



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, September 9, 2019**

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:** Dave Maddax, Michael McClellan, Ernie Reinhart, Jack Kline and Wayne Knop  
**City Council:** Thorvald McKiernan  
**City Administrator:** Nathan Law  
**City Staff:** Jean Carder  
**Rec. Commission:** Diana Moore and Greg Prettyman  
**Recording Secretary:** Rusty Whitham  
**Visitors:** None

**Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

A motion was made by Ernie Reinhart, seconded by Michael McClellan, to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

**Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Ernie Reinhart, seconded by Michael McClellan, to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

**Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Greg Prettyman mentioned that he would hate to see the city lose the golf course. Prettyman stated that he has lived in Louisburg all his life and played High School golf on that course.

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**Item 5:** Discussion with Diana Moore concerning a proposed Rec Commission event at L/Y Park

Diana Moore explained that the Rec Commission wishes to organize a haunted hayride and bonfire at L/Y Park on Saturday October 12, 2019. Moore stated she has already talked to the Fire Department who are on board with this event.

Moore suggested that a haunted forest may be added in upcoming years if this initial event is successful.

Moore then asked where would the Park Board allow a Bonfire in the park. Moore stated that the Fire Department had no preference. Multiple locations were suggested by the Park and Tree Board.

Ernie Reinhart asked if this event will be covered under the Rec Commission insurance. Moore replied yes.

No objections were made by any members of the Board for this event. The Park and Tree Board gave the Rec Commission discretion to build a bonfire anywhere in the park with exception of athletic fields. The discussion ended without a vote.

**Item 6:** Discussion concerning Metcalf Ridge Golf Course

Administrator Nathan Law stated the Club of the Country HOA President representing the homeowners surrounding the golf course expressed concerns about the course closing during the last City Council meeting. It was suggested by the HOA that the city intervene to ensure that the course does not remain closed. Law stated that the golf course owner has ceased operations at this time. It was explained that the golf course is within city limits. However, the homes surrounding the course are located within the county.

Administrator Nathan Law explained that the current owner of the Golf Course wishes to close his business and lease the property for cattle grazing. Current Zoning Regulations allows for agricultural use of this property. In addition, State Regulations allow for this use as long as the land is large enough to properly support the number cattle kept on the property so that it doesn't create a public nuisance.

Law stated that he doesn't have an good estimate on how much it would cost to make the needed repairs to the infrastructure of the course. He suggested that the irrigation system and golf cart paths are in need of significant repairs. It was also mentioned that two bridges located on the property need to be replaced. Law then stated there would be a significant cost to purchase the property and make needed improvements. Finding City funds to purchase, repair and operate the course would be difficult. Law asked the Park and Tree Board if they are willing to pare back some of the proposed Master Park Plan improvements and invest that money into a golf course. Law asked the Board member to weigh the quality of life aspects that a golf course provides to our community. It was explained if the city procures the course through purchase, lease, or donation it would most likely fall under the Park and Tree Board as another amenity in the parks system.

Dave Maddax asked how much does it cost to play a round of golf. It was mentioned that it normally costs \$10 a month for membership dues plus \$30 to play. This price includes the use of a cart. All agreed this was a reasonable price to pay for a round of golf. It was stated that the golf carts have already been sold.

It was mentioned that the High School Golf team used the course. Where will they play now?

It was suggested that there is a low profit margin associated with the operation of the golf course.

Law stated that the city has not created a new revenue stream to pay course expenses. Most likely if the golf course is taken over by the city, the Parks Board will have to provide some or

all funding for the operation, maintenance and needed repairs of the course. The expenditure of this money would alter the spending priorities already established the Park and Tree Board.

A lengthy conversation occurred. Many pros and cons were mentioned concerning the procurement of the golf course. After the discussion Jake Kline made a motion to ask Staff to continue to look into the possibilities of procuring the golf course and determine if it would be cost effective for the city to own, maintain, and operate this amenity. The motion was seconded by Dave Maddax. The motion passed 6-0.

**Item 7:** Discussion concerning potential grant money for additional play equipment

Staff mentioned that a sales representative from ABCreative reached out to the city and offered a 50% matching fund opportunity to purchase additional play equipment. Staff suggested that there has been some community interest for inclusive hard surfaced play equipment. This type of equipment would be beneficial for children with disabilities, partially wheelchair bound children. The matching funds would be for equipment only and not for surfacing. Staff asked if the Park and Tree Board wishes to move forward and identify a park that this equipment would be installed in.

Staff presented the board with an illustration depicting a few play equipment options. Most notable was a picture of equipment that was recently installed within the City of Basehor.

Ernie Reinhart asked if the matching funds can only be used for inclusive play equipment. Staff replied with no. It was explained that this money can be used for any type of play equipment.

Administrator Law mentioned that we must consider a location that is near had hard surfaced area to allow children with disabilities access to the equipment. It was mentioned that Ron Weers Park and L/Y Park both have areas that are reasonably accessible for wheelchairs.

Jack Kline stated that ABCreative is a good company with a great reputation.

It was mentioned that all parks in the Master Parks Plan have been selected for new play equipment.

Ernie Reinhart made a motion to have Staff move forward with the 50% matching fund opportunity. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. The motion passed 6-0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Item 8:** Discussion concerning a price quote to repaint existing lines on the tennis court and include additional lines for pickleball court in City Park.

Staff mentioned that the city received an \$1800 quote from Patchworks Plus, LLC.

Ernie Reinhart reminded everyone that the original motion made on August 12, 2019 stated:  
*“If the painting costs greater than \$250 the Park Board may request funds from Rec Commission as a cost share initiative.”*

Reinhart recommends that we approach the Rec Commission concerning a 50% cost share.

Reinhart then made a motion recommending the expenditure of up to \$2000 to repaint the lines on the tennis court to include new lines for a pickleball court at City Park. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline. The motion passed 6-0.

**Item 9:** Discussion concerning a Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Fisheries grant for a diffuser system at City Lake. The City has been awarded a grant worth \$18,537.00 for this system

Staff provided a cost analysis associated for the installation of the diffuser system:

Total cost \$27,952.00 of Diffuser/Aerator System at City Lake:

\$3,150.00 – Apple Electric – Run electrical power to compressor and pour concrete pad.  
\$6,265.00 – Diffuser/Aerator System and installation.  
**\$9,415.00 – Total Cost to Louisburg**

\$18,537.00 – Diffuser/Aerator System and installation. Kansas Dept. of Wildlife Grant.

It was also indicated that the annual maintenance contract will be \$ 1,728.00

Wayne Knop asked if we determined if this equipment will make any noise that will disturb the neighbors. Staff explained yes. The noise should be minimal.

Knop then asked if the Kansas Fish and Game Department indicated if the diffuser system will help with the algae. Staff replied with yes and added that is why this grant was made available to us.

Dave Maddax asked if the system will cut the cost of chemicals. Staff said yes but we won't know for sure until the system is up and running.

Knop asked if this system can be snagged by fishing hooks. All agreed that the system is designed so that it cannot to be snagged.

After additional discussion, Dave Maddax made a motion to move forward with the installation of the diffuser system in City Lake. Jack Kline seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

## **REPORTS:**

**Item 10:** Individual area of responsibility updates:

- Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – No Comment
- David Maddax (Aquatic Center) – Maddax asked Staff to provide him with the total number of patrons that used the Aquatic Center during the 2019 swim season. Maddax indicated that he would like to present this data to the Park and Tree Board next month.
- Ernie Reinhart (City Park) – Reinhart asked if we could have the yellow piping currently used as a boarder around the play equipment removed. He suggested that the piping is unsightly

and not needed. Staff agreed. Reinhart than asked when can we start soliciting bids for a new picnic pavilion at City Park.

- Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – Knop mentioned that the bridge has some rotten board that need to be replaced. Administrator Law stated that Staff is aware of the issue and will have the boards replaced as soon as possible. Law suggested that he would like to replace all the wooden boards with composite lumber, but indicated the composite lumber may be cost prohibitive.

Knop then mentioned that the shelter house is being used a lot lately. It was suggested that the usage of amenity is more than usual. The parking lots are overflowing and this is something that we need to look at.

Knop asked if the bathrooms could be kept longer throughout the fall and somewhat into the winter months. Staff mentioned that they would look into it.

- Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – No Comment
- Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – No Comment
- Diana Moore (Louisburg Rec Commission) –. No Comment
- City Administrator – No Comment

**Item 8: ADJOURNMENT:**

Jack Kline made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting ended at 7:24pm.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham