



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, Feb. 13, 2023**

Livestream link: <https://boxcast.tv/view/louisburg-park--tree-board-tfx82j0en4fmlpiivfxg>

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Andy Gibbons, Ryan Westhoff, Wayne Knop, and Michael McClellan

Mayor: Donna Cook

City Council: Steve Town

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Louisburg Rec Commission: Shelly Sattler

Recording Secretary: Robert Lake

Visitors: Elizabeth Ellis, Gregg Rupp, Kent Hessler, Michelle Olson, and Jessica Crozier.

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Andy Gibbons to approve the agenda, was seconded by Ryan Westhoff and passed 5-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Wayne Knop to approve the January 9, 2023, minutes, and was seconded by Andy Gibbons and passed 5-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 6: Discussion of pickleball with presentation by pickleball players.

Kent Hessler spoke in front of the board. He discussed the history of his time in pickleball and pickleball in Louisburg. He expressed to the board he was excited for the potential of expanding the courts and the hope to host tournaments.

City staff asked the board if they would want continued discussion upon potential pickleball court locations. The board discussed what was needed for possible expansion of the pickleball courts. No decision was made.

Item 5: Discussion of bike trails at Lewis-Young Park.

Elizabeth Ellis and Gregg Rupp provided a presentation to the Park Board, where they advised they have flagged out most of the trails. Ellis stated she feels like the next step would be for the board to walk the trails for approval. Ellis then introduced Rupp who began his presentation to the board.

During his presentation Rupp provided maps and explained what each line of the map meant, including a heat map.

Rupp advised of several concerns that were occurring at Lewis-Young Park. He advised the board of invasive honeysuckle that is slowly taking over a wooded area. people riding horses on the trails, and an area where a lot of water is located and due to that water, there is possible erosion in a certain area.

The board had a discussion regarding this project.

Ellis provided insight to the trail biking club at the school and how they utilize the trails and how this would help the team practice within the city of Louisburg and where they would no longer have to travel to Overland Park or Fort Scott to practice for their competitions. Ellis stated in the future, they would like to host a competition at Lewis-Young Park.

The board did not discuss this item further but did want city staff to obtain Rupp's information so they may meet him at Lewis-Young Park so he may address some of the concerns he provided to the board. That meeting will be coordinated for a later date.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 10: Discussion of location of dog park.

Michelle Olson and Jessica Crozier presented two locations for the dog park. Louisburg City Council provided two recommended locations for the dog park. One being the east side of the aquatic center near Harvest Drive and the other south of Ron Weers Park near 287th. The size for the location for Harvest drive was approximately 2 acres. The size for Ron Weers Park was approximately 1 acre.

Olson and Crozier provided insight for the intended use of the park and the space over each location, how they would fence in the park and the amenities provided that will be used. They advised they would separate the bigger dogs from smaller dogs to potentially avoid any issues.

Wayne Knop asked if the west side of the Aquatic Center could be utilized instead of the east side.

Crozier advised the ideal park location would be where the natural elements could be utilized, such as Lewis-Young Park.

Discussion between the board, Crozier, and Olson occurred upon the placement of the dog park, size of the park, potential for expansion, parking and who would maintain the park.

Discussion occurred by Park Board members weighing location options.

Wayne moved to consider the two options at the aquatic center as a preferred location. Mike seconded the motion, that passed 5-0.

Ryan moved to consider 2 locations at Lewis-Young Park, the area north of B-Field and the area south of the entrance. Andy seconded, the motion failed. 2 (Ryan, Andy) - 2 (Wayne, Bazin) – 1 (Mike).

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 7: Discussion of trail lighting.

Councilmember Steve Town provided the board with lighting options for trails.

Discussion occurred regarding pricing, how the lights function, and light output.

It was decided to let the board determine what they would propose for lighting and provide that information to the Lake HOA to get their input.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 8: Discussion of gutters for shelter at Ron Weers Park.

Discussion occurred regarding gutters on the shelter house at Ron Weers Park.

City staff was directed to contact contractors to obtain pricing for gutters for the shelter.

Item 9: Discussion of maintenance of Lake Aerator

City staff advised the breaker continues to flip and an electrician was contacted for repairs.

Item 11: Discussion of cemetery screening.

City staff advised the board that at a recent Fox Hall/Cemetery Board meeting a request was made to provide additional screening between the cemetery and commercial properties.

The board discussed the trash coming from Caseys onto the cemetery. It was discussed who is responsible for the planting of trees if it was the developer's or city's responsibility.

The board decided a fence would be the best long term. City staff will provide the Park and Tree Boards decision to the Cemetery Board.

Item 12: Discussion of park clean up.

City staff advised the date for park clean-up is April 1st.

Item 13: Discussion about disk golf.

City staff provided the board with information regarding the upcoming disk golf tournament that is planned for March 4th at Lewis-Young Park.

The board discussed if the tournament should be required to pay for utilizing the park. The board directed city staff to reach out to other communities to see if they were charging for disk golf tournaments. It was decided to not make disk golf club who was participating at this tournament to pay.

REPORTS:

Item 14: Individual area of responsibility updates:

- Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – Issues with bikes on the walking trails, and how to allow them to be on there, or having bikes travel one way and people walking in the opposing direction. It was discussed of dog excrement on the side of the trails and how to fix that problem to encourage pet owners to utilize the items provided at the park for waste. No decision was made.
- Ryan Westhoff (Aquatic Center) – Nothing to report.
- Andy Gibbons (City Park) – Nothing to report.
- Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – Nothing to report.
- Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – Not present.
- Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – Issues with motorized or electric carts and horses on the trails of Lewis-Young Park. More signs and lock the gates of areas they were now made aware of where horses are entering the area. Wayne advised Powell Observatory was going to move, and he was inquiring who owns the land and building.
- Shelly Sattler (Louisburg Rec Commission)- Advised the board of adding more soccer goals and who owned the current soccer goals.
- Nathan Law (City Administrator) – Advised the pool will be painted prior to its opening.

Item 15: Adjournment

Michael McClellan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, was seconded by Ryan Westhoff passed 5-0. The meeting ended at 8:49 p.m.

Submitted by Robert Lake

