

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, June 9, 2025

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

Welcome to our new Part-Time Administrative Assistant, Cheyenne Lednicki. She is doing a great job.

Approval of Minutes –May minutes approved.

Staff Reports

David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Full swing on mowing
- Flowers and trees planted, 12 legacy trees
- Sportsfield in full swing
- Splash pad is open
- Some storm damage to trees
- Big damage at the campground with a tree falling on a camper at the campground. Fortunately, no one was in the camper when the tree fell. Also took down a power line, but Every responded quickly, so loss of power was only about an hour
- Cleaning Three-Mile Creek a lot due to all the rain
- Performing Arts Center air conditioner condenser in the basement is bad. The other unit is keeping the building cool, but getting a quote to replace the bad one
- Hired three more seasonal workers. With those three, we have a total of nine seasonals.
- Park Foreman interviews are concluded and in the process of deciding who to hire
- Dave Davis asked if the City is liable for the camper. Steve Grant replied that since it is an Act of God, the City is not responsible and it falls on the owner's personal insurance.

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Finished Adult Coed Softball. Moved the league to Sportsfield 2, and the players loved it.
- In the second week of Youth Baseball/Softball. Kudos to David Sommerla's team on the upkeep.
- For Youth Softball, the girls' oldest age group is doing academy style ball. Kara McDaniel asked what that means. Tabor explained it is one team divided by the coach, and the girls play each other. Shelly Cannon asked which age group. Tabor replied Girls ages 11 – 13.
- Pickleball Wednesdays are available. Starting slow with registrations. Going well.
- Memorial Day Pickleball Tournament cancelled due to lack of players registering.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- Last month:
 - Graduation Parties
 - Project Graduation
 - Baby Showers

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- Master Gardener's planted flowers in our urns for us when they did Landing Park.
- Coming up:
 - Quinceañera
 - Retirement parties
 - 50th Anniversary
 - 80th Birthday Party
 - Weddings, family reunions, baby showers
 - July 1 is International Officers Honorary Citizens Day Annual Event
 - July 12 is the Leavenworth Historical Society Fundraiser
- New Shift Coordinator, Jennifer Burroughs, started today

Brian Bailey for Patrick Clark - Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Second summer session of swim lessons closes this Wednesday.
- Special Events
 - Christmas in July market, we have 46 of 56 spots sold
 - Family Dive In Movie is *Moana 2* – July 19
 - Adult Dive In Movie is *Night Swim* – July 26
- Wollman Aquatic Center had a delayed opening this year due to cold weather. Opened on Thursday instead of Memorial Day Monday. Then started having pumps go out; one slide pump and one starburst – both repaired. Challenging start to the summer pool season.

Marianne Tennant – President, River City Community Players

- Closed last night for *A Dark and Stormy Knight* (Youth Play)
- Currently in rehearsal for Disney's *Tarzan*, the Musical
- Update on our 50th anniversary celebration coming next year – it will be at the theater and incorporated as part of one of our shows – opening night for *Grease*.

Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
 - **Cody Park Sports Court Replacement** – No change. Waiting for repairs to courts for hotter and dryer weather.
 - **Seal Coating Parking Lots** – Seal-o-Matic will begin August 1.
 - **Havens Trail Construction** – One soft spot to address, then this will be done except for some work by our team in the fall who will be adding some rocks, bollards, and trail head signs.
 - **New Asphalt: Drive at Wollman Park and Riverfront Community Center back lot** – both are completed.
 - **Disc Golf Course at Havens Park** – Met last week with contractor to discuss what has been done and where we are currently. It is evolving. This project will continue through the rest of this year.

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- **Elevator Modernization** – Due to lack of response from the original contractor, Steve Grant went to the City Commission meeting on May 20 and asked that the award be pulled from that contractor and awarded to Otis Elevator. Otis returned a signed contract immediately. Will contact them shortly to figure out scheduling and get them the Notice to Proceed.
- **Indoor Pool Restorations** – Got an email today from Laven’s Electric that they would like to start Monday. Later this week we will be draining the pool to get ready. We put out a request to bid for the updated furnishings and other miscellaneous items needed, but the numbers came in a bit high, so we are revisiting how we will proceed with those items.
- **Shade for Cody Pickleball** – Received an email Friday that the cabanas will be shipped towards the end of the month, but no tracking number yet, so we’ll see. Once we receive the items, we will work with Sands Construction to get them installed as soon as possible. (Also, we added a fence by the basketball court on the west side.)
- **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.
- **Filled Positions** –
 - Part-time Parks and Recreation Administrative Clerk – Cheyenne Lednický (new hire)
 - Aquatic Manager – Keagan Skaggs (promoted from assistant manager/lifeguard)
 - Full-Time Park Technician I – Alfred D’Ottavio (new hire)
 - Part-Time Maintenance Custodian for Riverfront Community Center – Larry Horton (promoted from temporary position)
 - Shift Coordinator – Jennifer Burroughs (new hire)

New Business – The Daddy and Me Campout Special Event was cancelled due to staffing issues.

Other Business – July Park Board Meeting? Brian and Steve have an all-day budget meeting with the City Commission, so we cannot meet on our normal day. Board agreed to cancel the July meeting.

Board Input

- **Jennifer Toby** – Been enjoying the parks. Thanks to Dave’s team for taking care of it.
- **Kara McDaniel** – Welcome to Cheyenne, we hope you stay 20 or 30 years.
- **Chuck Johnson** – Acing Autism Event in Overland Park (tennis program). Chuck is going to try to get something similar going here. Any children on the spectrum from ages 5 to 18 are welcome to join. More details to come later. Event will be in the fall.
- **Wendy Sachen** – Hi to Cheyenne. Parks look good, especially the skate park being kept up so well.
- **Dave Davis** – Out for August meeting. Jennifer Toby (Vice President) will run the meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Monday, August 11, 2025