



**LOUISBURG PARK AND TREE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, October 14, 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, Ernie Reinhart, Jack Kline, Wayne Knop
Mayor: Marty Southard
City Administrator: Nathan Law
City Staff: Jean Carder
Rec. Commission: Diana Moore and Greg Prettyman
Recording Secretary: Rusty Whitham
Visitors: Robin Ayling, Peggy Shaver and Butch Overly

Item 1: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

A motion was made by Ernie Reinhart, seconded by Jack Kline, to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

Item 3: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Ernie Reinhart, seconded by Wayne Knop, to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2019 meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

Item 4: PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Greg Prettyman stated that he is affiliated with the Barracuda Swim Team. He explained that the Barracuda Swim Team uses the Aquatic Center for morning practices and for a league swim meets at least once a year. Prettyman wants to ensure that the Park and Tree Board Members understand that there is a large number of swim team members using the pool during the swim season. Prettyman said that there are approximately 125 kids on the team. The team practices every morning between 6-10am Monday through Friday through the season. In addition, the Barracuda Swim Team offers swim lessons for approximately 200-250 community children annually at the Aquatics Center. Swim lessons are provided during three sessions during the summer.

Prettyman also mentioned that he has boxwood hedge plants he is willing to donate to the city. Prettyman suggested that the hedges can be planted between the recently installed park benches in City Park.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 5: Discussion with Robin Ayling concerning a proposed K9 competition event at L/Y Park. The projected dates for this event are November 4-8, 2020.

Robin Ayling representing the “Flint Hills Working Dogs” chapter of the “United Schutzhund Clubs of America” explained that her organization is dedicated to protecting and preserving the German Shepherd Dog’s working heritage by hosting shows, breed surveys, and Schutzhund trials. These “exams” are major contributors in ensuring that we consistently breed only the finest dogs and ensure that the German Shepherd dog continues to be the best and most versatile breed. The United Schutzhund Clubs of America (USCA) is a proud member club of the World Union of German Shepherd Dog Clubs (WUSV) and the American Working Dog Federation (AWDF).

Ayling then presented a video to the Park and Tree Board that provided additional information about USCA.

After the video Aylin explained USCA is accepting bids for the 2020 USCA National Championships that will be in November 2020. Ayling mentioned that the championships were held in California in 2018 and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 2019. Louisburg is centrally located in the United States making it a more attractive for competitors to attend. The Louisburg area and L/Y Park have a lot of amenities that make this a suitable location. Aylin stated that she is anticipating 78-80 dog teams consisting of approximately 800-1000 people to attend. The actual competition is scheduled to begin on November 6, 2020 and will end November 8, 2020. However, L/Y Park will be need to available starting November 4, 2020 for set up. This event should affect Louisburg in a positive way. This competition will bring competitors from all over the United States to include some international judges into the Louisburg aea. These people will most likely eat at Louisburg restaurants and shop in locally owned stores.

Ernie Reinhart asked would USCA be opposed to local organizations selling concessions during the event. Reinhart suggested raising money for a dog park. Ayling replied fundraisers at the championship would be perfectly fine. Any organization will be welcome to fundraise during the event.

Bob Bazin asked if this USCA event will have liability insurance. Ayling replied with yes.

Bob Bazin then asked if there are any scheduling conflicts for L/Y Park. Ayling stated that she has already contacted the Rec Commission and confirmed that no other activities are scheduled during the requested timeframe. Diana Moore also confirmed that no Rec Commission activities are scheduled during the proposed event.

Jack Kline asked about parking. Ayling estimated that there will be a maximum of 300 cars at any one time during the event. It was agreed that there is sufficient parking. It was also mentioned that the expected number of people attending this event should be similar to the number of people that attend the annual tractor pull.

Wayne Knop asked what location in L/Y Park would be used for this event. Ayling replied that that they will use the concession area and the old high school soccer field. Ayling confirmed that the baseball fields and youth soccer fields will not be used.

Ernie Reinhart asked if there is a rainout date. Ayling replied that this event will occur as scheduled rain or shine. There are no alternate dates.

Jack Kline asked who would clean up after the event. Ayling replied that the event organizers will ensure that the park is clean when the event over. The participants will clean the area or they will hire someone local to clean the area. Ayling said that they will consider hiring an organization like the Boy Scouts to clean up for a fundraiser.

Dave Maddax asked will USCA ensure that there are a sufficient number of porta johns at the event. Ayling replied yes. The “United Schutzhund Clubs of America” will ensure that there are enough porta-johns on-site during the event. Ayling asked if the restrooms located at the park will be available. She explained that they would like to designate the existing restrooms for the judges. Competitors and visitors will use porta-johns. Staff replied the restrooms should be available.

Bob Bazin asked what is the process to get an event like this approved. Administrator Law replied that the Park and Tree Board should make a recommendation. Law also mentioned that USCA should complete a Special Events application. Both the application and Park Board recommendation will be presented to the City Council for additional consideration.

Jack Kline asked if there will be anyone at the event selling items other than concessions. Ayling replied yes. She explained normally there are vendors selling dog related items at all their events. There will also be breeders on-site.

Wayne Knop asked are there any other locations considered for this event and is there a bid process. Ayling replied yes. There is another site being considered in Maine. USCA should make their decision sometime in January.

After addition discussion Ernie Reinhart made a motion to make L/Y Park available for the USCA National Championships. The park shall be available to USCA during November 4th thru 8th, 2020. USCA shall use the concession stand area, any established parking areas and the old high school soccer field. The motion was seconded by Jack Kline. The motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Item 6: Discussion concerning Aquatic Center attendance and usage during the 2019 swim season. This information was requested by Dave Maddax.

Staff presented attendance and usage during the 2019 swim. After a lengthy discussion no action was taken by the Park and Tree Board.

Item 7: Discussion concerning results from the recent Park Survey. The community provided input regarding potential improvements to the parks system.

Staff presented park survey results. After a lengthy discussion no action was taken by the Park and Tree Board.

Item 8: Update concerning the installation of diffuser system at City Lake.

Staff mentioned that a installation team will arrive in town on Thursday (October 16) to install the diffuser system. The system should be up and running with a few days.

No further discussion occurred concerning this topic.

REPORTS:

Item 9: Individual area of responsibility updates:

- Bob Bazin (Chairperson) – None
- David Maddax (Aquatic Center) – None
- Ernie Reinhart (City Park) – Reinhart asked if the swings on the recently installed swing set in City Park could be adjusted to facilitate younger children. The swings are too high. Reinhart suggested that the chains be lengthened or more mulch be added. Administrator Nathan Law said that Staff can look into it.
- Wayne Knop (Ron Weers Park) – Knop mentioned there are a lot of boards on the bridge in Ron Weers that are rotting and may need to be replaced. Administrator Nathan Law said that some of the worst boards have already been replaced and there is a plan to replace them all.
- Jack Kline (Forestry Manager) – Kline stated that he and Butch Overly will be working the International Arbor Day Foundation in Nebraska City, Nebraska to foster educational opportunities and perhaps get free seedlings or at a reduced price for the city. Kline said that more details will be coming in the near future.

It was also mentioned that Kline and Overly will be attending a Statewide Community Forestry Seminar in Overland Park on November 14, 2019. This seminar/training is being conducted by the Kansas Forestry Service.

- Michael McClellan (Lewis-Young Park) – Not Present
- Diana Moore (Louisburg Rec Commission) – Moore mentioned that the Rec Commission held a community haunted hayride in L/Y Park on Saturday October 12, 2019. The event occurred with no issues.
- City Administrator – None

Item 10: ADJOURNMENT:

Wayne Knop made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dave Maddax. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting ended at 8:02pm.

Submitted by Rusty Whitham