

Board of Parks Commissioners
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 12:00 PM
Columbus Community Building/Community Room
2500 14 Street
Columbus, NE 68601

The Mayor and City Council reserve the right to go into closed session as per Section 84-1410 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes. A current agenda is on file at City Hall, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. For more information, call 402-562-4224 or visit our website at www.columbusne.us.

{{Name: Agenda Item Name}}

1. Statement of compliance with Open Meetings Act.

NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

84-1407. Act, how cited.

Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 2004, LB 821, § 34.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public.

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1071; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 35.

Annotations

- Nebraska's public meetings laws do not apply to school board deliberations pertaining solely to disputed adjudicative facts. *McQuinn v. Douglas Cty. Sch. Dist. No. 66*, 259 Neb. 720, 612 N.W.2d 198 (2000).
- The primary purpose of the public meetings law is to ensure that public policy is formulated at open meetings. *Marks v. Judicial Nominating Comm.*, 236 Neb. 429, 461 N.W.2d 551 (1990).
- The public meetings law is broadly interpreted and liberally construed to obtain the objective of openness in favor of the public, and provisions permitting closed sessions must be narrowly and strictly construed. *Grein v. Board of Education of Fremont*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Although a committee was a subcommittee of a natural resources district board, it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because there was never a quorum of board members in attendance and the committee did not hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- A county board of equalization is a public body whose meetings shall be open to the public. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1409. Terms, defined.

For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 2; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 1; Laws 1989, LB 429, § 42; Laws 1989, LB 311, § 14; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 124; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 978; Laws 1997, LB 798, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 36; Laws 2007, LB296, § 810; Laws 2011, LB366, § 2; Laws 2021, LB83, § 11; Laws 2022, LB922, § 12.

Operative Date: July 21, 2022

Annotations

- A township is a political subdivision, and as such, a township board is subject to the provisions of the public meetings laws. *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- A county agricultural society is a public body to which the provisions of the Nebraska public meetings law are applicable. *Nixon v. Madison Co. Ag. Soc'y*, 217 Neb. 37, 348 N.W.2d 119 (1984).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of

having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943, and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).

- Although a committee was a subcommittee of a natural resources district board, it was not subject to the Open Meetings Act because there was never a quorum of board members in attendance and the committee did not hold hearings, make policy, or take formal action on behalf of the board. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- Although the Open Meetings Act does not define "subcommittee," a subcommittee is generally defined as a group within a committee to which the committee may refer business. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- The Open Meetings Act does not require policymakers to remain ignorant of the issues they must decide until the moment the public is invited to comment on a proposed policy. By excluding nonquorum subgroups from the definition of a public body, the Legislature has balanced the public's need to be heard on matters of public policy with a practical accommodation for a public body's need for information to conduct business. *Koch v. Lower Loup NRD*, 27 Neb. App. 301, 931 N.W.2d 160 (2019).
- As an administrative agency of the county, a county board of equalization is a public body. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- The electors of a township at their annual meeting are a public body under the Open Meetings Act. *State ex rel. Newman v. Columbus Township Bd.*, 15 Neb. App. 656, 735 N.W.2d 399 (2007).
- The meeting at issue in this case was a "meeting" within the parameters of subsection (2) of this section because it involved the discussion of public business, the formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public power district. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).
- Informational sessions in which the governmental body hears reports are briefings. *Johnson v. Nebraska Environmental Control Council*, 2 Neb. App. 263, 509 N.W.2d 21 (1993).

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1)(a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 3; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 2; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 1; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 125; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1072; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 37; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 1; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 1; Laws 2011, LB390, § 29; Laws 2012, LB995, § 17.

Annotations

- There is no absolute discovery privilege for communications that occur during a closed session. *State ex rel. Upper Republican NRD v. District Judges*, 273 Neb. 148, 728 N.W.2d 275 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- The public interest mentioned in this section is that shared by citizens in general and by the community at large concerning pecuniary or legal rights and liabilities. *Grein v. Board of Education*, 216 Neb. 158, 343 N.W.2d 718 (1984).
- Hearing in closed executive session was contrary to this section since there was no showing of necessity or reason under subdivision (1)(a), (b), or (c), but did not result in reversal of board decision. *Simonds v. Board of Examiners*, 213 Neb. 259, 329 N.W.2d 92 (1983).
- Negotiations for the purchase of land need not be conducted at an open meeting but the deliberations of a city council as to whether an offer to purchase real estate

should be made should take place in an open meeting. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).

- Public meeting law was not violated where the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska voted to hold a closed session to consider the university president's resignation, and also discussed the appointment of an interim president during such session. *Meyer v. Board of Regents*, 1 Neb. App. 893, 510 N.W.2d 450 (1993).

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1)(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city or village. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or

(ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (2)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and

(xiii) A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsection (1) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a

recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas at wholesale on a multistate basis or an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, the organization may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing. The governing body of a risk management pool that meets at least quarterly and the advisory committees of the governing body may each hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if the governing body's quarterly meetings are not held by virtual conferencing.

(3) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(4) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(5) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(6) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(7)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (2) and (5) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the

public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsection (1) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (4) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section 84-1413.

(8) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

(a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;

(b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and

(c) The public body complies with subdivisions (2)(b)(i) and (2)(b)(ii) of this section.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 4; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 3; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 25; Laws 1993, LB 635, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 469, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 1161, § 1; Laws 1999, LB 47, § 2; Laws 1999, LB 87, § 100; Laws 1999, LB 461, § 1; Laws 2000, LB 968, § 85; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 38; Laws 2004, LB 1179, § 2; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 2; Laws 2007, LB199, § 9; Laws 2009, LB361, § 2; Laws 2012, LB735, § 1; Laws 2013, LB510, § 1; Laws 2017, LB318, § 1; Laws 2019, LB212, § 5; Laws 2020, LB148, § 3; Laws 2021, LB83, § 12; Laws 2022, LB742, § 1; Laws 2022, LB908, § 1; Laws 2022, LB922, § 13.

Note: The Revisor of Statutes has pursuant to section 49-769 correlated LB742, section 1, with LB908, section 1, and LB922, section 13, to reflect all amendments.

Note: Changes made by LB742 and LB908 became effective July 21, 2022. Changes made by LB922 became operative July 21, 2022.

Cross References

- **Intergovernmental Risk Management Act**, see section 44-4301.
- **Interlocal Cooperation Act**, see section 13-801.
- **Joint Public Agency Act**, see section 13-2501.

- **Municipal Cooperative Financing Act**, see section 18-2401.

Annotations

- Under subsection (1) of this section, the Legislature has imposed only two conditions on the public body's notification method of a public meeting: (1) It must give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting and (2) it must be recorded in the public body's minutes. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- An emergency is "(a)ny event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition." *Steenblock v. Elkhorn Township Bd.*, 245 Neb. 722, 515 N.W.2d 128 (1994).
- An agenda which gives reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at a meeting of a city council complies with the requirements of this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- When notice is required, a notice of a special meeting of a city council posted in three public places at 10:00 p.m. on the day preceding the meeting is not reasonable advance publicized notice of a meeting as is required by this section. *Pokorny v. City of Schuyler*, 202 Neb. 334, 275 N.W.2d 281 (1979).
- Teacher waived right to object to lack of public notice in board of education employment hearing by voluntary participation in the hearing without objection. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).
- A county board of commissioners and a county board of equalization are not required to give separate notices when the notice states only the time and place that the boards meet and directs a citizen to where the agendas for each board can be found. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- A county board of equalization is a public body which is required to give advanced publicized notice of its meetings. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Notice of recessed and reconvened meetings must be given in the same fashion as the original meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- True notice of a meeting is not given by burying such in the minutes of a prior board proceeding. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- An agenda notice which merely stated "work order reports" was an inadequate notice under this section because it did not give interested persons knowledge that plans for a 345 kv transmission line through the district was going to be discussed and voted upon at the meeting. Inadequate agenda notice under this section meant there was a substantial violation of the public meeting laws; however, later actions by the board of directors cured the defects in notice, and such actions were in substantial compliance with the statute. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing. A body may not be required to allow citizens to speak at each meeting, but it may not forbid public participation at all meetings.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the instate location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 5; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 4; Laws 1985, LB 117, § 2; Laws 1987, LB 324, § 5; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1073; Laws 2001, LB 250, § 2; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 39; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 3; Laws 2008, LB962, § 1; Laws 2021, LB83, § 13.

Annotations

- To preserve an objection that a public body failed to make documents available at a public meeting as required by subsection (8) of this section, a person who attends a public meeting must not only object to the violation, but must make that objection to the public body or to a member of the public body. *Stoetzel & Sons v. City of Hastings*, 265 Neb. 637, 658 N.W.2d 636 (2003).

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs

earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 6; Laws 1978, LB 609, § 3; Laws 1979, LB 86, § 9; Laws 1987, LB 663, § 26; Laws 2005, LB 501, § 1; Laws 2009, LB361, § 3; Laws 2015, LB365, § 2; Laws 2016, LB876, § 1; Laws 2021, LB83, § 14; Laws 2022, LB742, § 2.

Effective Date: July 21, 2022

Annotations

- If a person present at a meeting observes and fails to object to an alleged public meetings laws violation in the form of a failure to conduct rollcall votes before taking actions on questions or motions pending, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Hauser v. Nebraska Police Stds. Adv. Council*, 264 Neb. 944, 653 N.W.2d 240 (2002).
- Subsection (2) of this section does not require the record to state that the vote was by roll call, but requires only that the record show if and how each member voted. Neither does the statute set a time limit for recording the results of a vote, after which no corrections of the record can be made. If no intervening rights of third persons have arisen, a board of county commissioners has power to correct the record of the proceedings had at a previous meeting so as to make them speak the truth, particularly where the correction supplies some omitted fact or action and is done not to contradict or change the original record but to have the record show that a certain action was taken or thing done, which the original record fails to show. *State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar*, 214 Neb. 85, 333 N.W.2d 652 (1983).
- Failure by a public governing body, as defined under section 84-1409, R.R.S.1943, to take and record a roll call vote on an action, as required by section 84-1413(2), R.S.Supp.,1980, grants any citizen the right to sue for the purpose of having the action declared void. In this case such failure could not be later corrected by a nunc pro tunc order because there was no showing that a roll call vote on the disputed action was actually taken, and even if it was the record showed it was not recorded until over a year later. Sections 23-1301, R.R.S.1943,

and 23-1302, R.R.S.1943, make it the duty of the county clerk to record proceedings of the board of county commissioners. State ex rel. Schuler v. Dunbar, 208 Neb. 69, 302 N.W.2d 674 (1981).

- There is no requirement that a public body make a record of where notice was published or posted. Wolf v. Grubbs, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Source: Laws 1975, LB 325, § 9; Laws 1977, LB 39, § 318; Laws 1983, LB 43, § 5; Laws 1992, LB 1019, § 126; Laws 1994, LB 621, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 900, § 1074; Laws 2004, LB 821, § 40; Laws 2006, LB 898, § 4.

Annotations

- The Legislature has granted standing to a broad scope of its citizens for the very limited purpose of challenging meetings allegedly in violation of the Open Meetings Act, so that they may help police the public policy embodied by the act. Schauer v. Grooms, 280 Neb. 426, 786 N.W.2d 909 (2010).

- Any citizen of the state may commence an action to declare a public body's action void. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- The reading of ordinances constitutes a formal action under subsection (1) of this section. *City of Elkhorn v. City of Omaha*, 272 Neb. 867, 725 N.W.2d 792 (2007).
- If a person present at a meeting observes a public meetings law violation in the form of an improper closed session and fails to object, that person waives his or her right to object at a later date. *Wasikowski v. Nebraska Quality Jobs Bd.*, 264 Neb. 403, 648 N.W.2d 756 (2002).
- Under the Public Meetings Act, a county lacks capacity to maintain an action to declare its official conduct "void" for noncompliance with the act. *County of York v. Johnson*, 230 Neb. 403, 432 N.W.2d 215 (1988).
- When a petitioner under this section is successful in the district court, that court may allow attorney fees. *Tracy Corp. II v. Nebraska Pub. Serv. Comm.*, 218 Neb. 900, 360 N.W.2d 485 (1984).
- Informal discussions between the Tax Commissioner and the State Board of Equalization in which instructions were clarified, with such clarification leading to the amendment of hearing notices, did not constitute a public meeting subject to the provisions of this section. *Box Butte County v. State Board of Equalization and Assessment*, 206 Neb. 696, 295 N.W.2d 670 (1980).
- The right to collaterally attack an order made in contravention of the Public Meeting Act must occur within a period of one year as is specifically provided by this section. *Witt v. School District No. 70*, 202 Neb. 63, 273 N.W.2d 669 (1979).
- Statutory change, requiring "publicized notice" for board of education employment hearings, occurring between dates meeting scheduled and conducted, held not to void proceedings. *Alexander v. School Dist. No. 17*, 197 Neb. 251, 248 N.W.2d 335 (1976).
- Voiding an entire meeting is a proper remedy for violations of the Open Meetings Act. Once a meeting has been declared void pursuant to Nebraska's public meetings law, board members are prohibited from considering any information obtained at the illegal meeting. *Wolf v. Grubbs*, 17 Neb. App. 292, 759 N.W.2d 499 (2009).
- Actions by the board of directors were merely voidable under this section, and not void. Pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the plaintiffs were awarded partial attorney fees because they were successful in having the court declare that the board of directors was in substantial violation of the statute, even though the plaintiffs did not get the relief requested of having the board's actions declared void. *Hansmeyer v. Nebraska Pub. Power Dist.*, 6 Neb. App. 889, 578 N.W.2d 476 (1998).

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Source: http://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/display_html.php?begin_section=84-1407&end_section=84-1414

Date: July 2022

2. Election of chair and vice-chair.

3. Minutes of November 7, 2023, meeting.

BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on November 7, 2023, at 12 p.m. in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on November 1, 2023, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the city clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the members of the Board of Parks Commissioners. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT.** Vice-chair Larson announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were members Jon Brezenski, Sandra Jochens, Nick Larson, Gary Puetz, Lynn Sjuts, and Stacy Smith. Members Jack Gutierrez, Brad Hansen, and Bruce Schmidt were absent and excused. City staff members included Public Property Director Doug Moore, Park and Recreation Director Betsy Eckhardt, Park Superintendent Tom Ek, Park and Recreation Coordinator Sydney Winger, Golf Course Superintendent Shawn Riedmiller, Mechanic Greg Mundil, Park Maintenance Worker Alen Eckhardt, and Account Clerk II/Records Clerk II Linda Nickeson.
2. **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2023, MEETING.** The minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Sjuts and a second by Brezenski. Brezenski, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Sjuts, and Smith voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Members Gutierrez, Hansen, and Schmidt were absent.
3. **REQUEST OF THE ANTIQUE TRACTOR AND GAS ENGINES SHOW TO CAMP OVERNIGHT IN PAWNEE PARK, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JUNE 7 AND 8, 2024.** A recommendation was made to approve the request of the Antique Tractor and Gas Engines Show to camp overnight in Pawnee Park with a motion by Brezenski and a second by Smith. Brezenski, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Sjuts, and Smith voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Members Gutierrez, Hansen, and Schmidt were absent.
4. **CANCELLATION OF DECEMBER 2023 MEETING.** The December 2023 meeting was cancelled with a motion by Sjuts and a second by Smith. Brezenski, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Sjuts, and Smith voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Members Gutierrez, Hansen, and Schmidt were absent.
5. **UPDATE FROM THE ACTIVITY AND FACILITY REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS.** Eckhardt explained changes to the facility use agreement that will be presented to various youth organizations for the 2024 season.

6. **PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT.** Eckhardt reviewed the report in detail and noted that she intends to create a sub-committee to plan and organize the 2024 Nebraska Recreation and Parks Conference that the city will be hosting in September.
7. **UPDATE ON VAN BERG PRO SHOP RENOVATION PROJECT.** Brent McGrew explained plans for educational and paid advertising signage to be displayed in the pro shop and stated that once the initial cost of the signs is recouped the advertising revenue will be used to complete small projects that may arise. Moore stated that staff is working internally with the engineering and building departments to design the facility renovations, after which, it will be decided whether the need to hire an outside professional firm is necessary. He also confirmed that he will verify with the state fire marshal that renovation designs meet all fire code requirements before moving forward with hopes of completing the project by spring.
8. **PUBLIC PROPERTY DIRECTOR REPORT.** Moore reviewed the report. Riedmiller explained the process for winter protection of the greens and stated that the dry weather this past year did not allow staff to eliminate duck weed; however, the issue will be addressed in the spring.
9. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

: Linda Nickeson

4. Park and Recreation Director report.

Park Maintenance

- We are fully engaged in our winter work. These activities include:
 - Tree Trimming/removal
 - Stump removal
 - All equipment maintenance
 - Repairs to discus and shot-put areas of Pawnee Park
 - Ordered and received replacement parts for lights at Pawnee Park Tennis
 - Repairing lights at buffalo square
 - Replaced park signs at: Buffalo Square, Glur Park, Gerrard Park and Bradshaw Park. Continuing to work on other park signs.
 - Working on creating Standards of Operations for the Park Maintenance Department as well as seasonal general schedules and so on.
 - Identifying and getting quotes for equipment and parts we will need to replace in the next budget cycle.
 - Painted all merry-go-rounds that were able to be brought into the shop for painting.
 - Bringing in benches to begin painting.



Park and Rec General

- Columbus has been selected to be the host for the 2024 Nebraska Recreation and Parks Conference. It will be September 18-20th. If you are interested in being on the committee, please let me know.
- Winter Brochure is available
- Centennial Master Plan is done.
- We received \$5,921 in grant dollars from the Neb. Arts Council to help support the concerts in the square this summer.
- We had 67 kids attend the Kids Night In event for December, which was cookie making and the Grinch Movie.



Aquatic Center Attendance

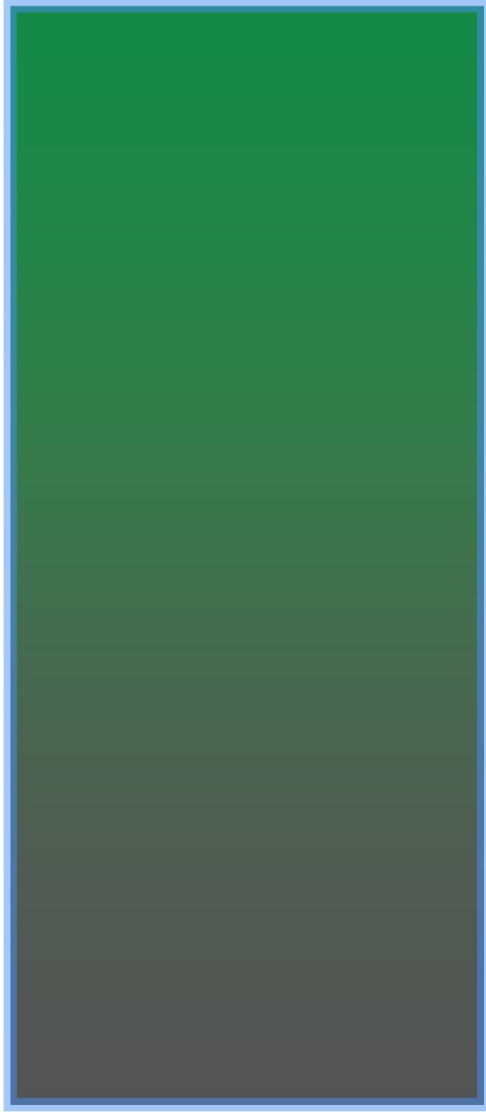
| Month | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------------|------|------|
| August | 1348 | 1275 |
| September | 1320 | 1066 |
| October | 1242 | 1169 |
| November | 1203 | 1111 |
| December as of 12/27 | 981 | 847 |

Aquatic Center Membership Count:

| Month | 2022 | 2023 |
|-----------|------|------|
| August | 670 | 413 |
| September | 669 | 422 |
| October | 612 | 424 |
| November | 617 | 434 |
| December | 601 | 442 |

- January Events
 - School Day out Swimming: January 19 12-4pm
 - Reef's Dive & Movie: January 20th 7-9pm
 - Aqua Balance Class: January 8th , 10am
 - Aqua Fitness January 8th , 6:30pm
 - Swim Lessons begin January 29th
- CIP Updates
 - Centennial Bathroom/Concession: We were approved to receive letters of interest for the Design Build of this project at the December 17th Council Meeting.
 - In January we should hear if we received grant dollars for the Centennial Splash Pad

4.A. Centennial Park Master Plan.



CENTENNIAL PARK

PARK MASTER PLAN

COLUMBUS, NE

OCTOBER 31, 2023



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MAYOR + CITY COUNCIL

James Bulkley
Beth Augustine-Schulte
Charlie Bahr
Troy Hiemer
Katherine Lopez
Richard E. Jablonski
Hope Freshour
J Prent Roth
Ron Schilling

CITY STAFF

Tara Vasicek
Betsy Eckhart
Doug Moore
Sydney Winger
Rick Bogus
Braden Labenz
Jon Lovell
Tom Ek
Joe Krepel

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SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

As the City of Columbus continues to strive to offer the citizens beautiful, modern, and useful park amenities, it has shifted its attention to Centennial Park. Generating a long-range master plan for the continual improvements of Centennial Park to allow future generations to enjoy is at forefront of Columbus' park planning. For the purposes of this master plan, the document outlines the historical context and future potential of Centennial Park.

This report's intent is to aid in long-term planning and guiding for the future of Centennial Park improvements. With the plan established, the City of Columbus can use this plan as guidelines for future improvements. The suggested future developments strongly consider the community aspect, environmentally friendly features, and a holistic view of Columbus' park systems. These improvements can be completed separately or simultaneously depending on community prioritization. Having the flexibility within the master plan allows for improvements to be categorized for future funding considerations.

PROJECT APPROACH

City staff was tasked with completing this master plan of Centennial Park. Having the in-depth knowledge of park programming, operations, and a holistic view of Columbus' park system has proven vital to the master planning process. To develop a future orientated park vision, the City of Columbus spent the past two (2) months collaborating with the community and experts on how to best serve the public's need at Centennial Park. The process included taking inventory of existing conditions, conducting in-person focus meetings, and a public survey. Material offered during the survey was presented to the public in both English and Spanish. Utilizing the public's input was essential to this master planning process.



Concession, Restroom & Storage Area
The concept of the multi-purpose building is to offer a comprehensive solution by consolidating all essential indoor public facilities required to support the entire park area and facilitate recreational and tournament play, all within a single, strategically designed structure. This approach mirrors the success of similar structures at Bradshaw Park providing a proven model for efficient park management.



Centennial Park Splash Pad

The Centennial Park splash pad will cater to families with various water attractions. It is one of only two such facilities in Columbus, the other being at Glur Park. This strategically placed amenity in Centennial Park will provide easy access for families in the area. Located near the playground and restrooms, it allows for continuous parental supervision of park users. This design consideration enhances safety and convenience.



INTRODUCTION

MASTER PLAN IDEAS

Once the information was gathered, the master plan started to take shape. Using ideas generated during the meetings and survey a comprehensive vision for the park started to take shape. Understanding the communities wants and needs were essential to the creation of this plan. Furthermore, comprehending the programming opportunities and future planning just as essential to the process. Having the foundational knowledge of Columbus' park systems allowed the master planning to take a wholistic view of the comments received from staff and community members to generate the best ideas for Centennial Park. Engaging users of the park by means of a survey gave citizens ample opportunities to give feedback on the specific plan. Specific comments provided greater insight into the ideas which were liked (or disliked) throughout the survey participants. The feedback garnered from engagement and staff expertise was used to refine the park plan into the final vision of this master plan.



Centennial Park Overall Master Plan

1. Ballfield Investments (Fencing, Dugouts)
2. New Restroom, Concessions, and Maintenance Building
3. Roadway & Parking improvements
4. Added Sidewalks and Trails
5. Landscaping updates
6. Add Splash Pad
7. Added picnic structure close to splash pad and baseball park
8. Playground improvements adding inclusivity
9. Sports: Update tennis, archery, add soccer goals, and handball/racquetball area



SECTION TWO

EXISTING PARK

CENTENNIAL PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



CENTENNIAL PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS

CENTENNIAL PARK

No more than 30 years ago Centennial Park had cornfields adjacent to it. Columbus' rapid growth proved beneficial for the surrounding land giving way to residents to call this neighborhood home. With the influx in near by resident, come the need for more park amenities. Centennial is known for its three baseball fields, elliptical roadway, and miscellaneous sporting opportunities.



Centennial Park sits on a little under 20 acres of land. Providing a perfect neighborhood park for everyone to enjoy. Offering a multitude of recreational sporting events such as baseball, tennis, horseshoes, archery range, handball, and playground equipment makes Centennial Park a focal point of the area.

STRENGTHS

Strategically located by 3rd avenue and 8th street gives easy access via car or bike for all citizens to enjoy. The Park houses a system of sidewalks creating walking paths for nearby residents and Centennial School. This gives the Centennial Park a big park personality with the feeling of a neighborhood park. Maintaining excellent baseball facilities generates revenue and enjoyable past-time for community members.

CHALLENGES

Centennial Park benefits from its exceptional accessibility to surrounding roadways, resulting in high traffic flow and speeds. This strategic connectivity with local neighborhoods has, unfortunately, led to an unintended increase in through traffic within the park as drivers seek shortcuts.

While Centennial Park offers a wide range of recreational activities, setting it apart from other city parks, this diversity also presents challenges in terms of maintenance. Managing numerous facilities becomes intricate, demanding a careful balance to ensure consistently high-quality recreational opportunities.

Furthermore, the park's proximity to adjacent residential neighborhoods has given rise to tensions between residents and late-night or boisterous park users. Mitigating light and noise pollution has proven to be an ongoing challenge for both nearby homeowners and City staff.

CENTENNIAL PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS

OVERALL VISION STATEMENT

Rejuvenate Centennial Park into a vibrant, inclusive, and modern destination that caters to the diverse needs and desires of our community members. Enhance the park’s facilities and services to ensure a welcoming and safe environment for everyone. Accomplishing this by providing a modern concessions, restroom, and maintenance facility. Revitalize facilities to breathe life into under utilized recreational amenities. Improve parking and lighting for pedestrian safety while maintaining easy access for all users. All with the vision of transforming this park into a vibrant, inviting, and modern destination that unites our community and ensures its usage and safety for the future.

PARK FACILITY CONDITIONS

The table and images below express current park facility conditions.

Condition Key: (E = Excellent) (A = Average) (NA = Needs Attention)

| | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|
| 1 | Baseball Fields | A |
| 2 | Dugouts | A |
| 3 | Viewing Stands | E |
| 4 | Field Sidewalks | E |
| 5 | Batting Cages | NA |
| 6 | Concession Stands | NA |
| 7 | Restrooms | NA |
| 8 | Roadway & Parking Lot | NA |
| 9 | Tennis Courts | NA |
| 10 | Horseshoes Pit | NA |
| 11 | Archery Range | A |
| 12 | Handball Court | A |
| 13 | Playground | NA |
| 14 | Picnic Structure | E |
| 15 | Park Lighting | NA |

CENTENNIAL PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



FIGURE 2.01 // EXISTING RAQUETBALL COURT



FIGURE 2.05 // EXISTING RESTROOMS



FIGURE 2.02 // EXISTING ARCHERY RANGE



FIGURE 2.06 // EXISTING PLAYGROUND



FIGURE 2.03 // EXISTING HORSE SHOE PITCHER'S BOX



FIGURE 2.07 // EXISTING PLAYGROUND SHELTER (WEST)



FIGURE 2.04 // EXISTING TENNIS COURT



FIGURE 2.08 // EXISTING CONCESSION BUILDING

CENTENNIAL PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



FIGURE 2.09 // EXISTING DUGOUT



FIGURE 2.11 // EXISTING BATTING CAGES



FIGURE 2.12 // EXISTING COVERED BLEACHERS

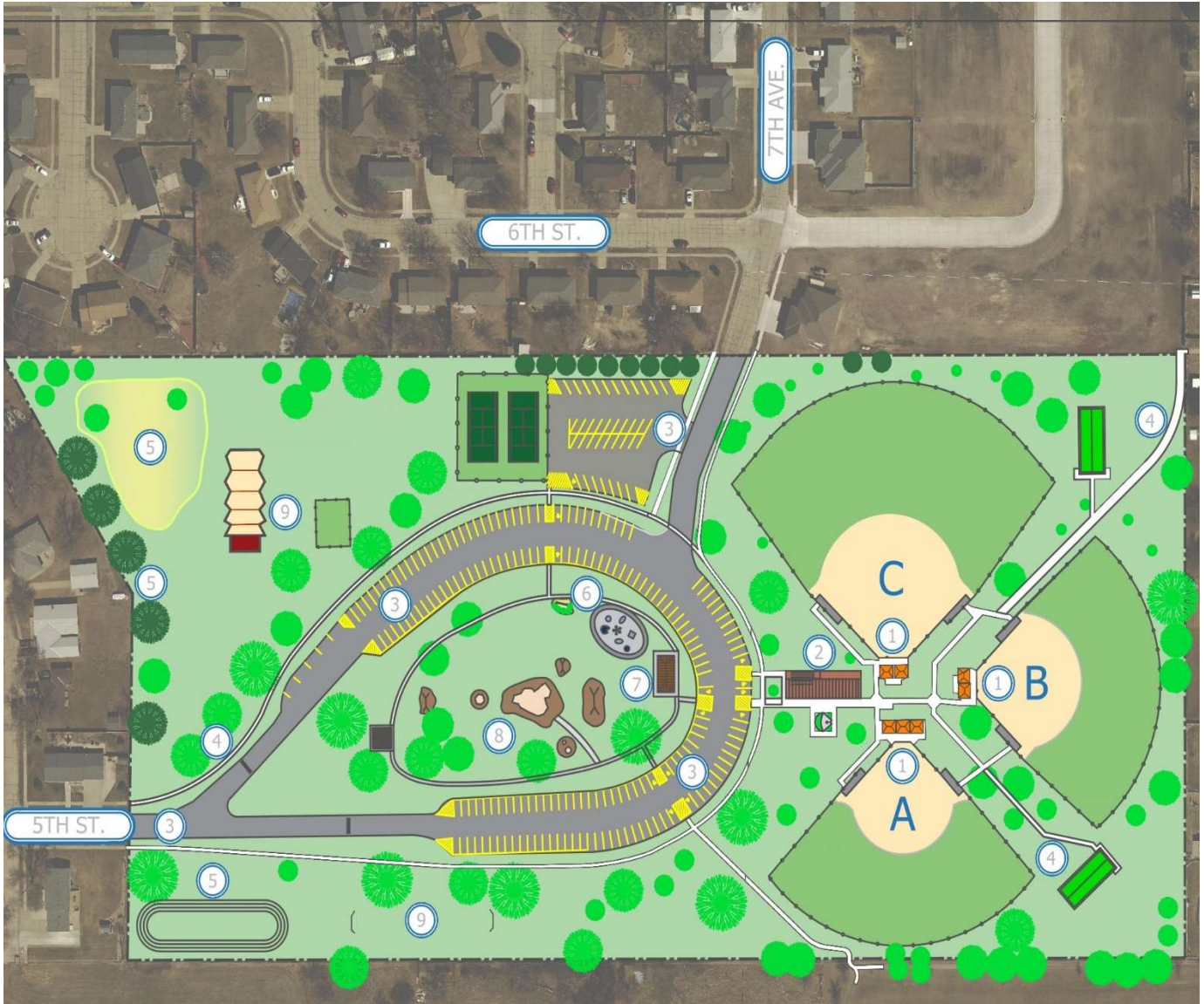


FIGURE 2.13 // EXISTING PARKING LOT

SECTION THREE

PARK MASTER PLAN

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN



CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

1. Ballfield Improvements
 - a. Black Fencing
 - b. Updated Batting Cages
 - c. Dugouts and Benches
 - d. Warning Track
 - e. Lighting
2. Concession/Restroom/Maintenance
 - a. Patio Area
 - b. Storage
 - c. Added Technology for Security
 - d. Lighting
3. Roadways/Parking
 - a. Armor Coat Roadways
 - b. Mark and clearly identify Parking
 - c. Add parking
 - d. Clearly mark pedestrian crossings
4. Sidewalks/Trails
5. Landscaping
 - a. Add trees and native grass areas
6. Splash Pad
 - a. Sprinkler & Ground Features
 - b. Shade and seating
7. Picnic Structure
 - a. New Picnic Tables
8. Play Area Improvements
 - a. Shaded Play Areas
 - b. Paved access to play areas
 - c. Partial Rubber surfacing
 - d. Add Inclusivity Features
9. Sports
 - a. Update Tennis/Pickleball Courts
 - b. Update Lighting
 - c. Update Horseshoe pit to include cornhole or spike ball
 - d. Update Archery Range
 - e. Add Soccer Goals

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

BALLFIELD INVESTMENTS

The master plan renovations will bring about a remarkable transformation, elevating the baseball fields to provide an exceptional experience for both players and spectators. These fields stand as the central gathering point for the majority of park visitors year-round. While revitalizing the ballfields, several key elements are meticulously addressed.

In line with the field upgrades, the batting cage fencing will be thoughtfully updated, seamlessly aligning with the modernized fields. A comprehensive transformation of the ballfield sports lighting system will transform the park. With the introduction of cutting-edge LED fixtures, aim to strategically position them between the fields, optimizing field illumination and simultaneously mitigating light pollution in the neighboring residential areas.



3.2 Lighting



3.3 Fencing/Dugouts



3.4 Warning Track



3.5 Batting Cage

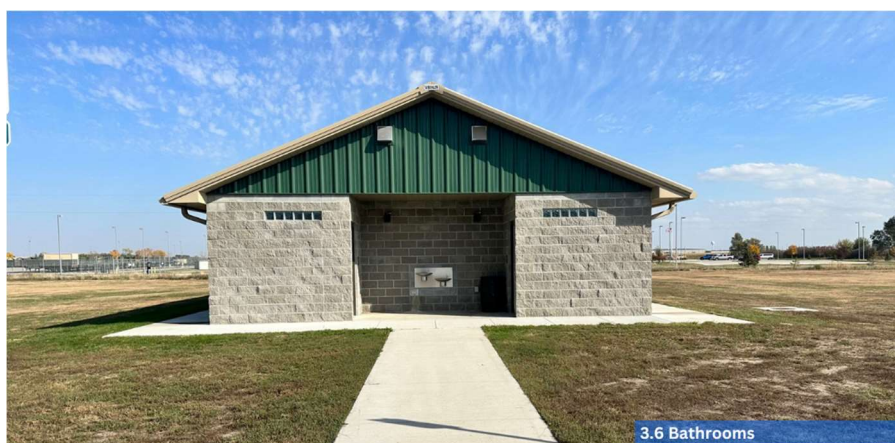
CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

RESTROOMS, CONCESSIONS, AND MAINTENANCE BUILDING

At the heart of Centennial Park lies a pivotal element in our development plan: the proposed multi-purpose building. This facility is designed to serve as the central hub for park amenities, including restrooms, concessions, and storage for maintenance equipment. Ensuring a streamlined and cohesive structure for Columbus's parks maintenance team is paramount to the efficient operation of community parks.

The concept of the multi-purpose building is to offer a comprehensive solution by consolidating all essential indoor public facilities required to support the entire park area and facilitate tournament play, all within a single, strategically designed structure. This approach mirrors the success of similar structures at Bradshaw Park and Frontier Park, providing a proven model for efficient park management.

The reorganization of existing restrooms and concessions not only enhances convenience but also opens up opportunities for landscape improvements, the introduction of low-maintenance trees, and the integration of architectural features. Additionally, the critical importance of well-planned lighting in this area to ensure the safety of pedestrians and the overall security of facilities.



CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

ROADWAY AND PARKING

The park's entry roads and parking areas are to undergo comprehensive transformation, featuring the installation of paved surfaces with curbs extending throughout the park's expanse. In alignment with the commitment to preserving Centennial Park's distinctive visual identity, the roadway layout will mirror the existing configuration, ensuring the park's signature image remains intact.

Moreover, the integration of paved roadways will seamlessly connect with the adjacent pavement at 7th Avenue and 5th Street, creating a harmonious transition in the surrounding area. To prioritize pedestrian safety, enhanced lighting is to be implemented to illuminate the driving surfaces, fostering a protective environment for park-goers.

A careful evaluation of speed management measures, including the potential introduction of speed-reduction apparatuses like speed bumps, must be considered. These measures are intended to mitigate historical issues associated with traffic volume and excessive speeds that have posed challenges to the park's well-being in the past.



3.9 Updated Roadway



3.10 Pedestrian Crossings



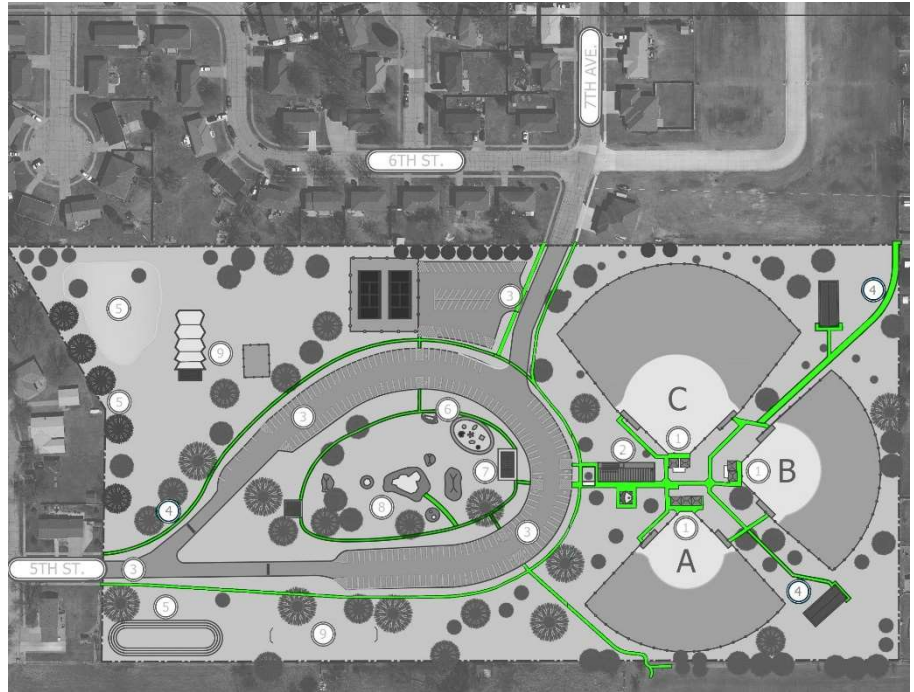
3.11 Added Parking Lot/Spots

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

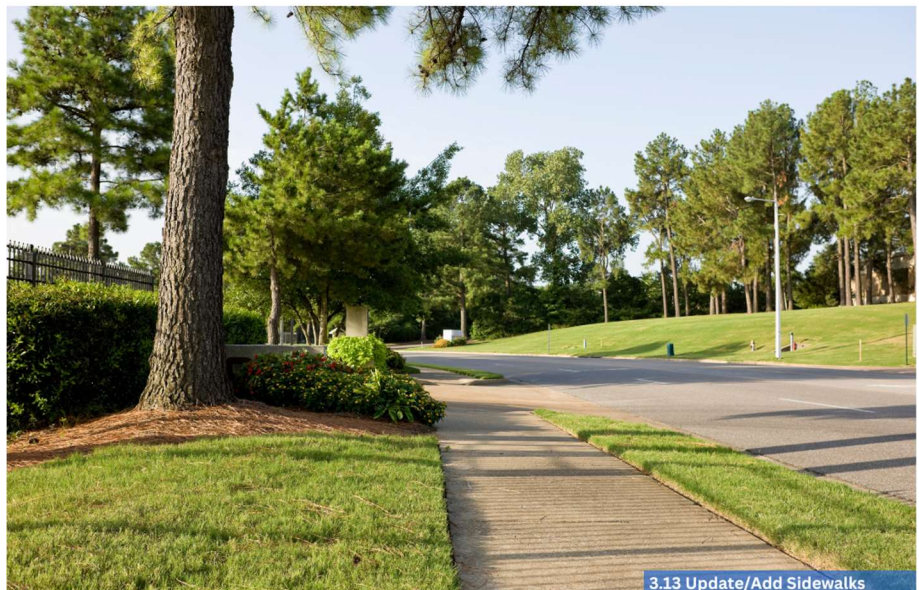
SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS

Centennial Park's transformation prioritizes connectivity and accessibility through a network of paved pathways. While expanding snow removal needs, this approach reduces mowing demands, optimizing maintenance. The sidewalks ensure people of all ages and mobilities can enjoy the park's enhancements. An interior sidewalk system offers panoramic visibility of all park improvements, with resting benches for moments of reprieve.

Additionally, a cohesive trail system connects 8th Street and Centennial School, aligning with Columbus' master trail plan and enhancing accessibility for walkers and bikers, ultimately fostering a welcoming environment for all park enthusiasts.



3.12 Trail Connectivity



3.13 Update/Add Sidewalks

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

LANDSCAPING

Commitment to creating a more environmentally sustainable park will be realized through extensive landscaping and the reintroduction of native grasses, forming the bedrock of the park's transformation. This approach not only aligns with environmental goals but also significantly reduces the need for frequent maintenance across the park's expansive 20 acres.

The strategic planting of new trees around the border of the park and parking lot will enhance the park's overall aesthetics. The master plan emphasizes preserving existing natural features, including mature trees and plantings that contribute to the park's unique character.

We will also be adding a drainage area so that stormwater drains correctly and efficiently in Centennial Park.

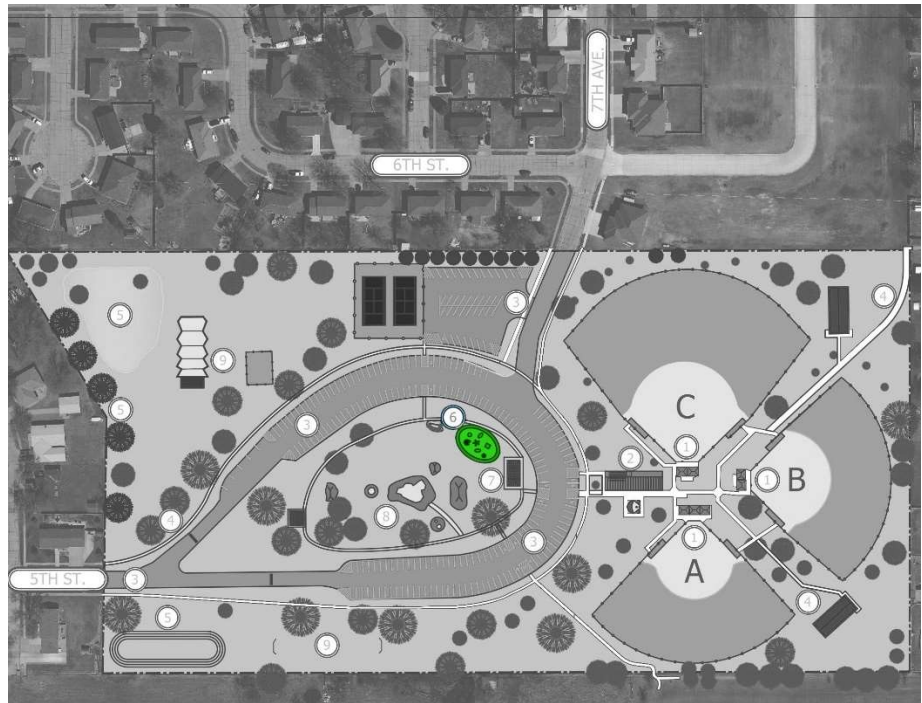
Furthermore, additional landscaping will act as a natural barrier, effectively reducing noise and light pollution for neighboring homes, ensuring a more eco-friendly park environment.



CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

SPLASH PAD

The Centennial Park splash pad caters to families with various water attractions. It is one of only two such facilities in Columbus, the other being at Glur Park, and has gained popularity since its construction. This strategically placed amenity in Centennial Park provides easy access for families in the area. Located near the playground and restrooms, it allows for continuous parental supervision of park users. This design consideration enhances safety and convenience. Overall, Centennial Park's splash pad is a valuable addition for families in the region, offering recreation and leisure opportunities.



CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

PICNIC STRUCTURE

The picnic structure focuses on the essential community aspect of Centennial Park. Featuring a pitched metal roof, covered rafters, permanent picnic tables able to seat around 40 people, paved parking nearby, lighting, and connection to the sidewalk system. Centrally located between the splash pad and playground area, families can enjoy the park amenities while staying cool in the shade.



3.19 Picnic Tables



3.20 Picnic Shelter

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS

The destination playground features intriguing play pieces serving a wide and diverse set of users. Inclusivity is the focus of the improvements. Providing access via sidewalks and ramps, the playground is ADA accessible. Additionally, located near the restrooms, sheltered picnic structure, and splash pad. Adding benches and tables around the exterior of the play area for ease of viewing and lounging.



3.21 Inclusive Play Pieces



3.22 Partial Rubber Surfacing



3.23 Shade Coverings

CENTENNIAL PARK MASTER PLAN

SPORTS

The sports area improvements encompass multi-purpose courts, a horseshoe pit, an archery range structure, and the addition of soccer goals. Upgrades to the tennis courts, along with enhanced lighting, transform the space into a versatile facility, accommodating various sports. Repainting the tennis courts to include tennis, pickleball, and basketball further enhances their utility.

Adjustments to the horseshoe pits open the door to potential alternative gaming activities, such as cornhole or spike ball facilities. The archery range upgrades introduce new netting, a backstop, fresh paint, and improved lighting. These improvements collectively elevate the sports areas at Centennial Park, fostering a more diverse and engaging recreational environment.



SECTION FOUR

PRIORITIZATION

Priority A: High Priority

Concession Stand Area

- Patio area
- Storage
- Added technology for security
- Lighting

Splash Pad

- Sprinkler & ground features
- Shade and seating

Roadways/Parking

- Armor coat roadways
- Mark and clearly identify parking
- Add parking
- Clearly mark pedestrian crossings

New Picnic Area

- Shaded picnic shelter
- New picnic tables



Priority B: Moderate Priority

Ballfield Improvements

- Black fencing
- Updated batting cages
- Dugouts and benches
- Warning track
- Lighting

Sidewalks/Trails

- Park connectivity
- ADA upgrades to access facilities



Priority C: Low Priority

Sports

- update tennis/pickleball courts
- Update lighting
- Update horseshoe pit to include cornhole or spike ball
- Update archery range
- Add soccer goals

Playground Improvements

- Shaded play areas
- Paved access to play areas
- Partial rubber surfacing
- Add inclusivity features

Landscaping

- Native planting
- Incorporate native grasses
- Maintain and plant trees



SECTION FIVE

APPENDIX



Centennial Park Master Plan



First Concepts
Take the survey today!

APPENDIX

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Be an advocate for the plan

Represent the greater community and their input.

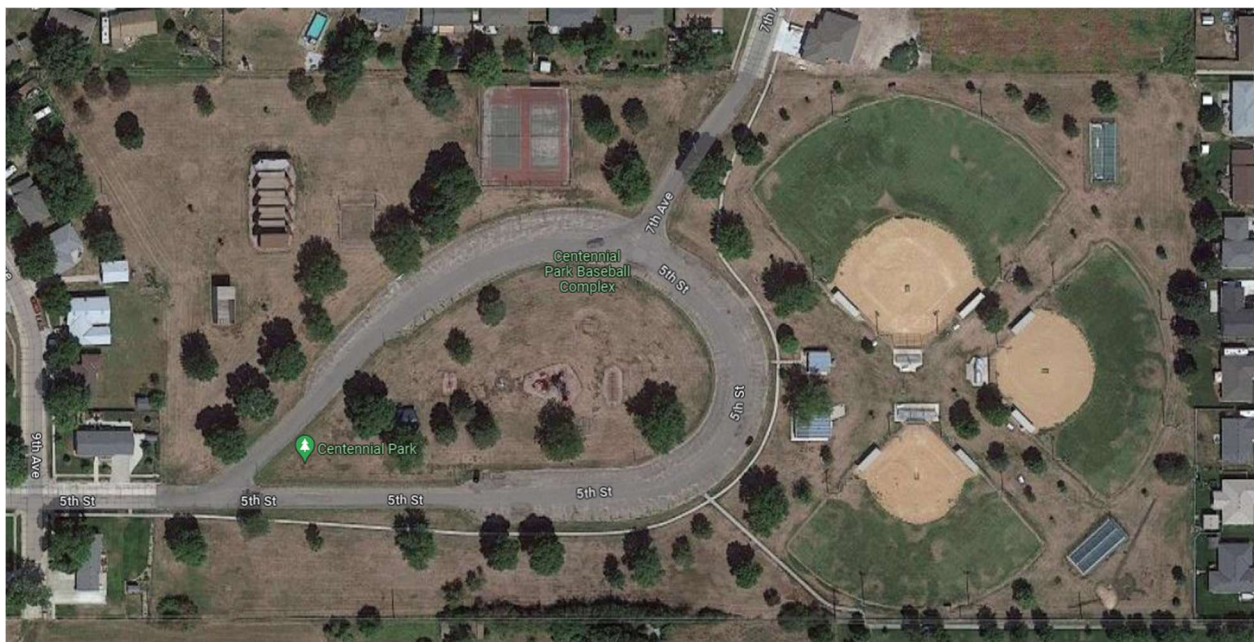
Provide feedback to the team on opportunities, challenges and goals.

Review draft materials and provide input.

Engage in the discussion of ideas and vision for the future of Centennial Park.

Attend meetings when presented and needed

Project Study Area



APPENDIX

Existing Conditions and Site Analysis



APPENDIX

Visioning & Park Planning

Strengths

- Location next to school and neighborhoods
- Hosts all recreational youth baseball
- Good space
- Multiple uses
- Well maintained
- Source of income
- Heavily used

Weaknesses

- Outdated amenities
- Drainage needs addressed
- Roadways are bad
- Parking needs defined and added
- Heavily used

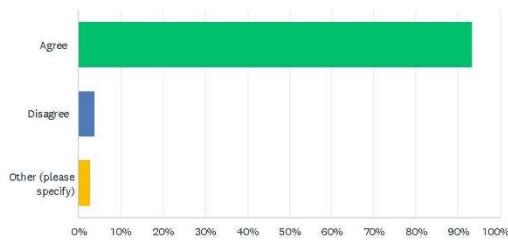
Program Elements within the park

- Recreational youth baseball league
- Day camps
- Picnics

Online Survey Results

Q1 Do you agree with the current proposed location and concept for the Concession, Bathroom and Maintenance building?

Answered: 336 Skipped: 1



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES | COUNT |
|------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Agree | 93.45% | 314 |
| Disagree | 3.87% | 13 |
| Other (please specify) | 2.68% | 9 |
| TOTAL | | 336 |

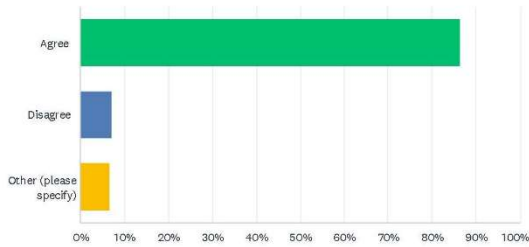


APPENDIX

Online Survey Results Continued

Q2 Do you agree with the current proposed location and concept of the Centennial Park Splash Pad?

Answered: 336 Skipped: 1

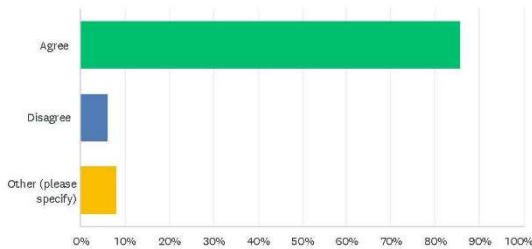


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|------------------------|------------|
| Agree | 86.31% 290 |
| Disagree | 7.14% 24 |
| Other (please specify) | 6.55% 22 |
| TOTAL | 336 |



Q3 Do you agree with the overall concepts for the Centennial Park Master Plan?

Answered: 335 Skipped: 2



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |
|------------------------|------------|
| Agree | 85.67% 287 |
| Disagree | 6.27% 21 |
| Other (please specify) | 8.06% 27 |
| TOTAL | 335 |





COLUMBUS

Parks and Recreation



4.B. Report on Columbus Mariners Baseball, Columbus Youth Baseball League, Columbus Soccer Club, AYSO, and Columbus Adult Soccer League.

5. Public Property Director report.



The City of *Columbus*

PUBLIC PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Director (402) 562-4240

Fax (402) 562-4265

January 2024

Monthly report

Golf report

2023 season is complete, was a successful season overall

City Council has accepted the proposal from Nebraska Golf and Turf for 10 additional golf carts for Van Berg. Carts have been ordered and hoping for delivery before the 2024 golf season

Received some timely rain showers so that we didn't have to irrigate manually

Met with City Code staff to discuss improvements needed so that Van Berg pro shop will meet city codes

City Council approved using the design/build system of construction for Van Berg pro shop improvements

Sent out notice for letters of interest from companies interested in the Van Berg project.

Working on quotes for new roof on Van Berg storage building

Brent and Doug working with Cornhusker State Games on youth event next summer, need to have CSG make some changes in order for Quail to host.

Quail Run closed for the season

Van Berg will remain open throughout the winter weather permitting

We will put a thin layer of sand on the Van Berg greens for winter protection

Seasonal staff is done for the year

Women's Golf Association is purchasing lilac bushes to hide screen on practice green south of #1 tee boxes at Quail Run

Received reimbursement from Landscapes Unlimited for grass seed purchased by the city. Some of the seed didn't germinate after the flooding

Sharpening reels and blades preparing for the season.

Some reels need additional repairs that we cannot perform in house so sending to Omaha for repairs.

Golf cart seats requiring repair have been delivered to an upholstery shop in Grand Island.

Have installed new LED lights in the Quail Run maintenance building work area.

Completing repairs on maintenance equipment as well as extensive work on most of the older golf carts.

Looking at alternatives for top dressing sand storage.

6. Adjournment.