

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, May 13, 2024

Meeting called to order – Members in attendance Dave Davis, Kara McDaniel, Wendy Sachen, Jennifer Tobey, Jeff Porter, and Shelly Cannon.

Approval of Minutes – March and April minutes were approved.

Staff Reports

Carol Varner – Vice-President, River City Community Players

- *The Miss Firecracker Contest* had 215 in attendance.
- Had some vandalism at the ticket office. “George” was stripped of half his coat and his hat. The RCCP President posted it on social media and a local news outlet came to do a story.
- *Cyrano, A Nose by Any Other Name* - Youth Show performances are June 7, 8, 9.
- Call for Directors for the 2025 season has gone out.
- *Seussical* auditions are June 17, 18, and 19.

David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Regular duties - Mowing, tree limb pickups, trimming
- Spring soccer season ended
- Master Gardeners have planted the Delaware flowerbeds and staff has mulched them. Landing Park to be planted this coming weekend.
- Staffing – lost Shane Milburn to Public Works as a Construction Inspector. Gained prior staffer, Clayton Pfrimmer, back as a park tech. Have one returning seasonal worker and three new seasonals going through pre-employment testing.
- Completed the skate park sign and bench in time for the unveiling this past Friday, May 10.

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Increased number of players by 37 over last year’s numbers. Consequently, moving the oldest level of softball to play on Field 5 at Sportsfield. Games for youth ball start on June 3.
- Entering a contract with Jarvy’s to run concessions at Sportsfield this year.

Nancy Baker – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Finishing last session of spring group swim lessons. Registration open and selling well for summer group swim lessons. Four sessions available this summer.
- Staff has been at Wollman Aquatic Center (WAC) preparing for the season. Cleaning, draining, refilling, pulling out lounge chairs, etc., to get ready for opening day.
- Three new lifeguards are in the hiring process. Also, have an interview this week for another guard.
- Passes will go on sale next week at the WAC cashier window. We really encourage people to come during this week to save time on buying passes. Dave Davis asked if we could put that on the Stubby Park sign to help inform the public.

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- **Special Events:**

- Touch-A-Truck on May 1 went well. We had a variety of vehicles with companies bringing more than one piece of equipment. In addition, some departments had stress toys to handout to the children.
- Dad and Me Campout coming up on June 8. Have several spots sold.
- Christmas is July market has 49 of 62 booths sold. Expect this to sell out before the event on July 13.
- Getting contracts in order and working with vendors for the Dive-In movies coming in July, July 20 (Family) and July 27 (Adult).
- Kara McDaniel asked what the concessions would be like at WAC this year. Nancy answered same as last year – vending machines only.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- Events –
 - Some of the events over the past two weeks included:
 - CGSC Dinner
 - Leavenworth County Democrats Gala
 - CASA’s Night at the Races
 - Events coming up include graduation parties, Project Graduation which uses the entire building until 2:00 a.m., and currently housing two churches each week.

Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
 - **Parks and Recreation Administrative Office Move** – Waiting for Sands to finalize some numbers. Hope to take to the City Commission on June 11. Jeff Porter asked about funding for the office move. There is a not to exceed amount of \$385,000 in the 2024 CIP for this project.
 - **Sidewalk Replacement in Various Parks** – Completed work at Haymarket, David Brewer, 10th Avenue Park, Arborway, and Landing Park and parking lot.
 - **Sportsfield Trail/Access Road Replacement** – Almost complete, asphalt and concrete are in place, just need some grading and seeding done.
- **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement** – Sands may be pouring concrete on May 14. About 325 yards of concrete for the pickleball court area. Hoping to pour the basketball court later this week. Very happy with how the work is progressing. Jeff Porter asked questions about materials being used and the state of the parking lot now versus when the project is over. The City built in work for the parking lot knowing that the heavy equipment would take a toll.
- **Naming of Skatepark “Cody James Clark Skatepark”** – Thanks to everyone who attended the ceremony. Had great weather and a great turnout. Later that afternoon, met with Dillon Lopez who is adopting the skate park and will help maintain the area.

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New Business

- **Splash Pad** – Opening on May 17. Water runs from 10 a.m. to sundown, daily.
- **RFCC Basement Lighting Replacement Project and RFCC Gym Door Replacement Project** – will get both projects out to bid this week. Both are in the 2024 CIP.
- **Skatepark Expansion Project** – Requests for bids will go out soon for expansion to the east of the current skatepark. Dave Davis asked about the possibility of adding a new skatepark in the south part of town for those residents. Steve Grant explained that would be a great deal more money than expanding what we have now.

Board Input – Jennifer Tobey asked about being able to add a pump track in the skatepark area if grant money were available to pay for it. Jennifer explained what a pump track is and she will possibly help write the grant request for the project. Steve Grant suggested she send him information of what she would like to see and how she proposes to fund it, and staff will review to see if we can do this.

Next meeting – Monday, June 10, 2024