

City of LaVista  
Park & Recreation Advisory Committee Minutes  
March 19, 2008

A meeting of the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee for the City of LaVista convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on March 19, 2008. Present were Recreation Director Scott Stopak, Chairperson Greg Johnson, George Forst, Randall Cahill, and Pat Lodes. Absent: John Vendetti.

A notice of the meeting was given advance thereof by publication in the Times on March 13, 2008. 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**

Chairperson Johnson called the meeting to order.

Seconded by Committee Member Cahill. Motion carried.

Recreation Director Stopak led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recreation Director 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**

Chairperson Johnson made the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Seconded by Committee Member Forst. Motion carried.

**REPORTS FROM RECREATION DIRECTOR AND STAFF**

Recreation Director Scott Stopak informed the Committee about the reformatted program information packet for the Advisory Board meetings. The new format is more concise and easier to read than the previous packets.

Assistant Recreation Director David Karlson reported that the basketball portion of the Jr. Olympics Skills competition is over, and twelve children participated. Six children have advanced to the Regional Jr. Olympics Skills competition in Lincoln. This is a free event, and they could advance to the national level competition. The soccer competition will be next. The Recreation Dept. is working with the Lancers Soccer Club for this competition. Karlson also reminded the Board of the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at 10:00 am rain or shine, and volunteers are welcome.

Karlson also reported for the Community Center and Other Events information. The Sochi-Go Ryu martial arts class is on hiatus for the rest of March, then will reconvene in

April. The Aikido class is holding a second Women's Self-Defense class tonight, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The fee for that class is \$5.00 at the door, and has useful information for women to help protect themselves against violence.

Program Director Carstensen reported on the Senior program. There are lots of March activities for the Seniors. La Vista West Elementary School came and talked to them about volunteering to be mentors for the children, both at the school and at the Senior Center. A couple of the Seniors were interested. Also, the St. Patrick's Day Pot-Luck was a big success, with approx. 70-80 people attending. The City provided corned beef, cabbage and carrots; the guests all brought a dish to share. The La Vista Old-Timers Band entertained after lunch. Mayor Doug Kindig and City Administrator Brenda Gunn attended. Twenty Seniors are going to the Kearney Archway and see the cranes on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, and on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> the La Vista Jr. High Choir will come to entertain and have a pizza party. On March 28<sup>th</sup>, Methodist Hospital nurse interns will come to do routine checks for a report they are completing. In April, Eastern Nebraska on Aging (ENOA) will come to talk on how to get more Seniors involved in the Senior Center.

Program Coordinator Burns stated that the following programs were ongoing: The men's basketball league on Sunday's is in its 6<sup>th</sup> week of the 12 week program; women's volleyball is in its 5<sup>th</sup> week on Wednesday nights. Flag football begins March 29<sup>th</sup> in cooperation with Papillion and Offutt teams. Soccer should begin the first week of April, weather permitting. The adult softball league deadline is on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Youth softball and coed baseball (t-ball and pinto) deadline is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Stopak also reported that the Recreation Dept. is in discussion with the Lancers Soccer Club and Panthers Baseball Club about the possibility of combining the organizations. It would be similar to the Wrestling club, where the clubs would still be boosters, while the Recreation Dept. would handle registrations, background checks, etc.

#### B. SWIMMING POOL CONCEPT DISCUSSION

Recreation Director Stopak informed the Board that the City will be setting up a meeting for the Swimming Pool Advisory Committee in April to discuss the swimming pool survey.

Committee Member Lodes asked if the Advisory Board would receive the information from the survey before the next Park & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting in April? Stopak said the survey information will not be available until the swimming pool activity committee meeting is held.

Chairperson Johnson wanted to know if neighbors of the proposed aquatic facility will be notified of the Swimming Pool Advisory Committee meeting? Stopak said he is not sure but will check on it, however, the notice would be in the newspaper and on the City website.

Committee Member Forst commented that the City should contact the City of Fremont to get information on the new aquatic facility that opened last year.

## COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

No comments.

## COMMENTS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Lodes said that a La Vista Mayoral candidate's comments in the newspaper about the "City of La Vista's parks need to be worked on" was not a just and fair comment.

Committee Member Forst said he has worked for City of Omaha for 25 years, and he would put La Vista's parks against any other. Forst also has stated that there is a rumor about the skate park at Seymour Smith, and that La Vista was involved.

Stopak said La Vista has a seat on the committee for the skate park, but has not pledged any money for it.

Chairperson Johnson asked how the Keystone Trail link was coming.

Stopak said they are breaking ground anytime, and that Harrison Street is being widened from 72<sup>nd</sup> to 66<sup>th</sup> Street.

Stopak reported that Triple Crown Sports, originally Super Series, will host two one-night festivals in La Vista on June 12-21 with inflatables, food vendors, games and pyrotechnics. This will be in conjunction with the youth baseball tournaments played around the Metro area during the College World Series. Plans are being finalized.

## ADJOURNMENT

Committee member Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Seconded by Committee member Lodes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.