

City of La Vista
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes
March 17, 2021

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, March 17, 2021. Present was Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Asst. Recreation Director David Karlson, Youth and Adult Sports Manager Denny Dinan, Senior Services Manager Kaily Stanley, Administrative Assistant Sue Tangeman, Public Works Superintendent Jason Allen, Assistant City Administrator Rita Ramirez, Advisory Board Chairperson Pat Lodes, Members Jeff Kupfer, Brenda Mechels-Stuby and Bobette Jones.

A notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Papillion Times on March 10, 2021. 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 February 17, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Chairperson Lodes by. Seconded by Member Kupfer. All aye. Motion carried.
2. REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF

David Karlson, Assistant Recreation Director

The **Virtual Recreation Center** featured a variety videos from mid-January through early February. Those included:

- We had a two-part episode on Magic in February. Magic Part I was released on February 19, featuring Trenton and I performing six (6) magic tricks for our viewing audience. Magic Part II was released on February 26, and had Trenton and I showing our home viewers how they can use simple props they can find at home to perform the same magic tricks. The Magic episodes have received several hundred hits on the website.
- Our Fun Friday Recreation @ Home monthly calendar for March was released on March 5. This monthly series encourages school-aged children and their families to become more physical and mentally active and take steps towards a healthier lifestyle by participating in a different activity each day throughout the month. We have received some great feedback on this.

- Lastly, Trenton and I filmed a series of Minute-To-Win-It type balloon challenges, and our first of the series was released on Friday, March 12.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be a little different this year, with no actual ‘hunt’, but a ‘grab ‘n go’ easter bag pick up. The Recreation Department employees have gotten 1,400 sacks stuffed with 28,000 pieces of candy ready to hand out to the kids in their cars on April 3rd 10am to 12pm at the City Hall campus.

Denny Dinan, Youth and Adult Sports Manager

- Adult Women’s Volleyball Winter session has played 8 games of a 12-game schedule. The Winter season will end on March 24. The Spring session will start on March 31 and will play a shorter 6 game session. The Spring League is full, with 8 teams signed up.
- Youth Basketball League finished on March 6. Teams were happy with the way the league was run with the YMCA being a partner with us for the first time. Only complaints we really received were due to everyone having to wear a mask and the limited fans we allowed in the gym. Hopefully these won’t be issues next season!!

Spring Programs

Registration are currently winding down and deadlines are approaching for 2021 Spring/Summer Youth and Adult programs.

Field Usage

Playing fields will open for use starting April 5, weather permitting. It appears it will be a busy season with most of the fields being utilized throughout the season.

We currently have youth girls fast pitch softball tournaments the weekends of April 9-11 and April 23-25.

In May, I have 3 baseball/softball tournaments, 2 soccer tournaments, and the annual Kite Festival is scheduled.

Member Mechels-Stuby asked if we will continue the cooperative program with the YMCA? Dinan said we would.

Kaily Stanley, Senior Services Manager

In February a total of 1030 senior’s participated in Senior Center programs.

- 329 Grab n Go Lunches were picked up in February.
- 701 Seniors Participated in various recreational activities.

The senior’s continued to practice social distancing during our regular programs.

Some special programs included:

- Lunch outings to Cheesecake Factory and Cheddar’s
- The Alzheimer’s Association presented “ Healthy Living for Brain and Body” via Zoom
- Valentine Candle Craft
- Movies “Sleepless in Seattle” and “Adam’s Rib”
- Music entertainment by Merrymakers Joyce Torchia

La Vista Senior Center was given a technology grant from Google and the money is being used to purchase 5 laptops and cases. These will be used for computer classes and individual use at the Senior Center.

Chairperson Lodes asked if the lunches were catered by ENOA, where does Ref's Bar & Grill come into it? Stanley answered that Ref's donated a meal to the seniors every Tuesday, and have been doing so since the pandemic began.

Assistant Director Karlson commented that the Senior Center has an article in the last Ralston Recorder, written by one of our senior attendees. She gives great publicity to our senior center.

Submitted by Jason Allen, Public Works Parks Superintendent

- Allen reported that the City received this year's Tree City award.
- The Public Works Department is hiring to fill a parks position due to someone leaving.
- Allen also reported that the City has received a donation from the American Legion, the Community Foundation and a private donation totaling \$2,000 to be used for the Blue Star Memorial. The Parks Department will be doing some landscaping and planting this spring, and will also install a U.S. flag at the site on the City Hall Campus.

B. Presentation of Interface Project

Rita Ramirez, Assistant City Administrator gave a slide presentation of the City Centre Interface Project. This consists of the areas around the future new indoor/outdoor amphitheater (Astro Theater), that will be built on the north side of City Centre, and adjoining Central Park on the south side. These areas will be built and maintained by the City of La Vista, and include a building to house concessions, restrooms and rental space. Ramirez explained the types of areas and amenities the City would like to have in these areas such as green space, sitting areas, picnic areas, walking areas and a possible slide to come from the top level on the 84th Street side down to the lower lake level.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

None.

COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None.

Member Jones made a motion for adjournment. Seconded by Chairperson Lodes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 6:40 p.m.