



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 14, 2017**

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Wayne Knop, Michael McClellan, and Ernie Reinhart

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: Chuck Golba

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ernie Reinhart to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Wayne Knop. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Ernie Reinhart made a recommendation to designate a portion all of future agendas to allow park representatives an opportunity to provide updates concerning their areas of responsibility. No negative comments were made in regards to Reinhart's recommendation. Staff agreed to amend all future agendas.

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 Park and Tree Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ernie Reinhart. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Persons who wish to address the Park Board regarding items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any presentation is for informational purposes only. No action will be taken. None.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: A discussion with Angela Chase concerning her request to conduct dog training classes at L/Y Park.

Angela Chase was not in attendance. This item will be forwarded to the next Park and Tree Board meeting scheduled for September 11, 2017.

Item 6: Staff will discuss a request from Trisha Holiday to donate a memorial tree and bench at Ron Weers Park. This memorial will be made in the memory of Clint Bullock.

Staff explained that Trisha Holiday called the City concerning a possible donation to Ron Weers Park. Ms. Holiday is considering a memorial tree and bench donation in the memory of Clint Bullock. Staff provided Holiday with the donation policy guidelines. Wayne Knop was immediately contacted to inform him of the possible donation to his assigned park and asked for suggested locations to place these items. Knop suggested placing the items near the playground. It was noted that the benches around the lake are placed on concrete pads. The benches around the playground are on pedestals. After additional conversations with Staff, Holiday requested that her donation be placed on hold until she has further time to discuss it with her family.

No further discussion occurred about this item.

Item 7: Staff will discuss a request from Kansas City Power and Light to either trim or remove eleven trees in the Lake Subdivision. These trees are overgrown and interfering the street lights.

Nathan Law stated that a globe on one of the street lights along Shoreline Drive was damaged by an overgrown tree limb during a storm a couple of months ago. After that incident KCP&L asked the city to do something to ensure that this type of damage will not happen again. Law mentioned that it's fortunate for us there are only a few trees overgrown large enough to cause further damage to the street lights at this time. However, there are some trees that need to be trimmed and/or removed in the subdivision so the KCP&L standards distance requirements are met. Staff identified eleven trees that need to be trimmed or removed. Staff hand delivered letters to all effected homeowners informing them that there is a tree on the property located in the Right-of-Way that needs to be either removed or trimmed. The intent of this letter was to solicit input from effected homeowners. The city met with some of those homeowners at a previous meeting. It was explained that the City will remove the tree at no cost to the homeowner. It was also explained that if the homeowner wishes to keep a particular tree it will become the homeowners responsibility to maintain it include the trimming ensuring that it meets KCP&L standards. The City also offered to plant a replacement tree in a public park to compensate for

any tree that was removed in the Lake Subdivision. Some of the homeowners asked if a replacement tree could be planted in their yard. The city agreed to provide a standard replacement tree to the homeowner upon request. The homeowner will be responsible for planting the tree on their property. It was also explained that if a homeowner requests something over and above the standard replacement tree the owner would be responsible for the additional costs associated with their specific request.

Law went on by mentioning that Mr. Robert Hess (207 Shoreline Drive) offered to coordinate with a tree trimming company so they can professionally evaluate the eleven trees in question to determine if they can be trimmed rather than cut down. We are in a hold pattern until the professional evaluation has been completed.

Law ended the discussion by stating that the trees along Shoreline Drive are beautiful and some residents in the Lake Subdivision are opposed to cutting any of them down. We are in a unique position; the city needs a good working relationship with KCP&L but also still needs to try to satisfy concerns of the Lake residents. The City is working with everyone involved to come up with the most feasible solution.

Item 8: Staff will discuss planting trees in the right-of-way. In accordance with City Ordinance 1035 planting trees in the right-of-way is allowed in some cases. Multiple homeowners in the Summerfield Farms subdivision have planted new trees in the right-of-way. Planting trees in the right-of-way may become problematic for the city. This discussion is meant to spur a possible review of this policy by the Park and Tree Board.

City Ordinance 1035 paragraph 12-302 (c):

“Street trees may be planted in the tree lawn where there is more than six feet between the edge of the sidewalk and the curb of the street. Street trees shall be planted no closer than three feet from a sidewalk, driveway, or street.”

Bob Bazin mentioned that the City of Overland Park spent at least \$60,000-\$70,000 repairing sidewalks this year alone. Not all the sidewalks were damaged by trees but a good chunk of the damages were. Allowing trees to be planted between the curb and the sidewalk is a continual cost to the city. If the trees were planted in the homeowner’s property out of the right-of-way they become the owner’s responsibility to maintain. Bazin suggests not allowing any trees in the right-of-way.

Wayne Knop mentioned that when the trees were planted in the Lake Subdivision in the right-of-way many years ago he suspected it would create a problem at some point.

Nathan Law stated that we are currently updating the City Codes so this is a timely discussion.

Michael McClellan agrees that this is an issue. Moving the trees into the homeowner’s property may be a good idea. McClellan suggested that 90% of the homeowners don’t cut their trees back

when needed, to keep them out of the street or above sidewalks. McClellan provided an instance where he had an issue with some overgrown tree in his neighborhood.

Bazin suggested that planting trees in the right-of-way creates a maintenance problem for the storm water system. The leaves have to go somewhere and down the storm drain is normally where they end up. The leaves evidently go into the lake causing siltation problems.

Wayne Knop mentioned that the trees in the right-of-way interfere with utilities such as water, sewer, and gas lines.

It was mentioned that the city incurs the cost to cut back overgrown trees in the right-of-way annually. Typically, when the city cuts those trees back from the street the homeowners complain.

A motion was made by Bob Bazin to amend city ordinance 1035 paragraph 12-302 (c). This amendment reads as follows:

“Planting trees in the right-of-way shall not be allowed under any circumstance.”

This motion was seconded by Wayne Knop. Motion carried 4-0. This motion and Park and Tree Board recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for additional discussion and consideration.

Item 9: A discussion concerning a possible dog park in L/Y Park.

Jean Carder explained that the proposed area in L/Y Park is currently under a hay contract and nothing can be done immediately. Carder also mentioned that the cost of the fence installation can be decreased if Public Works installs it. The cost could be increased if it was determined that at concrete edge was needed to keep the dogs from digging holes under the fence line or creating a muddy path.

Bob Bazin asked if a water feature is needed. Jean Carder replied with no.

Nathan Law stated that a dog park is listed as a City Council action item in the upcoming fiscal years. A proposed dog park was presented to City Council not too long ago. The proposal was not voted on. However, it was noted that none the council members objected to construction a dog park. Law suggested that since there was no negative feedback from the council this item needs to be considered within the next couple budgetary cycles.

Wayne Knop mentioned that the only thing that the proposed site in L/Y Park is used for is haying and the annual Boy Scout jamboree.

Bob Bazin asked if anyone had any concerns with the proposed site in L/Y Park. No comments were made.

Ernie Reinhart asked how will this new dog park effect the other projects and the general overall plans that we have discussed recently. Nathan Law suggested that the Park and Tree Board needs to figure out how to place this project into the overall parks plan in the near future because there has been some interest from the community to have a dog park. From our discussions with the City Council it seems as if this project has their support.

Michael McClellan suggested that if the dog park was located in town it would benefit more people. He feels that more people will use it. He stated that he doesn't know that many people that would be willing to load up their dog and take them to L/Y Park. Jean Carder replied that a lot of people travel to dog parks in Johnson County. Wayne Knop suggested that there are subdivisions with walking trails all around those dog parks. Jean Carder suggested no matter where you place a dog park in Louisburg a number of people will still need to drive their dogs to the park.

Both Bazin and Knop mentioned that if they have noticed people running their dogs in L/Y Park on a regular basis. Michael McClellan stated when he was going his L/Y Park to work on his report last summer he didn't notice any people walking their dogs at the park. Ernie Reinhart mentioned that he notices the local dogs from neighboring properties roaming the park on occasions. Jean Carder stated that she wouldn't take her dog to L/Y Park because there is not a fenced-in area for it to roam in.

Wayne Knop stated that he would hate to spend \$10,000-\$15,000 on a dog park to find out that no one will use it. Knop asked if there is any way we can get the public input on this proposal. He asked how much interest in having a dog park.

Bazin asked if we have a dog park is L/Y the right location. Knop suggested that the land next to the Aquatic Center would be a better location.

Michael McClellan mentioned that he isn't against a dog park. However, there are facilities in our parks that are deteriorating and he doesn't want to see this project move forward while existing facilities are falling apart. McClellan ended by stating that we need to fix the things that we already have. We don't know how much this proposed dog park will be utilized. However, we do know how much the ballparks are being used. McClellan stated that there are some safety concerns in L/Y Park that need to be addressed before we invest in a new dog park.

Carder stated that since the proposed site is currently under a hay contract there is time to get some community input via surveys. All agreed. No further discussion occurred concerning this issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 10: None

REPORTS:

Item 11: Jean Carder mentioned that the Steering Committee met with the consultants working on the Master Trails and Sidewalk Plan. It was determined to not have another open house asking for community feedback because we've had so many of those over the last couple of months. Instead they have chosen to have popup meetings. The first popup meeting is happening tonight. The consultant has drafted a one page survey asking some basic questions consisting of questions such as:

- Do you live in or outside of town?
- What are your obstacles to get to where you need to go?
- What are your priority destinations in town?

This survey will be at the school open houses this week and popup meetings at the grocery store, library, and mostly the Senior Center. The dates and time for these popup meeting have not been finalized yet. The consultants will compile the survey results and report back to the Steering Committee sometime in late September.

There will also be a bike decorating contest to promote the Trails and Sidewalk Plan. A brand new bike will be the grand prize for the winner of the decorating contest. The bike was donated by Price Chopper. Kids will be encouraged to ride their bikes behind the band at this year's Labor Day Parade to help promote this project.

Wayne Knop asked would it be wise to setup a popup meeting at the Legion after the parade. Carder said that they may do that. She added that their plan is to have walkers in the parade accompanying the bikers. The walkers will be handing out flyers containing information about the trails plan.

Ernie Reinhart asked for an update on the following open items:

1. The replacement of the basketball goal in the City Park
2. The Lighting at the tennis court. One light on the N/W corner is out
3. Replacement playground equipment

Item 12: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ernie Reinhart. Motion carried 3-1. Wayne Knop provided the negative vote. The meeting concluded at 7:23pm.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham
Recording Secretary