

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board Minutes of Monday, August 12, 2024

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

Approval of Minutes – July minutes were approved.

Staff Reports

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Preparing for our annual Labor Day tennis tournament.
- Dave Davis asked how the American Legion tournament went. Tabor explained they cancelled before the tournament took place and the Legion received a refund.

Nancy Baker – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Staff taught both a Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor classes, in which we recruited two new lifeguards, and certified six lifeguard staff to teach American Red Cross swimming lessons.
- One fall session of group swimming lessons is now open for registration and will be taught on Saturday mornings in November and December.
- Three weekends remain for Wollman Aquatic Center operations for the 2024 season!! We will finish off with the Annual Doggie Splash on Saturday, Sept 7.
- The showing for the Family Dive In on July 20 was *Kung Fu Panda 4*. Registration and attendance was about what it was last year, approximately 135 people. Operationally, all went well, including the two vendors: Kona Ice and Wild Cactex.
- The Adult Dive In (Night Swim) on July 27 was postponed due to a staff medical emergency just prior to the showing. We have one year to reschedule at no additional rate.
- Registration also coming in for other fall special events besides the Doggie Splash: Trunk or Treat on October 19 (vendors will be able to sign up starting September 1) and the Holiday Flea Market on November 2.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- In the next month –
 - 1800's Ball
 - War Games
 - Harvey Girls Lunch
 - Two Wedding Receptions
 - Baby Showers, Birthday Parties, Anniversaries, Retirement Parties, etc.

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board Minutes of Monday, August 12, 2024

Melanie Marcec – President, River City Community Players

- *Seussical* is showing now. Record numbers seeing the show. One more weekend to catch it.
- Auditions and rehearsals for Disney's *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* are currently being held at the community center.

David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Regular duties-Mowing (took last week off mowing and took down trees), watering trees, flowerbeds, tree limb pickups, and trimming.
- Sportsfield Complex in the process of preparing it for the winter. Spraying weeds, cleaning, etc.
- Staffing – After Wednesday, we will be down to one temporary/seasonal worker instead of four. We are also down two full-time employees to other City jobs. One will be a police officer, one is going to code enforcement.

Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
 - **Parks and Recreation Administrative Office Move** – Met with Sands Construction last Thursday (8/8). We hope to have something ready for the City Commission by the end of September.
 - **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement** – Project is almost complete. Coating is done; fencing is done, starting to take down orange fencing and temporary erosion control. Currently working on asphalt cuts in the parking lot. We expect to have a date for a grand opening soon.
 - **RFCC Basement Lighting** – Laven Electric is currently working on this project. Expect the project to be done by this Wednesday (8/14). It looks really good. All lights around the track and in the restroom will be LED.
 - **RFCC Gym Door Replacement** – Overhead Door is the vendor. Steve Grant did contact the muralist about the new doors being installed. The artist will be able to come back and paint the new doors.
 - **Trail Seal Coating** – 10th Avenue Park and Sportsfield trails were re-seal coated to help extend the life of the trails. Work is completed.
 - **Skatepark Expansion** – Packet enclosed. Very excited about this project. Taking it to the City Commission on August 13 for approval. Sands Construction is the only company that put in a bid. We have a not to exceed price. Work will be completed before the end of the year.
- **City Commission Meetings** –
 - **August 13**, Second Consideration for Special Use Permit to zone Abeles Field for a transfer station.
 - **August 27**, Revenue Neutral Rate and 2025 Budget Approval.

**Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board
Minutes of Monday, August 12, 2024**

New Business

- **City Manager Replacement Schedule Update** – The City Commission had a special meeting last week to review the applicants for the City Manager position. They have narrowed it down to five people. Expecting interviews to be the first week of September. Department Heads will be asked to sit in on some of them.
- **Sons of American Revolution Request** – Proposal attached. Jack Walker of the Sons of the American Revolution is requesting the City's help locating a City property where the SAR can plant a grove of 13 trees in honor of the 250th anniversary of our nation. The City wants to support the idea, but maybe with a different approach that would not be 13 trees. One idea is to plant the national tree of the United States, which is an oak tree, with a marker and a concrete bench. The Board agrees we should try to help SAR find a reasonable option for their request. Dave Davis asked about the possibility of incorporating it into the plans for Gazebo Park. This does not necessarily need to go on City property. It is possible they will find a private land owner that will do the project.

Board Input

- **Marianne Tennant** – Any information on Camp Leavenworth. Steve Grant replied that they are always looking for volunteers. The festival is scheduled for the third Friday and Saturday in September (9/20 and 9/21). The website is campleavenworth.com for all the details.
- **Chuck Johnson – New Park Board Member** – Brief introduction of why he joined the Board. Has experience working with and for Parks and Recreation in his past. Tennis player and hiker. Formerly worked in Marketing. Now an unpaid farm hand for his daughter's organic farm in Easton.
- **Dave Davis** – Presenting at the Rotary Club this Wednesday.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Next meeting – Monday, September 9, 2024

12" Storm pipe

318.942 ft



Threemile Creek



Sportsfield Pk Trl

12" Storm pipe
318.94 ft

2832.64 ft²



PROPOSAL

The Henry Leavenworth Chapter of The Sons of the American Revolution proposes to honor our country with the emplacement of a grove of trees consisting of 13 trees representing the 13 original Colonies that founded our nation. Each tree will represent one of the original colonies with a specie tree that is native to the colony it represents. In addition, there would be a plaque with the colony name and information about their participation in the revolutionary effort. There would be a concrete bench emplaced bearing the information about the purpose of the memorial and the name of the donor, that being the Sons of the American Revolution.

To accomplish this effort, we would request a parcel of land that would hold the 13 trees and a bench which is believed to be approximately one acre. The prominence of the area to the public would provide a permanent teaching area for schools and visitors to our community as we honor the 250th Anniversary of our Nation.

The SAR Chapter would donate the funds for the trees and procure the engraved markers and a bench which would be donated to the entity that would provide the land. If necessary, the SAR could contract with the arborists from whom the trees are procured to plant the trees. The bench could be handled similarly to ensure it is level and stable. We would expect that the city could provide the mowing and watering necessary to ensure the site remains attractive.

Having surveyed the area to meet the requirement we have found that the well-maintained area located near the Planters Hotel Site as an ideal location for this memorial. It has nearby parking, and several Wayside Markers which could draw visitors to the area and add to the history lesson and place of interest for visitors to our city.

Henry Leavenworth Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution