

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, August 14, 2023

Meeting called to order – 4:02 p.m. Members in attendance: Jennifer Brenneman Tobey, Steve Zamora, and Jeff Porter.

Approval of Minutes – No quorum, so approval of July minutes pushed to the next meeting.

Staff Reports

Brian Bailey – Deputy Director

- **Havens Park** – Crack Sealing for the old trails should begin around 8/21. Load of rocks was delivered to the lower retaining wall to help block off the back part of Havens, old road has been cleared leading out of the park – all in preparation for the redesign of Havens to create a trailhead and limit vehicle traffic.
- Several purchase orders are in place but waiting on delivery of a new bobcat, two new trailers, and a new leaf blower.

David Sommerla – Park Superintendent

- Trying to keep up with mowing in between the rain events.
- Each storm seems to down a large tree or two, so cleaning those up when we can.
- Spraying weeds and other normal lawn care duties.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager – Presented by Steve Grant

- Very busy with events. Four weddings, public meeting for Centennial Bridge, baby showers, birthday parties, etc.
- Maintenance is losing one worker this month; Julien is going to start his full-time career as a firefighter. Tyler is going back to school, but staying on payroll to work when he can. Chuck is back to work, and we have a new call-in worker, Pete, who is experienced in building maintenance.

Ron Mazzia – President, River City Community Players

- Someone inquired about renting the Performing Arts Center for meetings, etc. Ron gave her Tammy's information.
- Closed our last play, *Oliver!*, on August 6.
- August 24-26 will be handing out the cards for the Main Street Charm Hunt.
- **Matilda, Jr.** coming up in September. 51 young thespians auditioned, 31 were cast. Performances are 9/15-17. Advance tickets go on sale 8/15.
- Elections for RCCP Board will be held this November.

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Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- **Youth Baseball and Softball** ended the week after July 4. Thanks to Steve Zamora for being one of our coaches.
- The two college-level teams that were hosted here this summer have gone back to their schools. We expect to see the league return next summer.
- **Co-Ed Softball** is back. 7 teams are registered. The season will start 8/29, playing every Tuesday. We have four Thursdays available to play in case a game is rained out on a Tuesday. On 9/30, there will be a “Banana Tournament”. Games will all be played at Cody Park.
- **Labor Day Tennis Tournament** is currently open for registration. Event will be 9/2 and 3. Games will play on 9/4, if needed. Currently have 6 people registered.

Nancy Baker – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Three sessions of **fall swim lessons** are open for registration. Two sessions will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings, one session will be Saturdays. Trying to offer a range of times to meet more needs. Also hoping to offer private lessons, as well.
- **Wollman Aquatic Center** had its last weekday open swim on 8/11. We will operate weekends only until Labor Day, with the Monday of Labor Day being our last day of operation.
- July was busy with special events. Three weekends in a row.
 - **Christmas in July Market** was on July 15. All vendor spots were sold out (62 tables), and we had a waiting list if people cancelled. The crowd was pretty steady the day of the market.
 - **Family Dive In** was on July 22.
 - **Adults Only Dive In** was on July 29. Much more peaceful than the family movie. Customers seemed to enjoy the vendors that were present.
- The **Doggie Splash** will be on the following Saturday, September 9, with six sessions available starting at 9 am, 45-minute sessions. Two small dog and four large dog sessions. Tickets are available now. Have about 40 people registered so far.
- Preparing for fall special events. **Mother-Son Superhero Dance** will be October 1, **Trunk-or-Treat** will be October 21, and the **Holiday Market** on November 4 which has already sold 47 of the 62 available spots for that event.

Old Business – Project Updates - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey

- **Riverfront Community Center Cooling Tower Replacement** – Walk-through with General Contractor was completed on 8/2. Sent a punch list to them and they responded on 8/8. Workers were expected last week to finish punch list items, but have not been back yet. It is not a big list, just a few mechanical hookups that need to be addressed.

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- **Stubby Park Shelter** – No change since last month. Date has been pushed to September.
- **Wollman Aquatic Center Revitalization Project** – Project completed. Last three items were installed at the Kiddie Pool.
- **RFCC Pool Locker Room Flooring Project** – Project is almost completed. Company will be back Saturday, August 19, to do an additional top coat on just the entry way area with more slip resistant coating. **The City Manager asked Steve and Brian to look into other improvements for the indoor pool area. Looking at replacing some of the lighting, stainless steel fixtures, painting and replacement work in the showers in the locker rooms, possibly update the chair lift, the guttering around the pool, etc. Brian will be working on a list of items and costs associated with updating each item to present to the City Manager. Steve added that a lot of the areas needing updated have been in use since the 1980s.
- **RFCC Asphalt Shingle Roof** – Bid in place. American Roofing, local vendor, won the bid. Notice to proceed will go out by the end of the week. Since this building is a historic landmark, it makes the project more challenging.
- **Parks and Recreation Office Move** – Sands Construction Company and the City Attorney are continuing to do contract negotiations. Once the review is done, we will get some renderings done of what the new offices will look like and the costs associated with it. Then we will take it to the City Commission for final approval.
- **Sidewalk Replacement in Various Parks** – Went out to bid and Baker Construction was awarded the bid. Purchase order completed.
- **Sportsfield Trail/Access Road Replacement** – Bid for this also awarded to Baker Construction. This project is asphalt and concrete. Purchase order completed. Both projects are only waiting on the contractor to be available to do the work. Expecting maybe late fall, early winter.

New Business –

- **Leavenworth Art at the Parks** – Stubby Park on 8/26 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Not a City event, but we agreed to help with advertising and providing the venue. Jennifer Brenneman Tobey said all details may be found at www.lvart.info.
- **Doggie Splash** – Wollman Aquatic Center on September 9 – 6 sessions starting at 9 am.
- **Camp Leavenworth** – Landing Park area – September 22 and 23. Volunteers are needed. Go to website to register. www.campleavenworth.com. Hours are Friday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Trunk-Or-Treat** – Sportsfield Parking Lot on 10/21. Volunteer vendors may sign up now online.

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Other Business – **Possible Gazebo Park Development** – A few weeks ago, Steve and Brian met with the City Manager, Paul Kramer, at the grassy area at 3rd Street and Delaware in response to a discussion between Mr. Kramer and the City Commission about creating a downtown, more formalized gazebo similar to those found in many other cities. After that meeting, Brian and Steve met with a landscape architect who specializes in park design, Doug Pickert with Indigo Design (same person who helped design our new Stubby Park layout). He has been hired to give the City some renderings and probable costs on what we might be able to do with the area. We plan to take it to the City Commission in October to review and discuss further.

Board Input

- **Steve Zamora** commented on the Gazebo Park Development about concerns regarding late night disruptions that spill over from the nearby bar.
- **Jeff Porter** said it is good to see things going on in our parks and community activities, and he stated the City Manager made mention of it at the City Commission meeting, also. Jeff also mentioned that he believes the next commission meeting (8/15) will include an update for the bridge project if anyone is interested.

Next meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023

Meeting adjourned – 4:51 p.m.