



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 10, 2020**

The Park & Tree Board of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:37 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers with Chairperson Bob Bazin (Arrived 6:37 p.m.) presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Wayne Knop, and Andy Gibbons

Board Members not present due to COVID-19 concerns: David Maddox and Jack Kline

City Council: Sandy Harris

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: None

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 Andy Gibbons. Motion passed 3-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Wayne Knop to approve July 13, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Andy Gibbons. Motion passed 3-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: Discussion concerning a request for a skatepark

Administrator Nathan Law mentioned there is a young individual in our community that has expressed interest in having a skatepark in Louisburg. Law said a similar request was considered by the City Council about nine years ago. It is Law's understanding that city liability was the concern at the time causing the City Council not to move forward with constructing a new skatepark.

Administrator Law explained if the skatepark was constructed completely out of concrete there would be minimal maintenance and easy to maintain from a city perspective. However, the city will always face the possibility that the skatepark may be vandalized at any time causing unforeseen costs. Law then mentioned that he is aware of other communities that have enacted policies that will shut down skateparks if vandalism occurs or if it's not being used as it should.

It was mentioned that are varying construction costs depending on the size, design and amenities of a skatepark features. It was estimated, nine years ago, that a skatepark would cost up to \$50,000 to construct. It was also suggested installing removable structures will cost far less than a concrete ramp system.

Wayne Knop believes Paola paid \$7,000 to build their skatepark. Administrator Law mentioned volunteer work will greatly save money and lower construction costs.

Administrator Law asked if the Park and Tree Board would be interested to pursuing such an amenity in one of the parks. Law believes Ron Weers Parks was considered as a potential location in previous discussions. Other locations were briefly discussed. It was agreed that any skatepark should be in a centralized area that is easily accessible to kids who do not drive. Ron Weers Park and the Aquatic Center property were heavily considered during this discussion.

Bob Bazin asked about liability for the city. Administrator Law mentioned liability will be dependent upon the design and rules associated with the park. Obviously, there will be some risk with having a skatepark. Law said that additional research will have to be done to determine liability and insurance requirements.

Wayne Knop asked if this idea has been brought the City Council yet. Administrator Law said no.

Bob Bazin asked if we can get any grant money for this project. Staff suggested Ottawa may have received a grant for their skate park. Ottawa's skate park is considered a "Teen Park" that has multiple amenities such as three outdoor basketball courts, an agility course, graffiti walls, skate area and a bike/scooter pump track. The catalyst for this type park was to keep kids busy by giving them a centralized place to go and by providing them with something to do. The idea is to keep kids busy and out of trouble. Using the "Teen Park" concept may make grants available for Louisburg.

Andy Gibbons stated that he liked the lake location because of its accessibility and its semi-remoteness. Gibbons also liked the idea of constructing a large concrete pad and placing removable skate structures on it. This will provide the city the option to remove the structures and repurpose the contact pad into basketball court if needed. Gibbons also mentioned that we must also consider the cost of continued maintenance (wear and tear).

Bob Bazin mentioned that concrete structures may be less expensive than removable skatepark structures.

Wayne Knop said that he was recently at Wallace Park in Paola and noticed that their skatepark was constantly busy. He also mentioned that their skatepark did not look that big.

A motion was made by Wayne Knop to request staff to do more research concerning the potential construction of a skatepark in Louisburg. The motion was seconded by Andy Gibbons. The motion passed 3-0.

Administrator Law stated staff will provide the results of their research to the Park and Tree Board upon completion.

No further discussion occurred concerning this topic.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 6: City Park - pickleball court update

Administrator Law mentioned that the new lines have been painted by volunteers and now the city has three pickleball courts in City Park. Staff stated that there were 30 people playing couple of days ago. One person travels from Pleasanton to play. Law said that there has been some interest in adding angle parking on South 5th Street. Currently, the unofficial overflow parking is located at the church. It also was said that there are currently some drainage issues along Olive and South 5th Streets that may interfere with street parking.

REPORTS:

Item 7: Individual area of responsibility updates:

- Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – Bazin mentioned that he heard there was a fishing event at City Lake. Administrator Law stated that the Louisburg Rec Commission (LRC) is sponsoring a “Fishing Camp”. The camp for ages 10-17 and will be held from 8am-11am on August 10th and 14th.

It was explained that the LRC rented the pavilion. Since this was a rental arrangement through the LRC the event was not required to be approved by the Park and Tree Board.

Administrator Law said that there has been some talk about incorporating the “Wildcat Anglers” (LRC Youth Fishing Program) with the annual fishing derby. The “Wildcat Anglers” may be able to assist with the annual fishing derby in the future.

- David Maddax (Aquatic Center) – Not Present
- Andy Gibbons (City Park) – Gibbons mentioned the slab of concrete where the pickleball courts are located is in great shape. Bob Bazin said the concrete was replaced about 9-10 years ago.

Gibbons mentioned that we can have up to four pickleball courts on a regular sized tennis court. He suggested that the board may consider converting the existing tennis court into a full time pickleball court and constructing a new tennis court elsewhere. Gibbons said since pickleball is so popular this maybe an option sometime in the future. An ideal location for the new tennis court would be near the High School. Gibbons also suggested that the city may work with the high school to share costs and jointly build new tennis courts.

It was mentioned while pickleball is growing in popularity but there are still many people who play tennis. It was agreed that the city needs to maintain both types courts for the foreseeable future.

- Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – Knop said that he has been approached last week by two different people asking if the city could establish directional traffic around the trail around City Lake. It was suggested that bikes travel one direction and walker/joggers go the other direction. Staff mentioned that this issue will be addressed in the next city newsletter. Administrator Law then explained trail etiquette.

No further discussion occurred concerning this issue.

- Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – Not Present
- Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – Not Present
- Diana Moore and/or Amy Buffington (Louisburg Rec Commission) – Not Present
- City Administrator –
- City Council Member Sandy Harris – City Council Member Harris mentioned that there is a resident from the Lake Subdivision clearing the brush around the lake. The resident has been doing this type of work for the last few years. He recently started clearing the brush on the east side of the lake. Harris wants to know who can clear brush around the lake. Is anyone allowed to this?

Administrator Law said clearing around the lake was discussed several years ago with the individual. It was recommended that the east side of the lake be minimally maintained to preserve the natural habitat. The City appreciates all the hard work this volunteer has done throughout the years. He has done a wonderful job. However, in this case he may have been a little bit too aggressive. The city will reach out to him and discuss this with him again.

Wayne Knop stated that he is not comfortable with just anyone clearing around the lake. Knop wishes that individuals doing the clearing coordinate with the city more.

City Council Member Harris mentioned that there are muskrats at the lake.

➤ **Item 9: ADJOURNMENT:**

Wayne Knop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Andy Gibbons. The motion passed 3-0. The meeting ended at 7:12 p.m.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham