



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 13, 2020**

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 Andy Gibbons

Board Members not present: David Maddox (COVID-19 Concerns)
Jack Kline (COVID-19 Concerns)

City Council: Sandy Harris

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Rec Commission: Diana Moore

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: Nick Shibe and Becky Bowes

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

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

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Wayne Knop to approve June 8, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Andy Gibbons. Motion passed 4-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: Discussion concerning a request from Nick Shibe to organize a soccer camp at L/Y Park. The soccer camp will occur during the second week of August 2020.

Nick Shibe mentioned he has been coordinating with the LHS soccer coach to organize a clinic for 5th through 8th grade players. Shibe's immediate goal is to enhance interest in the sport and improve the skills of younger players. His long-term goal is to setup a feeder program that will make the high school more competitive. Shibe's wishes to organize two camps, one in the Spring and the other will take place in the Fall.

The first camp will be scheduled on August 8th and 9th. The camp will consist of two (three hour) sessions. The morning session will be from 8am to 11am. The afternoon session will be from 6pm to 9pm.

Bob Bazin asked if this camp will create any conflicts with any other events scheduled in the park. Diana Moore replied with no. Moore explained Rec Commission sponsored soccer program will start the following week.

Wayne Knop asked if there were any other soccer camps schedule but canceled this year. Diana Moore replied with yes. She said a company comes down from the city to conduct soccer camps has cancelled this year's event. This company has been holding camps in Louisburg for at least 15 years. Unfortunately, they had to cancel this year's camps because the number of kids interested was too low. Knop asked what age groups were targeted for this camp. Moore stated that they held camps for 4-year old players up to high school aged participants.

Bob Bazin asked if Nick Shibe is part of this organization. Shibe said no and explained that he grew up in Louisburg playing soccer. He was a member of the LHS Soccer Team and played in college. He also mentioned that he had some Olympic soccer training. Shibe said that he has an enormous passion for the sport and wants to share it with future players.

Bob Bazin asked if this camp be required to have insurance.

City Administrator Nathan Law believes Shibe should have a similar insurance rider as LRC.

Andy Gibbons asked how many kids can attend the camp. Shibe said he would like to limit the number to about 20-25 kids per session.

Gibbons then asked will there be a charge to attend the camp. Shibe stated he would charge parents for his expenses such as field usage fees and the cost of t shirts otherwise there will be no additional fees to participate in the camp. Shibe stated soccer is his passion and he is not interested in making a profit. He ended by saying all he wants to give back to the community.

The discussion concluded with no negative comments from any of board members. It was the consensus of the board that the soccer camp scheduled for August 8 and 9 should be allowed to occur. Bob Bazin told Shibe to schedule the fields through the proper channels.

No formal vote was taken for this topic.

Item 6: Discussion concerning a request to expand the pickleball court at City Park.

Becky Bowes mentioned since the pickleball court was painted this spring on the existing tennis court in City Park the number of players has gradually increased causing the need for additional courts. Pickleball has become very popular in Louisburg. Bowes stated on Monday and Wednesday mornings there usually 12-15 players. On Tuesday and Thursday nights they have approximately 8-12 players. Bowes explained only one pickleball court is not enough. Bowes said there is sufficient room in the tennis area to paint two more pickleball courts.

Bowes said, adding two more courts in the tennis area will be at little cost to the city. She will provide the power washer and labor to clean the courts. Bowes also stated she provide the labor

to paint the new courts. She can get the paint for about \$70. Bowes is asking for the city to pay for the paint.

Wayne Knop mentioned new LED lights were recently installed on the tennis/pickleball court area. Knop wanted to know if the new LED lights are an improvement over the old incandescent lights. Bowes replied with yes.

Knop then made a motion to approve the development of two more pickleball courts in the tennis area in City Park with the City paying for the paint. Andy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 7: Update concerning the proposed smoking policy within city parks. A smoking policy was approved by the Park and Tree Board on January 13, 2020 and forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

City Administrator Nathan Law said the City Council had little interest in discussing it. See below proposed smoking policy:

“Restrict tabaco use within fifty feet of all athletic fields, playgrounds, shelters, and designated scouting areas on city owned property”

Michael McClellan mentioned that his son umpires at L/Y Park and from his experiences smoking should be restricted around the ballfields. McClellan went to say teams come down here from the city to play in tournaments and the parents are using foul language and smoking around the kids. Michael McClellan has heard complaints many from coaches and parents concerning the smoking problem at the ballfields.

Wayne Knop asked Diana Moore (Rec Commission) if she has received any complaints about smoking. Moore replied with yes. She said there has not been a night that she has been at the ballfields when smoking has not been an issue.

Bob Bazin asked if we can bring this issue back to the City Council for further consideration.

After additional discussion Michael McClellan made a motion asking the City Council to reconsider a smoking policy at L/Y Park. McClellan also recommends the following

“No Tobacco products in or spectator areas. All smoking shall be limited to parking lots.”

Andy Gibbons seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

No further discussion occurred concerning this item.

REPORTS:

Item 8: Individual area of responsibility updates:

- Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – Bazin mentioned stated he has been thinking of possible uses for City owned property behind Auburns RX along West Amity. This property is extremely small causing future development to be limited. Bazin suggest this property used as community garden. He also mentioned it may be possible for a church organization to run it.

Wayne Knop and Andy Gibbons both mentioned raised garden beds may be beneficial.

Wayne Knop asked if the water meters are still in place. Bob Bazin replied with “I believe so”.

Andy Gibbons stated that he is in favor of the idea.

Bob Bazin asked if research can be done to see if any grant money is available to start this garden.

Jean Carder suggested that the City can partner with a local Master Gardener Organization to operate the proposed community garden.

Michael McClellan suggested that we reach out to the Ministerial Alliance and see if they would be interested on overseeing the garden.

- David Maddax (Aquatic Center) – Not Present
- Andy Gibbons (City Park) – No Comment
- Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – No Comment
- Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – Not Present
- Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – McClellan suggested that we reevaluate the field usage fees at L/Y Park at the end of the season. He mentioned that we may need to standardize the fees to flat rate \$50 and hour regardless if team use lights or not.

It was also mentioned that copperhead snakes have been spotted in the park.

- Diana Moore and/or Amy Buffington (Louisburg Rec Commission) – No comment
- City Administrator – Law mentioned that has been some vandalism on walking trail at Ron Weers Park.

➤ **Item 9: 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 7:18pm.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham