



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, September 11, 2017**

The Park Board of Louisburg, Kansas met at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers with Chairperson Bob Bazin presiding.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Wayne Knop, Michael McClellan, and Jack Kline

City Administrator: Nathan Law

City Staff: Jean Carder

Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham

Visitors: Torrie Battle

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Jack Kline to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Wayne Knop. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Wayne Knop to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2017 Park and Tree Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. Motion carried 4-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Persons who wish to address the Park Board regarding items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Speakers will be limited to three (3) minutes. Any presentation is for informational purposes only. No action will be taken. None.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: A discussion with Angela Chase concerning her request to conduct dog training classes at L/Y Park.

Angela Chase was not present at this meeting. This item was not discussed.

Item 6: A discussion with Torrie Battle concerning a possible memorial donation in L/Y Park.

Torrie Battle explained that Travis Harlan was a local resident that volunteered a lot of personal time to support youth baseball in Louisburg. Harlan made a positive impact on a countless number of children and families in our community. Battle provided a number of examples where Travis Harlan went over and above to assist baseball players. Battle stated that Harlan was an important part the youth baseball community.

Travis Harlan was killed in a motor vehicle accident last week. As a memorial to Travis Harlan multiple families from the youth baseball community would like to place a scorekeeper's bench behind home plate on field "A" in L/Y Park. This bench will include a brushed aluminum plaque in memory of Harlan that will be mounted on top of the scorekeeper's bench. See attached bench and plaque pictures. All costs associated with the proposed scorekeeper's bench will be the responsibility of the families donating the item. Battle went on by stating that there is a group of young baseball players that is willing to maintain this bench annually or as needed. This group is called GForc (Guys for Christ). Battle emphasized that no costs will be incurred by the city for this memorial. Battle ended by mentioning that this type of bench is a perfect way to honor Travis Harlan and his family.

Michael McClellan suggested that the proposed scorekeeper's bench would be a wonderful addition to the baseball fields. The location of this bench is ideal for someone to keep track of pitch count during games. Pitch count is a new requirement for high school baseball games.

It was mentioned that the bench will be placed on gravel. Bob Bazin is concerned that there will be no way to secure the bench if it's not placed on concrete. Michael McClellan mentioned he doubts that anyone will remove the new bench. McClellan suggests that there is no history of theft or relocating equipment such as benches in L/Y Park. McClellan recommended securing the bench to the backstop using an eyebolt and chain if needed. McClellan doesn't suspect that this will be an issue.

A discussion with Jack Kline occurred concerning the placement of the plaque. Kline asked if the plaque is centered on the bench will it interfere with the person responsible for scorekeeping. Battle stated that the plaque will be placed in the corner of the bench so that it will not interfere with the scorekeeper. Kline requested vandal resistant screws be used to mount the plaque to the bench. Battle agreed.

After additional discussion Wayne Knop made a motion to approve the proposed memorial scorekeeper's bench that will be placed behind home plate on field "A" in L/Y Park. This bench will be donated to L/Y Park in memory of Travis Harlan. The motion was seconded by Michael McClellan. The motion passed 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 7: None

REPORTS:

Item 8: Individual area of responsibility updates:

Bob Bazin (Chairperson) - No additional comments or reports from the Park and Tree Board President were made.

Lonnie Kuntz (Aquatic Center) - Not present at this meeting

Ernie Reinhart (City Park) – Not present at this meeting

Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – Knop mentioned that Christmas lights will be installed at Ron Weers Park this year by Wayne and his wife. Nathan Law stated that the city appreciates the effort that Wayne and Sue Knop put forth to ensure that lights are up every year at Ron Weers Park. Everyone agreed that the lights always look great.

Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – Kline mentioned that since the Park and Tree Board has recently been considering improvements to City Park he decided to take a look at the playground equipment in the park for himself. As a former certified playground safety inspector Kline is in a unique position to provide insight on the condition of the playground equipment in our parks. Kline noted some safety concerns relating to a large piece of playground equipment in City Park. See below picture. He stated that someone has cut a hole in of the crawl tubes leaving jagged edges and allowing a space where a child can poke their head through the hole and potentially suffer injury. Kline also noted spider cracks in the slide. These cracks are not a hazard now but may become a safety concern in the near future. Kline explained that it may be time to spend thousands of dollars repairing this equipment or conceder replacing entirely in the near future. However, the jagged hole that was recently created in the tube is safety hazard. The tube needs to be either replaced or repaired as soon as possible to avoid possible injuries.

Kline recommended that this piece of equipment not be relocated. He suggested this piece of equipment be replaced with something different when the park is reconfigured. Law mentioned the city is planning on purchasing new equipment under a multi-year parks revitalization program. Kline stated this piece of playground equipment may have exceeded or is closely approaching its lifespan.



Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – McClellan mentioned that he talked to USD416 and they expressed interest in finishing the dugout project that was started earlier this year. The needed materials for this project were purchased this spring and all that needs to be done is coordinate with the shop class instructor to do the work. McClellan also stated that he plans to organized a group of volunteers to power wash the dugouts in the near future.

City Administrator – No additional comments or reports from the City Administrator were made.

Item 9: ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Michael McClellan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting concluded at 6:55pm.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham
Recording Secretary