

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, July 8, 2024

Meeting called to order – Members in attendance Dave Davis, Kara McDaniel, Wendy Sachen, Jennifer Tobey, Steve Zamora, Marianne Tennant, and Shelly Cannon.

Approval of Minutes – May minutes were approved.

Staff Reports

David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Regular duties-Mowing, watering trees, flowerbeds, tree limb pickups, trimming, and baseball fields.
- Closed Three-Mile Creek and Landing trails due to flooding. Will reopen on 7/9 after cleaning the trails.
- Closed Riverfront Campground on 6/28 due to flooding. Reopened today, 7/8.
- Staffing – Just completed interviews and hired two more seasonals for this summer. Both are interested in possibly returning next summer.

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Baseball/Softball is wrapping up this week. We lost one night to extreme heat and one game on two fields last week due to rain. The pitching machines did well.
- American Legion is holding a tournament at Sportsfield 1 the last weekend of July. Games will start at 9 a.m. and end by 10 p.m.
- Preparing for our annual Labor Day tennis tournament.
- Brian Bailey added that Tabor's staff and David's staff have done well keeping things running so well.
- Dave Davis asked what the criteria is for heat to cancel games. Tabor replied it must be a 105° heat index. The one game that was rescheduled this year had a 107° heat index at noon, so games were canceled early that day.

Nancy Baker – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Offering a summer lifeguarding class this week, July 10 – 12.
- Our summer swim team, the Leavenworth Riptides, finished up their season at the end of June. We had an increase of 30% in registered swimmers.
- Currently on our third summer session of group swim lessons. Lessons continue to fill up. We will finish up our last summer session on July 25. Have also had some private lessons purchased during the summer.
- Wollman Aquatic Center is continuing to support the clear bag policy, and we are also selling bags (at cost). People are buying them and adhering to the new policy.
- A new security guard is working at WAC, which seems to be going well. With the new bag policy and the addition of a security presence, things have improved.

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- **Special Events (July in National Parks and Recreation Month):**

- Christmas in July market – vendor booths sold out.
- Dive-In movies coming in July, July 20 (Family) and July 27 (Adult). Vendors are in place. For the Family Dive-In – Kona Ice and Wild Cactex will be available. For the Adult Dive-In, both of those vendors as well as Z&M Twisted Vines and 11worth Station BrewHouse will be on hand.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- Only 3 Saturdays available for the rest of 2024 in the Riverview Room.
- In the next month –
 - International Officers Honorary Citizens Day
 - Two Weddings
 - Several baby showers, birthday parties, and two celebrations of life.

Melanie Marcec – President, River City Community Players

- *Seussical* rehearsals are going along great.
- Gathering directors for 2025 season of shows.

Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
 - **Parks and Recreation Administrative Office Move** – Sands is still working on revisions to the original bid to finalize some numbers. We expect to hear something later this week.
 - **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement** – Project is moving along nicely. Concrete is down, flowerbed is ready for flowers, poles in for fence, but waiting on coating for courts. Once that is done and asphalt repairs are made, we are pretty much done. We do not have an updated completion date yet, but things are going very well. We are very pleased with the work Sands Construction is doing on this project. Dave Davis asked what kind of coating will be used on the concrete – Brian replied it will be “like an epoxy coating” which will give the colors of the courts and the lines, has grit so it is not slick. Two coats will be applied. Trees and grass have been planted, electric for the lights is done, just waiting on a few final things.
 - **RFCC Basement Lighting** – Laven Electric has ordered the bulbs and expect delivery this week. Start date has yet to be determined. This covers all of the lights in the basement and on the track. All will be LED.
 - **RFCC Gym Door Replacement** – Overhead Door has a key to be able to make locks for the new doors. These doors must be specially made to fit the size of the opening. Installation date will be after receipt of the doors.
 - **Skatepark Expansion** - Requests for bids expected to go out by the end of this week. Hoping to present our final request to the City Commission in August for a bowl extension on the east end of the current park. Dave Davis asked if there has been any recent vandalism. The park has been adopted by a resident who visits the park every day and attends to graffiti that appears on the walls of the park.

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- **WAC Clear Bag Policy** – Due to some issues at Wollman Aquatic Center and keeping everyone’s safety as our primary concern, we decided to implement a clear bag policy. The bag may be clear plastic or see-through mesh so we can see inside the bags without handling people’s personal items. We purchased 200 clear bags to give to people during the first week. We had many people ask if they could buy the bags once our initial supply ran out. We ordered more and sell them at the cashier’s window at cost. We learned a great deal while implementing this policy about current pool processes and areas where we can improve. Since implementing the policy and adding a part-time security guard, we have seen improvements in the overall atmosphere at the center.
- **Vacant Board Position** – We are working with the City Clerk’s office to fill our open Board position. There was already an application on file that has been forwarded to the Mayor for consideration. We are waiting to hear back. Our City Clerk is following up with the Mayor to see if we can move forward with the applicant.
- **Staff 2025 Budget Meeting with City Commission on June 28** – Staff presented our 2025 operating budget to the City Commission for review. The meeting went well.

New Business

- **River Level** – Campground closure, as mentioned earlier. Closed from June 28 through July 7. Fortunately, it did not get into any buildings or even to the road. We closed to keep safety at the forefront, and reopened today now that the river has receded.
- **Leavenworth Times Article from July 3** – The Board discussed the article in the paper that mentioned **examples** of services that would need to be cut if the City Commission wants to remain “revenue neutral”. There was concern that the services seemed to all be Parks and Recreation services. The article lists other options including city-sponsored business grant program and the rental coordinator program. The City Commission will be do a roll-call vote on ~~July 23~~ (correction – roll call vote will be on August 27) on whether or not to exceed the “revenue neutral” rate. The question was asked, “What can we (the Board) do?” The answer – email your City Commissioners.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Next meeting – Monday, August 12, 2024