack rides with the Parks department.

### **Winter '22 Upcoming Dates**

For the first time in three years, the traditional holiday programs are back just as you remembered them! The sleigh ride, led by Public Works and PD, will travel throughout the city on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Tree Lighting will occur on the next night outside City Hall followed by a soup supper and entertainment from Elvis in the Community Center gymnasium. Santa and his Reindeer will also be there on Monday night, located down the road at Santa's Workshop.

Some new programming and logistical elements this year on Monday night include a live stream of the Tree Lighting event and theatrical lighting of the sidewalk along Park View Blvd. from the Tree Lighting area to Santa's Workshop meant to help with the safety and experience of all visitors. And back by popular demand is Santa Paws, a day that dog owners can bring their pups to take pictures with Santa.

This year the soup is being catered (and sponsored) by Hy-Vee and there will be two choices of either chili or chicken noodle. Currently, internal city staff and community volunteers have filled the necessary volunteer spots to help execute the 5-events at Santa's Workshop, but there are always additional opportunities to help volunteer as well. Please let us know if you would like to join as we would be happy to have you.

### **'Twas the Lights:**

- **Santa's Sleigh Ride:**  
Sunday, November 27 throughout the City from 3:00pm-7:00pm
- **Tree Lighting and Soup Supper (with live entertainment from Elvis):**  
Monday, November 28 at City Hall and Community Center from 5:45pm-7:30pm
- **Letters to Santa:**  
Monday, November 28 to Tuesday, December 13 at Santa's Workshop outdoor mailbox and the La Vista Library (due by Dec. 13 to receive reply letter by Christmas)

### **Santa Claus & Reindeer:**

- Monday, November 28 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 6:00pm-7:30pm
- Friday, December 2 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Friday, December 9 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Tuesday, December 13 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 4:30pm-6:30pm
- Saturday, December 17 at Central Park/Santa's Workshop from 9:00am-11:00am

### **Santa Paws:**

- Saturday, December 3 at Santa's Workshop at Central Park from 10:00am-12:30pm

### **Walkin' in La Vista Wonderland:**

- November 28 - December 31 at Central Park (outdoors only)

## **YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS**

**Report provided by Denny Dinan, Youth & Adult Sports Manager**

### **Pre-School Playtime:**

September totals: Adults = 69 Children = 82 Total=151 Avg = 17

**October totals: Adults = 48; Children = 62; Total = 130 Avg = 16**

Starting in September and on Every second Thursday of the month a staff member from the library will be conducting a craft, story time, other activity for the kids during the 1<sup>st</sup> hour of pre-school playtime.

### **Current Programs**

All outdoor youth and adult sports finished play in October. All La Vista fields are now closed until April 2023.

**Youth Volleyball:** Practices started on October 11. Games started on Saturday Nov 5. We have 28 kids signed up with 1 - 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade team, 1 - 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade team and 1 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade team.

We will partner with the BJSA (Bellevue Junior Sports Association) again this year and games are held at their facility by Bellevue East High School.

**Adult Women's Fall Volleyball** has played 8 games of a 12 game schedule.

### **Upcoming Programs:**

**Youth Basketball League:** Registration will continue until November 28. Practices will start Jan 2 and games will begin January 21. We are going to partner with the Sarpy Community Y for basketball again this year.

**Youth Basketball Clinic:** Registration will continue until December 28, and the clinic will start on January 14 and will run for 5 weeks.

**Events:**

**MetroWolves Girls Socctoberfest Soccer Tournament:** October 21–23  
Teams = 72; Games played = 104; Fields used = 26; Revenue = \$3,200

**Metro Wolves Boys Socctoberfest Soccer Tournament:** October 28 – October 30  
Teams = 75; Games played = 113; Fields used = 26; Revenue = \$3,330

**Total Revenue = \$6,530.**

**B. CENTRAL PARK EAST AMENITIES**

Cale Brodersen, Assistant City Planner, discussed with the members their “homework” they had since the last meeting. Brodersen and the Members brainstormed their ideas for park amenities and priorities for Central Park East.

A recap of that discussion is attached.

**COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR**

None.

**COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

None.

Chairperson Lodes made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Member Mechels-Stuby. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:28 p.m.