



LEE'S SUMMIT PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI

DATE:	February 23, 2022	TIME:	6:00 PM	PLACE:	Strother Conference Room
--------------	-------------------	--------------	---------	---------------	--------------------------

Board Members Present:	Board Members Absent:	Staff Present:	Other Guests:
Mindy Aulenbach, President	Wesley Fields	Joe Snook	Scott Ison
Lawrence Bivins, Vice President		Steve Casey	Chuck Auer
Jim Huser, Treasurer		Brooke Chestnut	Brenda Apgar
Bernadette Basham		David Dean	25 pickle ball guests
Jon Ellis		Tede Price	
Casey Crawford		Devin Blazek	
Tyler Morehead		Grace Carson	
Samantha Shepard		Jim Cox	
		Steve Hayde	
		Jodi Jordan	
		Steve Thomas	
		Eric Schooley	

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION (Findings/Conclusions)	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
SPECIAL GUESTS		
Employee of the Quarter 4th quarter 2022	<p>Mr. Snook introduced Steve Hayde Facility Maintenance Specialist and Jim Cox, Facility Maintenance Specialist, as the Employees of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter of 2022. As well as, Jared Green Skilled Park Specialist. However, Mr. Green was not present. Mr. Snook said it was so close there was a three way tie. Mr. Hayde has been with LSPR for two years. Mr. Cox has been with LSPR for over three years. Mr. Snook thanked both Mr. Hayde and Mr. Cox for their hard work and dedication.</p>	
CITIZEN COMMENTS		
Chuck Auer	<p>Mr. Auer thanked their board for the time. And, said he was exciting to put his pitch in for pickleball. He said they were encouraged by what they heard at the January meeting about pickleball. Mr. Auer complemented LSPR on the parks, trails and community centers. He said they are excellent. He was a long time tennis player and when he moved to Lee's Summit couldn't find tennis players. But was introduced to pickleball players and quickly got involved playing the game of pickleball in LSPR facilities and outdoor courts.</p> <p>Mr. Auer said those present, represent the sport and know it is a growing sport and look forward to progressing it. Most players present prefer to play outdoors and would like to see a complex built in Lee's Summit. Mr. Auer said if LSPR builds a complex it needs to be at least 8 courts. A complex should be between 8 and 16 courts dependent on the growth.</p> <p>Lovell Community Center has so much growth that last weekend, there were 4 courts going and seven stacks of paddles waiting to play. Mr. Auer mentioned the Pickleball Research Report that was in January packet and how he thought it suggested decentralized courts. He said the pickleball community feels that would not serve the players well. Mr. Auer said a centralized complex is very much needed. He stated he was encouraged by what he heard at the January meeting that it may be a combination of both some decentralized courts and possibly a complex.</p> <p>After the pickleball players saw the pickleball report, they put together a petition. Over 350 names that either live in Lee's Summit or play in LSPR facilities. He stated the need for Pickleball is definitely growing. The players want to work in conjunction with LSPR. Mr. Auer said those present at the Board meeting represent the 350 signatures. He stated why pickleball instead of tennis is because there is no organization needed, it's simpler to learn than tennis and very cost effective. There is more constant play and it is excellent for all ages. Mr. Auer said it is a very social sport. And, can be played at your own schedule not like tennis that has to be organized and it is much easier to play multiple times per week. It's a great exercise program. He stated there are more tournaments available for pickleball in the area</p>	

than tennis. Pickleball directs you to either age group or skill level when playing in tournaments. Mr. Auer said one central location would be better, lower construction cost, a good social setting and would provide outdoor access to those who work and go to school. Those people would have access to play all the time. It's a good community feel and would be easy to find. LSPR could host tournament and leagues and training sessions. Lots of people are interested in pickleball and training. The complex could be used in conjunction with the Harris summer camp program. It would also provide great opportunities in the summer when it's hot and could be used in the morning hours and early evening. With limited outdoor courts, that's not happening right now. Great access for us, no supervision is needed. Pickleball has grown over 30%. Mr. Auer said he played in a tournament in December with 2,000+ players. An outdoor complex would provide a good outdoor tennis surface which is what pickleball players prefer. He said he knows a complex would get greater use than small little areas. Mr. Auer stated players don't want to go to a 2 or 3 court facility and ask others for their turn. If there was a big venue, we know how to stack paddles and wait for our turn. Mr. Auer showed a photo of a paddle rack at a large complex in Lenexa. He said they have 8 courts and could have 32 people playing and 50-70 showing up to play pickleball with no supervision necessary. Adults and working class has opportunity to play in the evenings and on weekends at the Lenexa complex. Mr. Auer provided a list of the outdoor complexes in the area along with amenities.

He showed a picture of Kearney which has population of 10,000 and going to build a 12 court outdoor facility with lights. He said they currently have three and will increase it to 12 courts. Mr. Auer said Lee's Summit has 97,000 people and we have three lighted courts most of the year and four outdoor courts with no lights. He stated he wasn't sure where the funding is for pickleball, but if there was a choice between decentralized and a complex, he feels a pickleball complex would serve everyone. A decentralized location will only serve a few. He said, he thinks there is a field house coming when land can be found. And his hope with the fieldhouse that there could be a pickleball complex right next door. Add lighting, parking would be there and restroom access. He said he heard at the last board meeting if the funding was there that would be terrific. In packet, Mr. Auer provided a diagram of a 12 or 16 court facility. He said in the packet last month, staff had a drawing for an 8 court facility but what he presented is larger. He stated, Lee's Summit is a great place to live and we just want to make it a little better. And a pickleball complex would help. He said Legacy with all the ballfields and Summit Waves are excellent complexes too and a pickleball complex would make it even better.

Brenda Apgar addressed the board. Ms. Apgar stated, she was there to speak on behalf of the younger people who work and have kids. She said, right now over 50% of the population of Lee's Summit are not able to play pickleball. Ms. Apgar said in the 8 years she has been playing, most opportunities are geared towards the retirees and those not working. All the facilities have mainly morning play. And, two nights of evening play at Lovell which is great. But it's packed. She said we prefer to play outdoor. And when playing indoor it is determined by the facility and not necessarily by the players. She stated if LSPR builds outdoor courts with no lights it still doesn't fix the problem of playing at night after dark. Ms. Apgar stated if there was a complex with lights, every person regardless of age and working status would have the potential to play daytime and nighttime. She said more courts scattered around without lights doesn't help that. People don't want to drive and go to two courts and hope they can get on and play. Ms. Apgar said, at a complex with lights you can always rotate around a court and be able to play. She stated there are so many benefits of a complex not many if building decentralized courts. Ms. Apgar said if LSPR wants to truly give everyone a chance to play more pickleball then you need to build a large complex with lights. She said, when LSPR built the courts at Upper Banner that was the first dedicated pickleball complex in the metro area and everyone went there to play. Ms. Apgar said now we are way behind in what they have done all around the city. She stated Kearney is getting 12 courts outside with lights. Ms. Apgar said that's really what she wants to push, is for those that can't play in the day time to be able to play at night. She said with lights they could play everyday of the year if they want to.



**Summit Waves FY21
Presentation**

Ms. Carson presented a PowerPoint highlighting the end of activity report for Summit Waves 2021 season. The full report was included in the January 26, 2022 Park Board Packet. The presentation highlighted current season memberships, revenue and expense numbers and feedback received from patron surveys. Ms. Carson stated a lot of things have changed since covid restrictions had changed. Swim lessons and private parties (after rentals) were brought back this season. A chart breakdown of the patron numbers from season passes was shown. The park board was able to see the drastic change from 2020 and 2019 with the addition of the wave pool. Ms. Carson also stated staff brought back the dive in movie, numbers were slightly lower for that due to a chilly evening. In mid June there was a capacity limit for single visit sales.

For the entire season, there were 37 hours lost of open swim time due to inclement weather, rain or colder temperatures.

Ms. Carson shared a breakdown of the financials and fees charged. She stated it far exceeded expectations of what was budget and actual numbers. The wave pool had a large impact as well as many other metro pools were closed. Food and beverage operations actuals are higher than the budget. Ms. Carson said with large amount of crowds, there was an increase in staffing and unforeseen maintenance issues in the concession areas as well.

Ms. Carson reviewed the comments and stated 5 additional shade structures will be installed this summer. And, single visit sales will be limited to online only at the beginning of the season. Then staff will evaluate to see how that process is going.

Mr. Crawford asked how staffing has been? Ms. Carson stated it was a tremendous advantage that Summit Waves opened during covid in 2020. She said a lot of other pools did not. She credited the ease of hiring to lots of word of mouth, siblings, friends from the various high schools.

Mr. Ellis asked if there will be another increase to single visits and season passes this year? Ms. Carson stated yes that both single visit and season passes will increase this season.

Mr. Ellis asked Ms. Carson to reiterate how the concession was handled this past season. Ms. Carson said staff tried to offer hot food, issues were with the timeliness of it and preparing it. Hot foods were not offered in 2020 and so this season that was the number one item patrons wanted at the concession.

Ms. Carson stated there have been ideas for a roaming cart where smaller hot food items can be put on that and cart it around to see if that helps with the concession lines. Staff is also looking at updated signage to rethink the concession lines. Mr. Snook said staff is also looking at a package that would allow food trucks to come in and park by wave pool and help elevate some of the issues.

Mr. Snook stated almost 100,000 people come through Summit Waves over the 100 days of operation. Mr. Snook said the facility is limited to the volume that can be done. Mr. Snook stated the challenge is that Summit Waves is not a fast food establishment. Mr. Snook said the food truck and roaming cart should elevate some of the lines.

Mr. Ellis stated he liked the idea of food trucks.

Mr. Huser said the concession design is not designed for a line. It's not built for the volume that Summit Waves is putting through there. He also said he observed a lot of people around the wave pool having coolers.

Mr. Snook said a lot of people bring in coolers, because that is allowed. Even with allowing coolers, there is still great success from the concession operations. Mr. Snook said what we do we do well but it will be slow at times.

Mr. Ellis said the food truck idea should be done as a test.

Mr. Snook said the area by the wave pool was designed for food trucks, equipped with power.

Mr. Crawford asked if there is any benefit to considering a contact for concession operations by a third party who may have more experience for quick foods.

Mr. Snook stated staff has looked at that in the past. Mr. Dean said that was preliminarily done when Summit Waves first opened. He said there has been no interest from vendors at that time.

Mr. Huser stated baseball and football outsource their operations and it's a tough market to be in.



	Mr. Ellis suggested staff reach out to the vendor who took over the food operations at Unity Village to get information.	
AGENDA ITEM		
Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2022 Regular Session Park Board Meeting	Supporting documentation (see pages 1-6). No questions or discussion.	Vice President Bivins made a motion to accept the regular session minutes from the Park Board meeting on January 26, 2022; Mr. Morehead seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2022 Work Session Park Board Meeting	Supporting documentation (see pages 7-11). No questions or discussion.	Mr. Morehead made a motion to accept the work session minutes from the Park Board meeting on February 2, 2022; Vice President Bivins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Treasurer's Report – January 2022	Supporting documentation (see pages 12-21). Treasurer Huser read the treasurer's report from November 2021. No questions or discussion.	Mr. Ellis made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report from January 2022; Mr. Crawford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Sales and Use Tax Report – February 2022	Supporting documentation (see pages 22-23). Mr. Blazek stated proving to be strong. Trickle off a little since December but that was expected. Use tax performing far above budget, about 150% over YTD budget. FY21 Use tax started in December so hard to compare this year to FY21 but consistently far above expectations.	No Board Action.
BOARD APPROVAL ITEMS		
Evergy Easement	Supporting documentation (see pages 24-30). Mr. Snook said LSPR was contacted by Evergy requesting an easement by the substation at the northeast corner of Legacy Park. Evergy was requesting 3,000 sq ft. Evergy needed it for federal regulations and had to be able to square up their easement into the substation. It's a regulation they have to follow. Mr. Ison made the Park Board aware that legal did negotiate with Evergy. And, the Legal Dept. has developed a standard form that can be used to come to an agreement with Evergy. This is similar to the same easement Evergy uses with the city for other easements. Mr. Huser asked if this was the furthest corner northeast by Colburn. Mr. Snook said yes, but it was not anywhere close to the trail. Mr. Snook said to refer to page 26 of the map. And, they would not be getting anywhere close to the trail.	Mr. Ellis made a motion to to approve the requested easement for Evergy as presented in the exhibits Mr. Huser seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
FY21 Annual Report	Supporting documentation (see pages 31-35). Mr. Blazek stated considering how Covid impacted LSPR operations in the first half of fiscal year, the department still had pretty impressive accomplishments most importantly renovating Lowenstien Park, continuing to offer fitness classes, LPA programming and later half of FY21 several park dedications including Summit Waves wave pool, Howard Park, Summit Park and Lowenstein Park dedication.	Ms. Shepard made a motion to approve the FY21 Annual Report as presented; Mr. Bivins seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



	<p>Pleasant Lea Park Land and Water Conservation Grant for \$250,000 was also awarded.</p> <p>President Aulenbach asked what the process was if the board approves the annual report.</p> <p>Mr. Snook said if approved, he will then present to Mr. Arbo and finally, Mr. Arbo would present to City Council.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford stated that the city looks to potentially be planning an outdoor amphitheater area for events. And asked how that effects LSPR?</p> <p>Mr. Snook said staff has been involved in the community input process. And, Mr. Snook is involved in discussion with the City admin team that is working on it. LSPR has expressed concerns regarding program duplication. Mr. Snook said nothing has been designed yet. They do not intend to design anything that would be close to Legacy Park Amphitheater. There will most likely be a music component but a much more intimate venue.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford said a concern of his, is that the LPA happens to be in far eastern side of the city and the City will put one centrally located. He asked how is that going to impact revenue and programming. Mr. Snook said the advantage LSPR has, is 3,000 capacity venue. And, the city's will be maybe 1,000 seating. Coordination will have to occur between LSPR and the City.</p> <p>Mr. Huser asked wasn't that a catalyst of the bond issue asking citizens if they want it and they did so don't they have to do that?</p> <p>Mr. Snook said yes that was correct. And, one of the items was a downtown performance space and it was going to be very intimate.</p> <p>Ms. Shepard said there already is music downtown and roads are closed sometimes. Mr. Snook said there is music in Howard Station Park every Friday night in the summer. That is an agreement with LSPR and Downtown Main Street. And, this new space would be where Downtown Main Street would transition their concerts to, once it is built.</p> <p>Mr. Huser stated LSPR used to have concerts downtown on Green Street. Mr. Snook stated yes and once the amphitheater was built all those concerts moved out to LPA.</p>	
--	---	--

OLD BUSINESS		
---------------------	--	--

<p>Projects and Services Review – FY22</p>	<p>Supporting documentation (See pages 36-43).</p> <p>Ms. Basham asked if there was ever any consideration for adult leagues for soccer. Mr. Snook said LSSA does provides adult leagues so LSPR doesn't compete with them.</p>	<p>No Board Action.</p>
<p>Capital Projects Plan</p>	<p>Velie Park Improvements: Supporting documentation (See pages 43-46).</p> <p>Mr. Casey stated staff is currently working on grading and site work. The weather has made things dicey this time of year. He said crews will coordinate playground installation with the sidewalks and trails. LSPR will be installing the shelter. LSPR staff will be doing site work and paving around that. Staff is looking at options that would modify the scope related to playground surfacing. Mr. Casey said that would increase the cost a little but staff is getting bids. And if it is decided to move forward, staff will bring it to board for approval. Mr. Casey recognized Steve Thomas and stated he is doing a great job overseeing this project.</p> <p>He said staff is hoping to complete the project in April or May. Staff has added a budget to the packet. Staff also included a timeline.</p> <p>Mr. Ellis complimented Mr. Casey on the budget. Mr. Ellis asked if staff was looking at the tile option for playground surfacing? Mr. Casey stated staff is looking at all options but tile or turf are most what staff has had success with.</p> <p>Mr. Ellis asked if staff installs both. Mr. Casey stated installation would be done by a contractor.</p> <p>Mr. Casey said staff intended to do turf with outdoor fitness equipment. However, if the playgrounds are upgraded to tile or pour and play, it will impact the budget.</p>	<p>No Board Action.</p>



	<p>Mr. Crawford asked if there is a preference from youth for one over the other. Mr. Casey said staff has had success with turf at Hartman and Lowenstein. Mr. Crawford asked if there is a shelf life to it? Mr. Casey said staff has to watch it for wear patterns in high traffic areas, like swings.</p> <p>Pleasant Lea Park Improvements: Supporting documentation (See pages 47-49).</p> <p>Mr. Casey stated staff is working on rebidding that project. Staff was disappointed with the responses. He said modifications to the scope have been made. The bid was previously over the holiday window and had a lot of impact from vendors that they did not have time to respond to the bid. Mr. Casey said as of today we have it back on the street for a rebid and hoping for a more robust response. It will be an interesting project with more of a nature theme playground and is in a neighborhood park. Staff will work within budget once the bids come in. He said the grant is helping to bolster our funding for the project.</p> <p>Mr. Casey said staff will be moving in there more once the Velie Park project is wrapped up.</p>	
--	--	--

NEW BUSINESS

<p>End of Activity Reports</p>	<p>Supporting documentation (see pages 50-76).</p> <p>Mr. Ellis asked about a comment on page 61 in regards to self-officiating and refunds given because teams had to self-officiate. Mr. Dean said yes, refunds were issued. Staff started out with three officials but lost one mid way through the season. Due to a lack of finding officials the remaining games had to be self-officiated. Mr. Ellis asked if those were contracted employees. Mr. Dean stated no they are part time employees. Mr. Ellis asked if the contracted officials LSPR has worked with in the past could be back ups for a situation like this. Mr. Snook stated staff can ask the contracted officials if that would be an option. However, contracted officials are often specialized in one particular sport.</p> <p>Mr. Crawford asked how in other sports has the ability been to get officiating. Mr. Dean stated its been thin and staff had just enough to get by. Full time staff has had to step in sometimes or one official per court instead of two. Mr. Crawford asked if that was Covid based? Mr. Snook said, yes Covid could be factor, just like anything else, pay may also be a factor. And, nationally there is a shortage of youth officials. Mr. Snook stated staff are hard to find for certain positions.</p> <p>Mr. Snook said he spoke to other directors and they are struggling to find lifeguards and expressed concerns.</p> <p>Mr. Casey said Paul Arndorfer is doing great and the refs for girls basketball are great. Mr. Casey complimented Paul on how he deals with coaches and parents. Mr. Snook thanked him for the compliment and said it would be shared with Paul.</p>	<p>No Board Action.</p>
---------------------------------------	--	-------------------------

PATRON COMMENT REVIEW

<p>Supporting documentation (see pages 77-84). Mr. Ellis said there were several comments on the difficulty of the registration process. Mr. Snook stated LSPR's system may not be user friendly. This is an issue. Rec Trac is not the most user friendly to use when registering for an activity. He said staff has gone to Rec Trac several times with minimal progress to make registration easier. Certain things Rec Trac excels on but this is something they have fallen short on.</p> <p>Mr. Snook stated Rec Trac is one of the few software companies who have stood the test of time and will be a costly cross over for the department if it's changed. It works but not the most ideal. Staff has not completed research but will have to before making a decision to switch.</p> <p>Mr. Huser stated registration has been a problem every year since he's been on the Board.</p> <p>Mr. Snook said patrons are required to set up a household and it is not user friendly. If the Park Board says staff needs to figure this out then staff will be directed to put something on hold and carve out time to work on it. Mr. Huser asked if staff can see how many patrons start the registragtion process and then fall off and don't complete it because it is hard. Mr. Snook said he didn't know if staff had that information or if it could be obtained. Staff will look into it.</p> <p>Mr. Snook said it is an irritation but not irritating enough that everything has to be overhauled. He said it is hopeful Rec Trac will overhaul their system to make it more user friendly. LSPR is somewhat limited with the city's IT department. He said any cloud based service may not be an option for LSPR.</p> <p>Ms. Shepard asked if the Board can be a part of the research. She said there is a lot of solutions out there and could be solutions that would be very flexible. Some software may not be recreation related but could perform what LSPR needs. Mr. Huser stated technology moves so fast and changes. And LSPR really needs to improve that and find software that can leverage other things like being able to track users of our parks.</p> <p>Mr. Snook said the first thing staff will need to do is identify the problems. The internal Tech team can take this on but it will take some time.</p>
--



Mr. Bivins stated it would be good to get a real end user to talk with staff about what they are experiencing. He suggested staff talk to a comparable size city and find out who uses something else and see what is available.

Mr. Bivins complimented Mr. Casey for his response to the patron who had concerns for Pleasant Lea Park changes and commended him for that response.

MONTHLY CALENDARS

Supporting documentation (see pages 85-86).

President Aulenbach reminded the Board many staff will be going to the state conference in Springfield.

ROUNDTABLE

No questions or discussion.

OTHER ITEMS TO BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Mr. Snook mentioned that staff and President Aulenbach will be out next week at the MPRA state conference in Springfield, and Nancy Kelley will be recognized at the banquet Thursday night for a citation award for her years of service to LSPR.

Mr. Snook stated the joint session with the City Council will be on March 15, 2022. The first time the Board has had a joint session with the City Council so staff is looking forward to that. The budget committee will be targeting to meet the first week in April to review the FY23 budget. Mr. Snook recognized Tyler Morehead for the Chamber hall of fame induction for Morehead Insurance. Staff finished the art selection for the Sculpture on the Move. Two pieces have been selected and will be placed in Summit and Harris Park. Mr. Snook said there has never been a large group attend the Board meeting for public comments, like what was there tonight. It was good to see the public come out and hear the comments. He said what he heard tonight was similar to staff's report last month.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Huser made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to Section 610.021 (1) of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri pertaining to legal actions, causes of action, or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives and its attorneys, and pursuant to Section 610.021 (2) of the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri pertaining to leasing, purchase or sale of real estate by a public governmental body where public knowledge of the transaction might adversely affect the legal consideration. Vice President Bivins seconded. Roll Call: Aye – President Aulenbach, Vice President Bivins, Treasurer Huser, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Shepard, Ms. Basham, Mr. Morehead.