

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, May 12, 2025

Meeting called to order – Members in attendance Dave Davis, Chuck Johnson, Kara McDaniel, Jennifer Tobey, Jeff Porter, and Marianne Tennant.

Approval of Minutes – March minutes were approved. April update sent by Steve Grant also approved.

Staff Reports

Marianne Tennant – President, River City Community Players

- Ken Ludwig's *Moon Over Buffalo* went very well.
- A Dark and Stormy Knight is in rehearsal, 30 kids in the show. Four performances for this show – June 5, 6, 7, and a matinee on June 8. We added one show to the youth shows this year.
- May 19 and 20 are Disney's Tarzan auditions, which opens at the end of July.
- Just a heads up - next year is the 50th anniversary of the RCCP. Committee is working on ideas. Looking at presenting a show or a music theater performance.
- Fundraiser coming up – A walking ghost tour in Leavenworth in October in partnership with the CVB – all money raised will be donated to the theater.
- Marianne would like to see everyone at the theater.

David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Spring soccer season is over, last weekend was it
- Mowing in progress
- All restrooms are open
- Mulch spread at Stubby Park and Buffalo Bill Cody Park (BBCP)
- New swing set installed at David Brewer Park
- Coed Softball games in progress, some were at BBCP and now they are at Sportsfield.
- Youth Baseball/Softball teams are practicing
- Starting to plant some Legacy Trees. Have a few in, have a few more to go.
- Spraying a lot of weed killer
- Hired new Full Time Park Technician, he started last Thursday
- Did interviews for temporary seasonals and hired four of those, some college kids and some high school
- Park Foreman, Kenny Irlmeier, leaving on May 14.

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Halfway done with the adult coed softball season. Have 7 teams. They will be done playing by 5/29.
- May 1 we started Youth Baseball/Softball practice. First game will be June 2. Last game will be July 11.
- Dave Davis asked about Men's Basketball. Season is over, this was the first time in Tabor's tenure that not one single technical foul was called all season. Good group of guys this year.

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Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- Last month:
 - State of the City address and luncheon
 - Main Street Tea
 - Mutual Savings Employee Night of Celebration
 - Cornerstones of Care Team Meeting
 - LHS Horizon Scholars Gala
 - CGSC Lecture Series
 - Hosted the Navy Seabees
 - Police Memorabilia Show and Sale
 - 4 baby showers, 4 weddings, lots of graduation parties, and a retirement party
- Coming up:
 - LHS Project Graduation and many graduation parties
 - Democratic Gala
 - Bridal showers, baby showers, four birthdays, wedding and a celebration of life
 - LHS Baseball Booster Dinner

Patrick Clark - Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Hired an aquatic manager, scheduled to start 5/22/25
- Hired 6 new part-time guards
- Special Events
 - Touch-A-Truck event held on May 7. Had about 19 trucks in the south parking lot and along the street. Also had about 150 to 200 people show up to participate. The Carousel was open and offered free rides.
- Wollman Aquatic Center opening on May 26. Have about two weeks for the pool to warm up.
- The indoor pool will be closed between Memorial Day and Labor Day to allow renovations to be completed while the outdoor pool is open. We moved all indoor activities to the outdoor pool except for the M/W evening aquacise class. The instructor opted not to offer the class during this summer.
- Brian Bailey handled the Easter Egg Festivities in April at 10th Avenue Park. It went well. Had between 500 and 700 people. Had Chick-Fil-A food truck, Brats food truck, Kona Ice food truck, multiple vendors doing free activities and games. Put 10,000 eggs out and all were picked up in less than 3 minutes. Easter Bunny was there. Two face painters were there. Staff and Leavenworth High School National Honor Society volunteers did a great job.

Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
 - **Parks and Recreation Administrative Office Construction** – We have all moved in and settled into our new offices. Invite everyone to come after the meeting and tour the area. There are a couple small punch-list items to complete. We are pretty excited and happy with our new space.

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- **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement** – Not many changes since last time. Have a proposal in to get the damage on the pickleball court repaired after the snow shovel incident this winter. Sands Construction working on a spot on the basketball court. Still need to redo caulking between concrete slabs, which will happen soon.
- **Seal Coating Parking Lots** – Seal-o-Matic will begin August 1. Main reason to wait is to avoid closing the parking lots at Sporstfield during the baseball/softball season.
- **Havens Trail Construction** – Gone great. Sands Construction. Widened the path, put down a good base, asphalted. Have approval from Finance and the City Manager to extend the trail longer than we originally planned, so the trail system goes clear to 22nd Street. A couple of outlets, one on 22nd Street and one on Shawnee. Still need to put up some bollards and trailhead signs. Will return in the fall to back grade. Overall, looks good. Sands Construction did a good job.
- **Disc Golf Course at Havens Park** – Staff has been doing well clearing the way. This project is going to be a year-long project. Baskets have been ordered. In the next week or two, will meet with the designers to start laying out the launching pads so we can get quotes for concrete pads to be installed.
- **Wollman Aquatic Center Reroofing Project** – American Roofing completed their work. Did a great job.
- **Elevator Modernization** – We continue to wait on the documents back from TK Elevator regarding this project. We gave them a final deadline of last Thursday at noon, and they did not respond in time. They are trying to have some different proposals due to uncertainties with tariffs and other supply issues that need to be considered. Normally, there is a 10-day allowance to get paperwork back if a bid has been awarded. This has been well over that.
- **Indoor Pool Restorations** – We will be closing the indoor pool from Memorial Day through Labor Day for renovations. Some electrical items will be updated, also repair or replacement of masonry. We will also be adding some pool furnishings like an ADA chairlift (going from water operated to battery operated), updating the white steps into the pool to a heavier weight capacity, a new diving board stand, and new starting blocks.
- **Shade for Cody Pickleball** – Ordered cabanas for out on the courts. Waiting for them to arrive. Will have Sands Construction to install. They have to use a radar type device to locate the cables that go through the concrete because those cables have tension on them. Sands has equipment to install the canopies without damaging the courts. Also looking to do some structural work where the restrooms are, using the existing columns to provide support for new shade. No timeline on this.
- **Resurfacing of Wollman Aquatic Center Drive and Riverfront Community Center parking lot** – These projects were tagged onto a Streets project. The community center lot is asphalted, just needs to be lined. Wollman Park drive, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of it, has been asphalted and will be ready for the start of pool season.
- **Cody Park Parking Lot** – Work being done/managed by our Public Works department. They milled 2” of asphalt and got down to a rock base, stopped for a bit due to the weather to avoid problems, but there are still problems. Base is no good. The whole thing will be replaced, but we do not know when. Dave Davis asked if this would affect our Memorial Day pickleball tournament. That decision is still to be made based on various factors, including the weather expected for the holiday weekend.
- **Open Positions** –
 - Part-time Parks and Recreation Administrative Clerk (new position) – Offer made to candidate. Anticipated start date is May 22.
 - Aquatic Manager – Offer made to candidate. Anticipated start date is May 22.

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- Full-Time Park Technician I – Started last Thursday.
- Part-Time Maintenance Custodian for Riverfront Community Center – Charles Fitzhugh is interviewing for this position. Offer has been extended.
- Shift Coordinator job – Tammy Metzgar is in the process of hiring a person for this position.
- **Arbor Day Tree Planting** – Planted a tree (Colorado Blue Spruce) on April 25 at David Brewer Park in honor of Jim Mathis for all of the work he put into our community both on the Park Board and as a local educator. Jim Mathis was very touched by the honor. Steve Grant added that you cannot enter the tennis courts without walking by the tree and plaque.

New Business

- Concrete issues at the Cody James Clark Skatepark “bowl”. Some issues with the concrete chipping off. Sands Construction has done some patching in to make it safe for people to use, but Sands is working on a long-term solution.

Board Input

- **Jeff Porter**
 - Chris Hendrickson, who has spent many years working on the Havens Trail, has stepped away from volunteering on this site. Jeff would like to find a way to recognize him for his many years of service. The trails would not exist without him. Steve Grant will find what we can do and do something for him.
 - Wollman Park Main Shelter needs some attention. Peeling and damage on fascia boards and siding.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Monday, June 9, 2025