

# Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

## Minutes of Monday, September 9, 2024

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

**Approval of Minutes** – September minutes were approved.

### Staff Reports

**Tammy Metzgar** – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- A couple of big events since we met last:
  - Buffalo Bill Wild West Fundraiser
  - Camp Leavenworth on September 20 and 21
  - Lansing Education Foundation Gala
  - Three churches in the building on October 13, but it was the last day for City Won church who is moving into their own space. This will leave one church, Heritage Church, coming twice a week.
- Coming up (October and November):
  - Autoharp class this week
  - Two wedding receptions this weekend
  - Rapid Response Howl at the Moon
  - Rotary District Conference
  - Council on Aging on 11/2, Dancing through the Decades
  - LHS Soccer Banquet
  - LHS Murder Mystery Dinner
  - Faith Evangelistic Church Fall Party
  - Child Abuse Prevention Council
  - Military Memorabilia Sale
  - Regular events like birthdays, baby showers, Medicare meetings, a couple more weddings and Christmas parties start 12/3.

**Steve Grant** for River City Community Players

- Currently rehearsing *Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express*, opens first week in November and runs the second weekend, ending on November 10. Marianne invited everyone to come out, the set and the costumes are fantastic, cast is already off-script.
- *Disney's Little Mermaid, Jr.* hit pre-COVID numbers, went way over expectations
- Annual Youth Christmas Show coming up on 12/13, 14, and 15
- Preparing for the first show in 2025 (a musical) *Something Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Auditions in December, show opens 2/28.

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### David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Last week mowed one more time and it may be the last time since we haven't had any rain
- Continue watering trees, and will continue until ground freezes
- Had Camp Leavenworth setup and tear-down
- Changing banners pretty regularly with all of the events we have in the fall
- Painting soccer fields for at least two weeks, last weekend is October 26
- Winterized the WAC and Hawthorn Splash Pad
- Preparing for Trunk-or-Treat this weekend
- Quite a bit of painting and clean up due to graffiti/vandalism
- Installed memorial bench with pad at the dog park
- Closed Dougherty Park Restroom early due to issues with vandalism and transient guests not allowing people into the restrooms, even for cleaning. Restrooms normally close at the end of October, but there were too many issues to warrant leaving these restrooms open.

### Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Before Tabor began his report, Dave Davis made a comment about playing at the new pickleball courts on October 13. Very windy. Dave asked if the green mesh would do anything for the wind. Steve Grant replied it does, but it also puts stress on the fencing. Avid pickleballers comments say, "it's outdoor pickleball". Shelly Cannon said people from around the metro have come to play on our courts and love them.
- Tabor continued with the pickleball conversation – partnered with All Out Pickleball. On Wednesday nights through October, this group runs a "league". Went for four weeks and each week grew by at least 2, topped out at 20. Last week we had to cancel due to only 7 players signed up (probably due to the Royals playoff game). Back up to 16 registered so far for this week.
- Youth sports registration either in process or coming up:
  - Youth Basketball – 10/1-10/31 (late registration until 11/15)
  - Youth Futsal – 10/15 – 11/15 (late registration until 11/30)
  - Bitty Basketball – 11/1 – 11/30 (late registration until 12/15)Dave Davis asked where Futsal is played. It is played in the Riverfront Community Center's gymnasium in January and February.

### Nancy Baker – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Fall group swim lessons will start November 2. All the lower level classes are full; Levels 3 and 4 have spots open. Next group lessons will be offered in January. Dates and times to be available by December 1.

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**Nancy Baker** – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator (continued)

- Two instructors teaching private lessons now. Teaching on Saturday mornings and T/Th evenings.
- October 6 was the Mother-Son Superhero dance. We had about 50 guests. Everyone who registered showed up. The LHS National Honor Society sent some volunteers to help. They always do a great job. Marianne Tennant came with her little hero and said 50 was enough for this event. Very active boys running around.
- Autoharp Workshop starts tomorrow and runs for four days. About 13 people signed up. Small enough to be cozy, but large enough to be valuable.

### Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
  - **Parks and Recreation Administrative Office Move** – We have finalized our contracted amount for this project. Brian Bailey presented an overview of concept drawings and the floor plan for the new space. We will present the final number to the City Commission on October 22 for their approval. If approved, Sands estimates about four months to do the tear-out and installation. We expect to be in our new space late spring or early summer. Wendy Sachen asked what will happen to the current office. The Maintenance Supervisor and his team will move there once the work is complete.
  - **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement** – Brian and Steve met with Sands for a punch list walk-through. Just a few items before we give final payment. Overall, extremely satisfied with the courts and both courts are very popular. Jeff Porter asked if people were pleased with the Memorial Garden. Steve Grant replied that they came to speak at the ribbon cutting, they are pleased with the final result, and we included irrigation in the new area so the families don't have to carry water to the garden anymore.
  - **RFCC Gym Door Replacement** – Overhead Door is the vendor. No change since last meeting.
  - **Skatepark Expansion** – Quick project, almost completed. Need to put final coating down, which we expect on 10/21 and officially open for use on 11/1 (weather permitting).
- **Upcoming Events**
  - **Trunk-or-Treat, Saturday, October 19 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.** Event will take place at Sportsfield.
  - **Holiday Market, Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** – Open for registration. Currently have 56 of 62 spots reserved. This event is held on the basement level of the Riverfront Community Center (track, activity room, and gymnasium).
  - **Mayor's Holiday Tree Lighting and Holiday Parade, Friday, November 22 starting at 4 p.m.** – The holiday market starts at 4 p.m., the parade is at 5:30 p.m. The tree lighting is around 6 p.m. at Haymarket Square. Live music, DJs, etc. Parade registration available through our website at [www.leavenworthks.org/parksrec](http://www.leavenworthks.org/parksrec).
  - **Breakfast with Santa, Saturday, December 7 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.** – Held in the Riverview Room at the community center. Tickets are available now, also available the day of the event. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be here!

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### New Business

- **Fee Schedule Change Recommendations to City Commission** – Discussions started back in 2023 about fees across the City and within Parks and Recreation. In over 20 years, park shelter fees have been the same. Costs have increased but fees have remained the same, so we are looking at the possibility of bringing the prices closer to the cost of doing business. The City Clerk will present the proposal for fee changes to the City Commission on October 22. Brian Bailey and Steve Grant will attend to answer questions. Shelly Cannon asked if there is a difference for Resident vs. Non-Resident fees. We do have different fees and the proposal for new fees will impact non-residents more than residents. Once the Commission has heard the proposal, we will know if 2025 fees will be impacted.
- **Fencing at Skatepark** – During the Skatepark Expansion where the bowl is being added, it was noted that we may want to enclose the area by a fence. A black chain-link fence will be installed once the bowl is completed to ensure the safety of park users.
- **New Scoreboards at Sportsfield** – Fields 2, 3, and 4 all have new scoreboards that were installed this last week.

### **Board Input**

- **Jennifer Tobey** – LV Arts is sponsoring The Music Box from the Kansas City Symphony on Wednesday, October 23, at Haymarket Square starting at 6 p.m.
- **Marianne Tennant** – I travel a lot and see things in small towns that I would like to see here.
- **Shelly Cannon** – It takes a community (in response to Marianne’s comment). Today someone asked if I was still on the Board. She replied, “It’s nice to be a part of things when you see what they can do” like new playgrounds, splash pads, little kids playing, etc.
- **Kara McDaniel** – Happy and safe Thanksgiving to everyone. Enjoy your time with your families.
- **Dave Davis** – We had four less families but raised over \$6,000 more at the Relay for Life held at St. Mary’s. Our total raised this year was \$63,000.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.**

**Next meeting** – Monday, December 9, 2024 (no meeting in November due to Veteran’s Day)