

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, September 11, 2023

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

Special Guests – Jim Clark and Lori Clark, City of Leavenworth residents

Approval of Minutes – July and August minutes were reviewed and approved.

Staff Reports

David Sommerla – Park Superintendent

- Had several limbs down that were cleaned up this week.
- Soccer fields were completed and fall season started Saturday.
- Trying to keep up with mowing, watering trees during this drought, changing out banners
- Buffalo Bill Cody Park ballfield ready for Tabor's softball league.
- Preparing Landing Park for Camp Leavenworth.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- Very busy for the next month - LAWS walk on Sunday, couple of weddings, Camp Leavenworth, birthday parties, CGSC Social, class reunion, charity fashion show, Mother/Son Superhero Dance, the City's annual chili cook-off, and a baby shower.
- Hired an after-hours shift coordinator to help monitor guests attending after-hour events which frees up the maintenance staff to focus on their regular duties.
- Steve Grant added open basketball gym is still going on Tuesday evenings and Sunday afternoons and all is well. JB still supervising.

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor (reported by Brian Bailey)

- **Labor Day Tennis Tournament** went well.
- **Fall Co-Ed Softball** registration is complete and games are going well. Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, but not every Thursday.
- **October 1 – Youth Basketball** registration begins.

Nancy Baker – Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator (reported by Brian Bailey)

- Swim lessons at Riverfront Community Center pool have started both private and group lessons. Current session is on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.
- **Wollman Aquatic Center** last weekday was Friday, August 11. The pool remained open on weekends until Labor Day with the last day being the Labor Day holiday. Doggie splash was

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Saturday, September 9. Event went well. Over 100 preregistrations for the large dogs. WAC is now closed for the season.

- Preparing for fall special events. **Mother-Son Superhero Dance** will be October 1 and registration has already started. **Trunk-or-Treat** will be October 21, and we have 42 volunteer vendor spots filled out of 55 available. The **Holiday Market** on November 4 has already sold 55 of the 62 available spots for that event.

Brian Bailey – Deputy Director

- **Haven's Park Trail** – Crack sealing and seal coat project has been completed. Contractors did a good job.
- **Wollman Aquatic Center** – Met with Nancy and Patrick at the center to do an end-of-the-year walkthrough and picked out items to add to our CIP requests for next year.
- **Trail Extension Projects** – Continuing with a directive presented to staff in 2021, Steve and Brian have been meeting to put together ideas for CIP for trails. Presenting three suggestions at a Study Session on September 19.
 - **10th Avenue Park** – Extending from parking lot down by the football field to connect with the existing trail.
 - **Three Mile Creek** – Extending south towards Esplanade
 - **Havens** – Continue extending and improving trails connecting far west trail to 22nd Street.

Jennifer Tobey recommended the area at 17th Street near the skinny bridge. Neighborhood residents use the “path” regularly. Steve Grant has looked at it and said there is bridge work that would need to be done at this location, and he and Brian will look at it more in the future. Another location recommended by Jennifer was a place off 10th where the old railroad track used to be.

- **Riverfront Community Center Pool Showers**– Met with contractors about updating the shower areas here to include showerheads, grab bars, and tile work. Waiting to hear back.
- **Park Foreman Job Description** – Steve, Brian, and David have been reviewing and revising the job description and should be posted for backfill sometime next week.

Ron Mazzia – President, River City Community Players

- *Matilda, Jr., the Musical* opens Friday and runs just the one weekend.
- Dave Davis complimented the Players for their production of *Oliver!*

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

- **Riverfront Community Center Cooling Tower Replacement** – Project is complete.
- **Stubby Park Shelter** – No progress since last month. Date has been pushed to the end of September.

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- **RFCC Asphalt Shingle Roof** – Bid in place. American Roofing, local vendor, won the bid. Notice to proceed was issued on August 16. It is a 120-day completion timeline.
- **Parks and Recreation Office Move** – Sands Construction Company and the City are on the final design contract review. Once received, it will go in front of the City Commission with design and expected cost to complete the project. Expecting construction late fall, early winter.
- **Sidewalk Replacement in Various Parks** – Went out to bid and Baker Construction was awarded the bid. Purchase order completed. No movement since last meeting.
- **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. No movement since last meeting.
- **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement RFP** – The Request for Proposal went out for design and construction management contract to replace the courts at Cody. Public meetings will be held to allow input from citizens. We received one proposal from VSR Design. We worked with them for Sportsfield. Steve and Brian will present this to the City Commission tomorrow night (9/12). Construction planned for 2024. Wendy Sachen asked if it is going to be bigger. Steve replied that the footprint will not expand, but the use of space will change to include dedicated pickleball courts and possibly a basketball court.

New Business – Request for Naming of the Skatepark after Cody Clark – Jim Clark spoke to the Board about renaming the skatepark after his son, Cody James Clark, who was instrumental back in 2007/2008 working with local skaters and the City’s Parks and Recreation department to request, support and design the City’s skatepark. Jim Clark is requesting that just the skatepark area be named after Cody (Cody James Clark Skatepark) as part of the Sportsfield complex. Jim Clark sent a letter to the Park Board President, Dave Davis, asking the Board to consider this request. Jim thanked the Board for taking the time to consider it. Jim said this could be an opportunity for “a little bit of ownership for the skaters that are out there, maybe help prevent some vandalism out there”. Steve Grant added that we honored Cody Clark at the Arbor Day tree planting this past April. Lori Clark mentioned that current users of the skate park spoke to her and said “we wouldn’t be here skating today if it wasn’t for Cody” and “I wouldn’t have won my skate competition in Nebraska if it wasn’t for Cody”. When Lori asked if the skater knew Cody, he replied “no, but I know Cody was the one who got the skatepark built.” Jennifer Tobey asked about the maintenance for the skatepark. David Sommerla said the park is checked regularly to make sure the rails and fittings are secure and safe. The rails themselves do not require a coating, since they are designed for the boards to run over them.

The Board voted 5 to 0 in favor of presenting this request to the City Commission. Dave Davis and Steve Grant will present it to the City Commission once a spot is secured on the agenda. The Clark family will be informed when the presentation is being made to the Commission.

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Other Business – **Camp Leavenworth** – Landing Park area – September 22 and 23. Volunteers are still 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.

Board Input - **Jennifer Tobey- LV Arts in the Park** – Event was fantastic. Over 1,000 people came to the event.

Next meeting – Monday, October 9, 2023

Meeting adjourned.