

**LOUISBURG PARK & TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 12, 2021**

The Park & Tree Board of Louisburg, Kan., met at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers with Chairperson Bob Bazin who opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Michael McClellan, Wayne Knop and Jack Kline

City Council:

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Louisburg Recreation Commission: Diana Moore and Tyler Olson

Recording Secretary:

Visitors: Brandon Gilbert

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Wayne Knop moved, seconded by Michael McClellan and carried 4-0, to approve the agenda.

Jack Kline moved, seconded by Michael McClellan and carried 4-0, to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021, meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: Brandon Gilbert from Mound City belongs to a group that flies drones and wants to have a learn to fly event at Lewis-Young Park in August. This is a good location for enthusiasts from southeast Kansas and the KC metro area, he said. Mr. Gilbert talked about TRUST, a new program from FAA that teaches persons to learn how to fly drones and gives guidance. Mr. Kline asked if areas of the park had been designated to fly in or are there parts of the park off limits. Mr. McClellan suggested the best place would be the truck & tractor pull area. It's a wide-open area and might attract interest from folks going into and out of the park, he said. Mr. Kline asked if the city has liability requirements. Administrator Law said none are required. Mr. Kline asked if the drone operator would be covered by their personal insurance policy in the event of an accident. There was general thought that it would. Mr. McClellan asked if people would be required to sign in. Mr. Gilbert said he would be collecting names and phone numbers. He said there are about 17 persons so far interested. A commercial user has been invited to come and talk to the group. Discussion continued on drone operations. Park board suggested the group stay south of the road and can use the tractor pull area and football fields. Mr. Kline moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan and approved 4-0, to allow Mr. Gilbert to use the park to fly drones from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 7 at Lewis-Young Park.

Item 6: Mr. Law told the Park Board members dredging of City Lake has been recently discussed by City Council. He asked the Board's thoughts on lake dredging. Mr. Bazin asked if this is a need. Mr. Kline said from his experience that dredging should be avoided until the lake is failing completely. He said any vegetation in the lake comes from fertilizer, likely from nearby lawns. If the fish aren't dying, he said, lake dredging can cause a wasteland and can be very foul smelling. His opinion is unless there is a valid

report that supports dredging that he wouldn't spend the money. Mr. Law said the potential location for dewatering would be nearby farmland or the southwest corner of the city-owned lake property. Mr. Knop said he thinks any dredging in the lake's fingers would hit rock fairly quickly. He said when the lake was cleaned about 30 years ago it was mostly rock in those fingers. Mr. McClellan said he would be concerned about the aerators. Mr. Law said they would be beyond the pinpointed areas. Mr. Bazin said in his experience dredging is a messy business and requires watertight trucks to haul off the debris. Mr. Knop thinks it's a huge expense for no more than is gained.

Item 7: Mr. Law presented the idea of placing tree identification markers around trees at City Lake. This was a request of the City Council. Mr. Bazin said it might make a good Eagle Scout project. Mr. Law asked if this project were to move forward would the Board recommend including shrubs and bushes. Mr. Kline said he would recommend only identifying trees that are stand alone or are being mowed around not any that are clustered along the shoreline. He also said only trees on the City-owned side of the trail should have markers. Mr. McClellan said he was recently out of town at a park that had a mapping system that would show where plants, trees, etc were located in that city's parks. The general consensus of the Board is it would be a good service to add. Mr. Law said the Board had provided some good ideas.

Item 8: Mr. Law reviewed the fishing derby report included in the agenda packet. He said the kids seemed to really be having fun at the event Father's Day weekend. Mr. McClellan suggested reaching out to some of the bigger sporting goods stores for financial support. Mr. Law said the LRC Anglers Club provided judges, and he is hoping that organization can eventually take over the derby.

Old Business: Mr. Bazin asked for an update on the dog park grant. Mr. Law said the grant has been submitted and we are waiting to hear if we are a finalist.

Item 9: Individual reports:

Ron Weers Park – Mr. Knop had no report.

Forestry – Mr. Kline provided feedback from a group that had recently rented the shelter at Ron Weers Park and said it make a great meeting place and offered high praise of the facility.

Lewis-Young Park – Mr. McClellan said there are some issues with the lights on A field. Mr. Law said he would need to check with Mr. Hufferd. LRC rep Diana Moore she thought A field was good but C field had an outlet issue that Mr. Hufferd was able to fix. Mr. McClellan asked about vehicles on the trail. Mr. Law said Staff is working on signage. Ms. Moore said the LRC is reaching out to their parents about not parking on the grass anywhere in the park. (In follow-up, Mr. Hufferd said the A field lights have some issues but is warranty work and are waiting for repairs.)

City Administrator: Mr. Law told the Board that Freedom Fest went great with lots of people using the trail to go back and forth.

Louisburg Recreation Commission – Ms. Moore said they had a great summer season at LYP. Mr. Hufferd fixed some issues they had during the tournament as she had mentioned previously. Soccer starts Sept. 11 with 400 kids signed up.

- Mr. Knop asked about the pool and if it was going well. Mr. Law said there was a complaint early in the season about the heater and repairs were made.
- Mr. Bazin thanked the LRC and the Anglers Club for their assistance at the Fishing Derby.

- Mr. Bazin thanked the City for their efforts on Freedom Fest. Mr. Knop asked how many persons attended. Mr. Law said the Scouts counted 558 cars once they started using the counter so we think there were well over 1,000 people in attendance.

Item 10: ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McClellan moved, seconded by Mr. Knop and approved 4-0, to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Submitted by Jean Carder, acting recording secretary.