

Leavenworth, Kansas, Parks & Community Activities Advisory Board

Minutes of Monday, September 8, 2025

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

Approval of Minutes – August minutes approved.

Staff Reports

Tabor Medill – Recreation Program Supervisor

- Labor Day Pickleball Tournament had 48 people play. Went great. Several people from Emporia and KC Metro area drove here for it. Dave Davis asked how much support did we provide for this tournament. We provided bottled water, granola bars, and trail mix.
- 2026 Saturday Switch Player Series Event coming. One of the Emporia guests suggested it. All Out Pickleball will manage this.
- Tonight, our new program Youth Coed Instructional Pickleball begins. It runs for six sessions, headed by Dave Black and many volunteers. We have 34 kids signed up.
- Last Wednesday, I was approached by a young lady about the City starting an 8-week recreation league and an 8-week competitive league. Something we may discuss for the future, but working with All Out Pickleball right now is going well.
- Adult Coed Softball has started. We have 9 teams, so playing both Tuesday and Thursday nights.
- October 1 we begin Youth Basketball registration.
- Some discussion about reviving the tennis tournaments, but numbers have been decreasing over several years, so we will reassess in the spring.

Tammy Metzgar – Riverfront Community Center Manager

- Since last meeting:
 - Council on Aging dinner and fundraiser. Went well and they have already scheduled for next year.
 - Miniature War Games was successful and they have scheduled for next year.
 - Retirement seminar has come several times and already booked four dates for next year.
- Coming up:
 - 68th wedding anniversary (with 90th birthdays) party
 - Memorial walk coming up this Saturday.
 - CAMP Leavenworth 9/26 and 9/27
 - Bridal showers, baby showers, birthday parties
 - Marine send-off party

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- Quilt Guild Meeting
- CGSC Event
- Mutual Savings Event. They do a lecture series here about four times a year.
- Two weddings
- LHS class of 1965 and class of 1975 reunions

Patrick Clark - Aquatics and Special Events Coordinator

- Wollman Aquatic Center is closed for the season
- Riverfront Community Center pool reopened on time after refurbishments were done this summer.
- Special Events –
 - We had the annual Doggie Splash last Saturday. 92 preregistered, 39 paid at the gate, total of 80 dogs at the event.
 - Next event is the Mother and Son Superhero dance on October 5.
 - Trunk-or-Treat at Sportsfield on October 18.
- Marianne Tennant asked when the splash pad would close. Brian Bailey replied it is usually around October 15, but it depends on the weather. If a cold snap is coming, we may have to close it earlier.

Marianne Tennant – President, River City Community Players

- Had the charm hunt maps and passed out over 600 flyers.
- In rehearsal/tech week for *Percy Jackson, The Lightning Thief*. Presales are pretty decent. Flyers at all the schools. Partnered with the library and will continue that in the future. *Percy Jackson* runs September 11 – 14. Tickets are \$10 each.
- *The God Committee* rehearsals are happening here while *Percy Jackson* show is performed. *The God Committee* is a very dark show. We are doing a Public Service Announcement about Suicide, Diabetes, and Heart Conditions since this is a hospital themed play. The play runs October 24, 25, 26, 31, November 1, and 2.
- Put out our Call for Directors for 2026. Great line up of shows for next year.
- Dave Davis said he enjoyed seeing *Tarzan*.

David Sommerla – Parks Superintendent

- Mowing
- Have Sportsfield ready for the Adult Coed Season.
- Spraying a lot of weeds and Three-Mile Creek Cleanup.
- Ready for the fall soccer season at the soccer complex. Started on Saturday and it takes the entire Parks Maintenance staff a full week to get the fields ready.

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- Someone drove through Union Park and caused damage to electrical service while being chased by Leavenworth County Sheriff's Department. Plan to put some large limestone boulders from Havens Park at the park.

Old Business

- **Project Updates** - provided by Steve Grant and Brian Bailey
 - **Seal Coating Parking Lots** – Heard from contractor that work will begin September 22. Lots include soccer complex, Ray Miller, David Brewer and Sportsfield. Seal coated and striped.
 - **Disc Golf Course at Havens Park** – Working on RFQ for the T-pads for disc golf. Will get that sent out so we can have quotes on those.
 - **Elevator Modernization** – Otis Elevator has some electrical subcontractors here looking at the electrical source for the elevator. We have approved some submittals for the new panels for inside the elevator. Looking at late fall or winter for that project to get started.
 - **Indoor Pool Restorations** – Phase 1 is almost complete. Waiting on the arrival of the new stairs that go into the pool. Project (except for the stairs) was completed on time with time allowed for us to refill and heat the pool properly before opening to the public. Phase 2 will begin next summer. Steve Grant commented that it was a large, convoluted job and Brian Bailey did an excellent job staying on top of everything.
 - **Shade for Cody Pickleball** – Will be extending roof line from restrooms to provide a little more shade. Doing design now.
- **CAMP Leavenworth** – September 26 and 27. The Gin Blossoms will be using the Men's Waiting Room as their holding area. Still spots available for volunteers. Check www.campleavenworth.com

New Business

- RecDesk online reservation/registration software. Have been doing weekly training for the last six weeks. Completed the training, so now we work on filling in the details. Big Kudos to the administrative assistants for getting everything started. Goal is to go live the first of the year.
- Seal Coating of Havens Trails and Cody Park Trail – Follow up to the trail expansion at Havens. Seal coating all of the updated areas and the parking area. Also doing the trail at Buffalo Bill Cody Park. All should start in September.

Board Input

- **Jennifer Tobey** – On Rec Desk, I see where you can register multiple kids at one time. For Camp Leavenworth, LV Arts Camp Crafty will be in charge. If anyone is looking to volunteer, feel free to come help me.

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- **Marianne Tennant** – There was an event at Hawthorn Park shelter over the weekend and the shelter had not been cleaned, and it was very upsetting to some of the people who had reserved the shelter. David Sommerla said he is working with his team to address the matter. Jennifer asked if there are issues at that park quite a bit. David replied that it is our most vandalized park. We have cameras in place, but they know where the cameras are so they avoid them. Steve added that we did issue a refund to the person that requested it.
- **Steve Zamora** – I was working at Sportsfield back in August and saw there were some gentlemen there trying to use the picnic table to do tricks on it. Steve told them to use the skate park, not the table. They told Steve they do a lot of skateboarding in the Kansas City area. They said the bowl is not smooth any more, it is cracked or peeling off. They were asking which company did the work and if they knew what they were doing. Steve Grant replied that Sands Construction did the work, and we have already addressed the issue. Over the winter, the freeze and thaw caused an issue. A patch was put in, and we are researching a more permanent solution. They guys also asked if there was any way we could put lights out there. If it gets dark at 5:30 p.m., they cannot see to skate. Steve Zamora said he would bring it to the Board. Steve Grant said anything is possible, but the funding would be significant since there is not an electrical surface there now. Could cost upwards of \$250,000. Steve Zamora also noticed areas where a car had done donuts in the parking lot and was wondering if we could put anything up to deter that. Jeff Porter asked if the seal coat would take care of the damage or will damage still occur afterwards. Brian Bailey replied the seal coat, once it is set will repair it, but if a car goes out and burns rubber on the pavement, then a “burn is a burn”. Becomes a question of how far do we go and what can we maintain.
- **Wendy Sachen** – Thank you to your crew (Parks Maintenance) for taking care of the dog park water issue reported at last month’s meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting – Monday, October 13, 2025