



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 10, 2021**

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: Wayne Knop, Michael McClellan, and, Ryan Westhoff

City Council: Donna Cook

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Louisburg Rec Commission: Diana Moore and Tyler Olson

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: Drew Siebert

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Wayne Knop to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. Motion passed 4-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Wayne Knop to approve the April 12, 2021, minutes. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. Motion passed 4-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: 2021 Fishing Derby. The proposed date for the derby is June 19, 2021.

Bob Bazin verified the date for the event. The derby will be held on Saturday June 19, 2021, Registration begins at 7am. Fishing will occur between 8-10am. Staff stated that there is \$1,670.50 remaining in the Fishing Derby Budget. It was confirmed that Staff will purchase the food and supplies. Bob Bazin said he will provide the water. Staff explained that leftover food from the derby will be moved to the Aquatic Center and sold at a discounted price.

Bob Bazin asked if members of Louisburg Anglers (Rec Commission Fishing Club) will be available to do fish measuring. Diana Moore said yes.

Bob said he has cooks lined up and believes he has volunteers working the registration table.

No further discussion occurred concerning this topic.

Item 6: 2021 4th of July Celebration at L/Y Park.

City Administrator Nathan Law stated that the 4th of July celebration will return this year. The goal is to have this event as it was in 2019. There will be vendor booths, giveaways, a bounce house, and of course fireworks. Bob Bazin asked if the Fire Department will be shooting off the fireworks. Administrator Law said yes. Law went on by saying that the Council recently approved the purchase of an electric firing board. This new board will enhance the safety of the Fire Department members overseeing the fireworks show. Less Fire Department members are needed to operate the show. This frees up a crew to respond to emergencies if needed.

No further discussion occurred concerning this topic.

Item 7: Discussion with Drew Siebert concerning a potential dog park.

Drew Siebert mentioned that he represents approximately 57 community members that are interested in establishing a dog park in Louisburg. Siebert asked if the Park Board and City Council would be willing investigate the possibilities of establishing an off-leash dog park within city limits. This dog park would be sponsored by the city. Siebert suggested L/Y Park would be an ideal location for this new amenity. Siebert then said that his group would be open to any suitable location in the city.

Siebert said he is aware that a dog park was placed on the budget a couple of years ago, but it did not move forward. The stagnation of a dog park may have been caused by a lack of community interest. Based on conversation Siebert had with community members there is now a desire for such a park. Siebert mentioned that he was informed that people are currently using the ballfields to let their roam off-leash. He was also told that they are not cleaning up their dogs.

Siebert stated today's goal is to start a conversation. He realizes that its most likely too late to include a dog park in the 2022 budget but is hopeful that it may be included in the 2023 fiscal year.

Siebert mentioned that he is aware that the city solicited bids for chain-link fencing a few years ago. A bid for \$17,000 was received. Additional startup items needed for a basic park would include dog waste receptacles, trash cans, and a water hydrant. More items can be added later.

Bob Bazin asked how much fence is needed for a dog park. Siebert said Paola just built a 375'x130' dog park with a 50'x50' fenced in area for smaller dogs. Siebert believes the fence Paola installed is 4 feet high. Siebert said the fencing cost Paola \$20,000. The entire project cost nearly \$40,000. Paola used Patriot Fence Company to install their Chain-link fencing.

Potential locations in L/Y Park were then discussed.

Ryan Westhoff asked Siebert what size of dog park the group like to see. Siebert said a similar size to Paola's Park would be great.

Michael McClellan asked will this dog park supersede the previously approved list of projects outlined in the Master Parks Plan. McClellan mentioned that it took two years to develop a priority list. City Administrator Nathan Law explained when the Master Park Plan was drafted it was mentioned if additional funding such as grants, or other monies are made available that the priority list may be adjusted/alterd to facilitate the construction of park amenities.

Michael McClellan said that he is not against a dog park, but he is concerned that this park may take precedence over projects previously approved by the Park Board. McClellan mentioned that we need to ensure that broken playground equipment is replaced, we have parking lots paved, and the Aquatic Center needs to be improved. He also stated that the goal of the Park Board is to select projects that impact the most residents as possible. McClellan understands that the Paola Dog Park was primarily financed through community fundraising efforts.

Siebert mentioned that the group wishing to build a dog park is willing to fundraise to help with the cost of the project. He doubts they can raise \$40,000 like Paola did but Siebert is sure they can raise a significant portion of the cost.

Siebert then asked if the city can be the custodian of the money raised through fundraising events associated with a future dog park. Administrator Nathan Law said the city can accept donations earmarked future community projects, but it must be clear the city is not organizing or fundraising for the any cause. Law also said that the city will be able to issue a tax-deductible letter to individuals who donate. Law than asked what happens to the donated money if the charitable goal is not met. If someone donates money with the expectation that a dog park will be built and it does not because of a funding shortfall it may create an issue.

Additional discussion occurred concerning the funding raising aspects of this event.

After a brief discussion, the conversation ended concerning this topic.

Item 8: Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism 2020 Progress and Management Report Fisheries Division for City Lake

The report was presented to the board. Bob Bazin mentioned that it looks like there is too much silt at the north end of the lake. Administrator Law said that the city is currently researching dredging options. Dredging will be somewhat difficult and expensive because there is no city property near nearby to place the silt removed from the lake. All materiel must be hauled away.

Administrator Nathan Law said that we are looking into dredging options to address the issue. The city is limited because there is no city property close enough to place dredged material at. The cost to dredge the lake will be expensive.

After a brief discussion, the conversation ended concerning this topic.

Item 9: Discussion concerning the water quality at City Lake.

Administrator Law explained that the lake was treated twice by Heartland Lake Management to abate the pond weed in the lake. The next treatment is scheduled later this week. The pond weed vegetation was so prevalent last year it caused a fish kill. This year we are being more aggressive with the issue.

Wayne Knop asked how many aerator pumps are working. Staff said that all four pumps were removed and are currently being evaluated by the manufacturer why the system is not working. The aeration system has been inoperable since January 19th. We are waiting for the pumps to be returned and installed. They should be up and running within a few weeks.

No further discussion occurred concerning this topic.

Item 10: Discussion concerning the replacement of swing set at L/Y Park.

Administrator Law explained that it was recommended by a City Council member earlier this year to purchase specialty swings meant for new parents. The swing that was found damaged in L/Y Park were old and parts are no longer available. This would be an opportune time to install this type of swing in one of our parks.

Michael McClellan said he notices parents allowing kids to play unsupervised on the equipment in L/Y Park and he is concerned that a parent/tot swing maybe misused. McClellan mentioned that here may be a need for one alternative swing but not two. McClellan believes there is a larger need for traditional swings.

Diana Moore mentioned that she has been approached about adding a toddler swing in L/Y Park.

Bob Bazin asked if the City Council have money to replace the swing. Administrator Law said yes. Money is available to make repairs or replace items as needed.

Ryan Westhoff asked how much will is cost to install a traditional swing set. Staff provided cost comparison.

After a brief discussion Wayne Knop made a motion to purchase the swing manufactured by AB Creative and will be installed in L/Y Park. The motion was seconded by Ryan Westhoff. The motion passed 4-0. This motion and recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for additional consideration.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 11: Jean Carder mentioned that the city received a Recycle Tire Grant. The city will purchae new picnic tables made of recycled tires with a 50% matching grant. The picnic tables will be placed in L/Y Park and should be arriving sometime in May 2021.

REPORTS:

Item 12: Individual area of responsibility updates:

- Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – Nothing to Report
- Ryan Westhoff (Aquatic Center) – Westhoff asked if the city is maintaining the sand volleyball court located outside the Aquatic Center. Administrator Law said yes and agreed to have someone look at it this week. Law mentioned that the city will add sand if needed.

Knop asked if the Aquatic Center will be open the Aquatic Center as normal this season (Prior to COVID Restrictions). Administrator Law said yes. Knop questioned why the Park Board was not more involved in the decision-making processes in determining how the opening occur pool.
- Andy Gibbons (City Park) – Not Present
- Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – Knop asked if Ron Weers Park is a potential location for a Dog Park. Administrator Law said he is not aware of this location as a potential site. It was also mentioned that Ron Weers would not be an ideal location for a dog park.
- Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – Not Present
- Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – McClellan said the fields are looking good. He is receiving great comments on the field improvements. McClellan also mentioned that there is a drainage issue along the walking/jogging trail near “A” Field. Administrator Law said that he would have the issue looked at.
- Diana Moore and/or Tyler Olson (Louisburg Rec Commission) – Moore introduced Tyler Olson as the new Louisburg Rec employee.
- City Administrator – There are multiple organizations discussing the potential of a fourplex ballfield in L/Y Park. Discussions are in the preliminary stages with estimated cost approaching up to \$4M for a top-of-the-line fourplex with a parking lot.
- City Council Member Donna Cook – Nothing to Report

Item 13: ADJOURNMENT:

Michael McClellan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Wayne Knop. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting ended at 7:37p.m.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham