

LINCOLN PARK DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER – At 6:00 PM, Don Peasley called to order the Lincoln Park District Board of Commissioners' monthly business meeting.

ROLL CALL – Commissioners attending were Don Peasley, Gary Nodine, Dave Perring, and Laura Duffer. Bob Thomas was absent. Attending from the Park District were Becky Strait, Vern Haseley, Allison Baker, Jennifer Prather, and Angie Coombs. None were absent.

MINUTES OF MEETING – Minutes of the February 12, 2025, meeting were presented. Don asked if there were any questions, comments, or suggested amendments. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Gary Nodine moved to second the motion, which then passed after a unanimous roll-call vote.

VISITORS – NONE

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – The operating expenses were submitted for approval in the following funds:

GENERAL	-	\$	2,671.97
RECREATION	-	\$	11,516.63
LIABILITY	-	\$	5,324.00
CAPITAL IMP.	-	\$	14,104.24

Don asked if there were any questions regarding the items listed for the Accounts Payable. Laura Duffer made the motion to approve Accounts Payable as presented, which was seconded by Gary Nodine, and passed after a unanimous, roll-call vote.

CASH FLOW –

Angie informed the Board that another PPRT payment had been received, and a spreadsheet was included for their review. Funds received in 2025 are lower than at the same time the previous year, which was expected per the State's reallocation of funds the previous year. The February membership promotion was purchased by 80 patrons/families.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – BECKY STRAIT

- A Slideshow presentation was displayed:
- The Wellness Expo was held on March 1st, which had 56 vendors on site from 9-12. Don inquired about the number of attendees, which was estimated to be between 250-300 people. Allison stated that there are usually more people in attendance earlier in the morning, but attendance was steady. Jen stated that the patrons seemed focused on the quality of booth interactions, which vendors appreciated despite the lower quantity of people. Many stayed to have meaningful discussions with the booths rather than just stopping by to see what giveaways they offered.
- The Foundation held a fundraising sandwich sale on the day of, and even presold some tickets, but the number expected to sell the day of was underestimated. The Foundation made around \$400 and pre-sold almost 100 Avantis sandwiches.
- Park Improvement Projects:
 - Weather is starting to become more favorable to allow for progress to start moving along.

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- Becky spoke with Seth about the next steps to get both Lehn & Fink and Exchange Club park's sidewalk forms erected and continue the concrete court pad preparation at Exchange Club Park.
- Seth is working on getting established with NuToys as the project's contractor.
- Dave questioned the 3 locations excavated in Exchange Club Park.
 - Becky explained that one area will be for the concrete pad to be installed for the multi-game surface, and the other next to that is for the sand volleyball.
 - Becky was unsure of the 3rd excavation that Dave referred to but believes that it was most likely the old concrete pad next to the parking lot that was removed.
 - Vern stated that the first company dug too deep and admitted that the park currently looks a bit odd since the project had to be paused due to the weather.
- Becky explained that she had discussed with Seth the requirements for the sand volleyball court, such as the drainage tile that will need to be placed.
- North Parking Lot Improvement Project:
 - The preliminary drainage and grading work is scheduled to start next week.
 - The Intergovernmental Agreement has been drafted, and the Board has a copy for their review.
 - Becky asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board.
 - The Board discussed the possibility of limiting the hours of usage and weight of vehicles.
 - Becky will check on the weight issue with the engineers.
 - Dave questioned the expectations of LCHS and is worried that they may clash with the Board's own expectations.
 - Gary inquired if the agreement included parking for ballfield usage, which Becky verified that it would include that usage.
 - Dave pointed out that LCHS' Board was not hesitant to approve the \$10,000 figure at their board meeting and pondered if the amount was too low.
 - Gary questioned if it would be limited to school hours but also include the evening that had ball games scheduled.
 - Laura pointed out that game traffic would still be an issue this spring/summer.
 - Gary stated that if there are no lights, then games need to be scheduled earlier.
 - Becky stated that parking for ball games would be first come/first serve and other parking would be limited to school hours.
 - Gary asked if LCHS would police the usage of their staff/students, as it would be prohibitive for LPD to have to provide that service.
 - Becky suggested adding signage warning that towing unauthorized vehicles is the practice upon project completion.
 - Becky agreed that LPD does not have the staff to constantly monitor the lot usage, but LCHS currently does reprimand those that park there without prior approval.
 - Laura asked for clarification on the weight of school buses.
 - Becky stated that the weight limit would be approximately 15 tons.
 - Limited school bus usage might be something to consider.
 - Laura suggested that buses may be able to drop off, but park on school property for the duration of the event.
 - Gary questioned how long the LCHS baseball season lasted, which Allison stated that they typically go through May, but sometimes the season lasts a bit longer.
 - Becky pointed out that LCHS buses use LPD property all the time, not just during baseball games.
 - Angie explained that just recently, a bus sat out front for a few hours, in the bricked section, but usually one sits out in the gravel section of the second entrance.
 - Laura stated that buses will have to use LCHS grounds during construction.

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- Becky asked if any parents had received notifications from the school pertaining to the upcoming limited usage of the lot, which no one reported getting to date.
- Don and Dave both agreed that the agreement should be tabled for the next meeting.
- Back Desk Staff Training:
 - Becky informed the Board that CPR training is scheduled for March 15th.
 - The staff were introduced to the new app, Connecteam, which will be used for scheduling, messaging, and accessing onboarding training videos.
 - Gary questioned the need to switch apps.
 - Angie explained that Connecteam replaces 3 other apps used to provide the same functionality.
- Website:
 - Launch goal was March 1st, but there were a few hiccups with transitioning from the old to new.
 - Activityreg also had an issue, that was reportedly unique to LPD, upon launching that updated site along with the website.
 - There was one public complaint, but due to the coding error, patrons could not register for classes on mobile devices.
 - Angie explained that LPD has a tendency to discover unique errors in coding, for all of the providers that we have used; if it is there, LPD will find it.
- Social Media Policy:
 - LPD has noticed an occasional trend for our events.
 - Spam posts and scammers are using LPD event posts to insert their own posts trying to get people to click on their links to “register” or “buy tickets” for free LPD events.
 - Laura asked if LPD can simply turn off comments, but Becky explained that the public often use comments to tag others, which helps the event visibility.
 - FOIA also has parameters regarding online posts and related comments.
 - Becky explained that FOIA would allow removal of such comments with this policy put into place.
- ALMH 5K Sponsorship:
 - The Hospital used to coordinate their own annual 5K but have decided to support LPD’s event this year instead of competing with it.
 - They will also provide volunteers for the day of the event.
 - Dave volunteered his time for the race.
 - Becky detailed that a \$2,500 sponsorship was offered, which would allow LPD to extend the event to include a separate kid’s race.
- March 1st price increase:
 - There have been no complaints about the prices.
 - Gary stated that he still sees a bunch of kids here after school.
- Solar:
 - The first Tritec invoice has been received and is included in the accounts payable.
 - Becky explained that Angie is still trying to gather the data to provide a price comparison.
 - More time is needed to review the information after it is gathered.
 - Angie hopes to have more information by next month.
- Job Fair:
 - Becky informed the Board that she is still looking to hire lifeguards, but concessions and pool attendant positions have been filled.
 - Laura inquired about hiring more guards, and Becky explained that a few more are needed to help cover shifts if there is someone that changes their mind during testing/training.

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SUPERVISOR OF OPERATIONS - Vern Haseley

- The new water softener has been installed. Gary asked if the water leak has been resolved, but that information is not yet available.
- Maintenance staff have been busy rolling the parks.
- Reggie is beginning to get the diamonds prepped for the season.
- The 2008 Chevy had a suspension issue that Tony was able to fix in-house.

PROGRAM REPORT – ALLISON BAKER

- The Evening Pickle Ball clinic has 9 adults, and the youth clinic has 8 participants. The instructor is from Springfield, and Allison would like to ask if he would be interested in doing a tennis clinic.
- A Pickle Ball League will be held on Mondays. Laura asked if it would be inside during the summer, but Allison stated that patrons like to play outside in the summer. Don questioned the usage of LCHS' new courts. Becky explained that patrons complain about the net height and length, which is not 100% Pickle Ball standards. Also, LCHS tennis team has been using their courts quite a bit and occasionally use LPD's when weather is an issue.
- Allison has been working on scheduling camps for the Spring and Summer Program Guide. She has been contacting instructors to determine dates and times for each camp. Creekside is still open for LPD's use this summer. Nicki would like to teach more cooking and treats classes this summer.
- A Nerf Battle event is scheduled for Good Friday.
- Open House on April 5th will be from 10a – 1p. Allison will have information about summer camps and people can register for pool parties and swim lessons that day.
- D.A.R.E. donated \$300 for the Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt for ages 8-17. We are starting to fill the eggs already. There will also be an egg hunt in the parks the week of Spring Break.
- Baseball/Softball/TeeBall registration opened in March. Sportsman will be used to auto-draft teams this year, which the coaches seem to like that idea. Usually, we have 1-2 teams in each age group. If the process goes well, we plan to use the auto-draft feature for Jr. Railers, too. Registration will close the day of the open house. Allison is getting feedback about wanting a 14U team, as there are 6-7 players currently interested and a Coach willing to handle the team. If we get enough for a team, Allison would simply need to reach out to other lower-level travel teams to get some games scheduled. Gary asked Allison if Kevin ever reached out to her, which she verified that she has yet to hear from him directly.
- LCHS' baseball team starts their season on April 1st at LPD.
- Meet & Mingle events have been scheduled throughout the summer until August.
- The Spring and Summer brochure is in the works.

FITNESS MANAGER: JENNIFER PRATHER

- Group Fitness Class attendance for February was 821, which was down compared to the previous February. Illness may have been a contributing factor.
- The last Meet & Mingle had 13 attendees, with some new members signing up afterwards. The next date is scheduled for March 18th.
- Active Agers have a potluck scheduled for March 14th.
- LincolnDailyNews.com did a nice write up on the Wellness Expo.

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- Jody is back to teaching a beginner Spin® class, and the goal is to ramp up those classes this year.
- Spring Into Action has 8 people participating and is taught by Jennifer and Amanda.
- February's Punch card promotion required participants to get 20 punches by attending 20 classes to win a prize. One individual turned in 2 punch cards, but a total of 6 were redeemed.
- Personal Training package sales are up this year. Jennifer has been teaching 2-3 sessions each day the past few weeks.
- Jennifer is working on the 5K Race. She is excited to add a kid's event this year. The route has been approved by the City and the medals have been designed.
- April's promo will be for an Equipment Orientation.
- Jennifer will be teaching a Self-Care Foot massage class, and 4 people have already signed up.
- Jennifer has started talking with instructors about the summer's Water Fitness classes.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Capital Improvements:

1. Park Improvement Projects: See Executive Director's Report.
2. North Parking Lot Improvement Project: See Executive Director's Report.
3. Promissory Note: Waiting for the project to get closer to the start date.

B. Aquatic Center: Vern stated that they plan on starting to fill a little earlier this year to troubleshoot any issues that may arise.

C. Foundation Signs: NONE.

D. Authorization of sale/conveyance of Park District Property: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Social Media Policy: See Executive Director's Report.

Executive Session: At 6:44 P.M., Gary Nodine made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss an employment matter, which was seconded by Laura Duffer, motion passed unanimously. The Executive Session ended at 6:54 PM with no matters requiring a vote.

ADJOURNMENT: Seeing no further business, Dave Perring moved to adjourn the meeting, Laura Duffer moved to second the motion. Motion carried. Adjournment: 6:57 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.