

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
February 18, 2015

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 7:03 p.m. on February 18, 2015. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Program Coordinators Ryan South and Rich Carstensen, Golf Course Services Manager Denny Dinan; and from Parks Superintendent Brian Lukasiewicz. Advisory Board Members presents were Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Greg Johnson, Joe Juarez, and Jeff Kupfer.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on February 11, 2015. 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 the 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 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

Director Stopak asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion made by Chairperson Lodes. Seconded by Member Juarez. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

Director Stopak thanked Rich Carstensen, David Karlson and City staff for their work in hosting the annual Seniors Valentine luncheon.

Stopak also announced the resignation of Member Corey Jeffus from the Board.

Program Coordinator Rich Carstensen reported that on Friday, February 6th, 24 seniors enjoyed the chance to win special Valentine Day prizes at our Senior Black Jack Tournament. We had a variety of prizes, everything from Valentine's Day candies to warm Valentine's Day socks.

Monday, February 9th we had Joe Blackstand from Right at Home Health Care call Bingo for 36 seniors. We plan on having him call bingo once a month. He was nice enough to bring treats and prizes for the Senior Center also!

Wednesday, February 11th we had our annual Senior Valentine's Day Luncheon. The event was hosted by the La Vista and Papillion Recreation Depts. with help from both city employees and Council Members. Hy-Vee catered the lunch, and La Vista senior Helen Sinnett made the cake for the event. The Papillion/La Vista Jazz Band played music before and during lunch. After lunch, the group was entertained by Billy Troy from Nashville. We had 130 individuals registered for the event.

Wednesday, February 18th, the 8 seniors went to the movies to see "The Homesman".

Thursday, February 19th, the seniors are going to Corrigan Senior Center to play chair volleyball, then enjoy polka music from the Red Raven Polka Band. Afterwards, they will have a “Sweethearts Day Meal” and finish with playing Mega Bingo.

Friday, February 20th, the seniors are going to the Shrine Circus in Council Bluffs. The seniors are invited to the circus for free courtesy of the Tangier Shriners.

Wednesday, February 25th Joyce Torchia from Merry Makers will perform for the La Vista Senior Center.

Member Johnson asked Carstensen where the Corrigan Senior Center was located, and Carstensen responded with the address.

Program Coordinator Ryan South reported on Youth and Adult sports.

Women’s Volleyball is in week 5 of a 12 week season. We have 8 teams playing this winter.

Adult Softball registration opened on February 2nd and will remain open until March 21st or until leagues are full. The season will tentatively begin on April 12th.

Youth Basketball League is in full swing. We are in week 6 of an 8 week season. Tournament play will begin on March 7th.

3 Year Old Soccer Clinic registration is open until March 28th. Five, one-hour sessions, will be held on Saturday mornings at the La Vista Community Center beginning in April.

La Vista 4/5 Youth Soccer Academy & 6/7 Youth Soccer League registration is currently open with a registration deadline of March 28th. We will once again partner with the Phoenix Futbol Club to provide academy training to youth ages 4 & 5 and league games for ages 6 & 7.

Spring Flag Football League registration is currently open with a registration deadline of March 7th. The La Vista Flag Football teams will play in the Sarpy County Flag Football league again this spring.

Youth Baseball for age’s 7 – 12 registration is open until March 7th. Our La Vista teams will once again play in a cooperative league with Ralston Baseball Association for all games this spring.

Youth Softball for age’s 7 – 18 registration is open until March 7th. All of our youth softball teams will play in the Rainbow Softball League.

Assistant Director David Karlson discussed the monthly Preschool Playtime Craft Day. This month was held on Tuesday January 20th. We had 22 preschoolers and 16 adults make our creative “Olaf Snowmen”. It is gaining popularity.

Thursday January 22nd David teamed up with Miss Jen from the La Vista Library for a new cooperative program. The **Discover Series** programs reach out to home-schooled children grades K-4. The first program, Discover Science, was designed for children and their parents to explore 10 basic concepts of science by going from station to station. Some of the concepts covered buoyancy, magnetism, absorption, sound, pressure and weather. We had 23 kindergarten through 4th graders and 21 pre-kindergarten for this program. The future Discover Series will cover Creative Play (P.E.), Poetry (English), Paper Mache (Art) and Oceans (Science).

Golf Course Services Manager Dinan reported on the La Vista Falls Golf Course for January, 2015:

January 2015 rounds = 394 (+267 rounds from January 2014)

January 2014 rounds = 127

Fiscal year 2014/15 rounds through January = 2,348 (+558 from fiscal year 13/14)

Fiscal year 2013/14 rounds = 1,790

January started off as a very cold month with the temperature not reaching over 38 degrees from January 1st through the 14th. It appeared we were going to have very few rounds. The weather changed and from January 15th through the 28th the temperature was mainly between 46 to 62 degrees and the golfers really started to come out. This January rounds were the second highest January we have had in 14 years.

League registration forms were emailed to last year's league members. Dinan added that they should see the 2015 league numbers stay the same or increase due to the responses he has had so far from last year's leagues.

Letters, flyers and 2 complimentary round passes have also been mailed to over 350 area businesses. This will help to advertise, as well as offer, our course for private leagues or outings for the 2015 season.

Park Superintendent Lukasiewicz discussed the current activities in the Parks Department.

- Applied for a grant from "Celebrate Trees", which usually gives the City approximately \$2,500-\$5,000 for trees.
- Received a grant for \$5,000 from "Trees for Nebraska Towns".
- Lukasiewicz noted that he has grounds staff currently doing pesticide training. He also has his field staff doing ballfield training that is hosted by Odies.
- Public Works finished up the maintenance shed project at the golf course, which included fixing the ceiling, adding insulation and ceiling fans.
- The new facility for park employee's (Hupp Drive facility) is almost complete, and it is anticipated moving operations to the facility by April.
- Lukasiewicz noted that the Community Gardens program is already a success, with 26 total plots reserved. His staff has started on construction of the plot boxes.
- The house just south of Field #5 at the Sports Complex on 66th Street is scheduled to be burned down in a controlled burn by the fire department next week.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Member Johnson asked Lukasiewicz if we would own the land once the house was burned down near the complex. Lukasiewicz said the city would own it, and that it was part of the deal once the sewer project is completed by the NRD.

Member Kupfer asked if we also allocate our own money in the budget for trees outside of the grants we receive. Lukasiewicz answered that yes we do, and it is about \$10,000 each year.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director Stopak made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Member Kupfer. Motion carried. Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.