

Board of Parks Commissioners  
Tuesday, February 1, 2022 12:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
1369 25 Avenue  
Columbus, NE 68601

1. **Statement of compliance with Open Meetings Act.**

# Open Meetings Act

## **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1407. Act, how cited.**

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

## **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 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.

## **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 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, and (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;

(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.

## **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 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.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual meetings authorized; 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 web site.

(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 web site; 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;

(xiii) A natural resources district; and

(xiv) The Judicial Resources Commission.

(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 Open Meetings Act

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 subsections (5) and (6) of section 84-1413.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 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 in-state 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.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; 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, except as provided in subsection (6) of this section, and 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 the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Minutes of the meetings of the board of a school district or educational service unit may be kept as an electronic record.

(7) 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 web site the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the web site at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of

the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the web site 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 web site for at least six months.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 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.

**Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1415. Open Meetings Act; requirements; waiver; validity of action.**

No motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting as defined in section 84-1409 of a public body as defined in such section shall be invalidated because such motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action was made, adopted, passed, or taken at a meeting or meetings on or after March 17, 2020, and on or before April 30, 2021, pursuant to a Governor's Executive Order which waived certain requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

2. **Minutes of January 4, 2022, meeting.**

BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS  
JANUARY 4, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on January 4, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 1369 25 Avenue, Columbus, Nebraska.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on December 30, 2021, 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.** Chair Hansen announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were Members Jon Brezenski, Robbin Cutsor, Jack Gutierrez, Brad Hansen, Sandra Jochens, Nick Larson, Gary Puetz, Bruce Schmidt, and John Shadle. City staff members included Public Property Director Doug Moore, Park and Recreation Coordinator Betsy Eckhardt, and City Clerk Janelle Kline.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.** Hansen called for nominations for chair of the Board of Parks Commissioners. Gutierrez nominated Hansen as chair. No other nominations were brought forward. Nominations closed with a motion by Puetz and second by Jochens. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Hansen called for nominations for vice-chair. Jochens nominated Cutsor as vice-chair. No other nominations were brought forward. Nominations closed with a motion by Gutierrez and second by Jochens. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Hansen was elected chair and Cutsor was elected vice-chair with a motion by Shadle and second by Schmidt. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".
3. **MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2, 2021, MEETING.** The minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Larson and a second by Jochens. Brezenski, Cutsor, Gutierrez, Hansen, Jochens, Larson, Puetz, Schmidt, and Shadle voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay".
4. **PUBLIC PROPERTY DIRECTOR REPORT.** Moore reviewed park, aquatic, and golf activity in detail pointing out that the ice skating rink located west of Columbus High School will be ready for use soon; however, the heated shack will only be open on weekends. Eckhardt reviewed park and recreation activity and Larson commended her for successfully stepping up to the many challenges she has faced.
5. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
: Linda Nickeson

3. **Columbus Youth Softball Association annual report.**

### INCOME/EXPENSE REPORTING FORM

Organization Columbus Youth Softball Assoc.

Year 21 Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Fees			
Concessions	36,854.40	24,092.64	12,761.76
Tournaments	1,762.25		
Special Events			
Special Fund Raisers	50.00		50.00
Entry Fees	37,380.00	30,681.45	6,698.55
Registration Fees			
Other			
Total	76,046.65	54,774.09	\$ 21,272.36

Contributions



Park Improvements Completed

Cost



Park Improvements Planned

Estimated Cost



City Funding Requested

Park Maintenance Expenses (Your cost for field preparation, irrigation, etc.)

Cost

field prep	2,355
sprinkler repair	937.15


Number of Participants (List as appropriate for your organization, i.e., leagues.)

List of Board members & Park Department contact person.

935 participants

Board = Brent Johnston, Mike Jeffries, Josh Jaeger, Ken Andreason, Jerry Dryman, Luke Seim, Eric Brabec

4. **American Legion Baseball annual report.**

# INCOME/EXPENSE REPORTING FORM

Organization: American Legion Baseball - 2021

	Income	Expenses	Net
<b>Coaches pay, player fee, sponsor fee</b>	\$17,650	\$12,661	4,989
<b>Concessions</b>	6,831	3,577	3,254
<b>Tournaments (Entry Fees and return fees)</b>	0	2,945	(2,945)
<b>Special Events</b>	0	0	0
<b>Entry Fees/Gate</b>	5,938	500	5,438
<b>Registration Fees/insurance</b>	0	967	(967)
<b>Umpires Fees (\$75/game x 2)</b>	0	3,760	(3,760)
<b>Uniforms and Caps</b>	0	2,570	(2,570)
<b>Other: Income/Expense</b>	2,014	1,678	336
<b>Baseball Camp Fundraiser</b> 65 attendees	1,675	707	968
<b>Total</b>	\$34,108	\$29,365	\$4,743

<b>Park Improvements Completed / In-process</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Agri-lime on the field and base paths.	
Fence power-washed and re-painted.	
New roof on concession stand.	
Backstop net replaced. (CBA purchased, City installed.)	
CBA purchased plastic fence covers to replace broken ones along dugout and down base lines. To be installed by CBA in the Spring.	\$400

<b>Park Improvements / Maintenance Required</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Door to the Auxiliary Dressing Room needs replacing.	
Run off from Concession Stand gutter down spout drains into storage.	
Two lights out in left field.	
Parking lot in bad repair.	
Scoreboard lights need replacing. (May have been completed.)	
In-field needs re-seeding. (May have been completed.)	
Need railing added to bleachers stairs.	
Two lights out in men's restroom.	
Vents do not work in women's restroom.	
Moles or voles tearing up the outfield.	
Ice machine does not work.	
<b>City Funding Requested</b>	

<b>Park Maintenance Expenses</b>	<b>Cost</b>

<b>Number of Participants</b>
16 Senior Players, 18 Junior Blues Players, 14 Junior Reds Players (Coop with Lakeview)

<b>List of Board Members</b>
Ken Robinson, Kevin McCright, Colin Alexander, Steve Farmer, Ken Van Dyke, Cory Fullner, Mary Young, Chad Van Cleave, and Mike Kruse
<b>Park Department Contact Person</b>
Ken Robinson; 402-606-7202; ken.robinson@ymail.com

## 2021 Recap

### 1. A total of 36 games played at Pawnee Park:

- No rainouts!
- Columbus Seniors = 11 games / three DBL headers
- Columbus Juniors = 12 games / four DBL headers
- Lakeview Reds = seven games
- Lakeview Seniors = six games
  - o Five DBL Header between the Reds and Seniors

### 2. American Legion hosted the Ralph Bishop League Senior and Junior Tournament at Pawnee Park based on the Lakeview Seniors and Lakeview Reds #1 seeds.

- Lakeview Reds played one game.
  - o Due to a scheduling conflict with a previously scheduled Columbus Seniors game, one Lakeview Reds game had to be played at Arlington.
- Lakeview Seniors played two games.
- Two other games were played at Pawnee Park that were not Columbus teams.

### 3. Held a Fan Appreciation Night during the Columbus Seniors game with Grand Island on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Free attendance to the park.
- Free t-shirts provided by Cornerstone.
- Held 50/50 draw.

### 4. Held four Veterans Appreciation Nights (one for each team):

- Players with Veteran family members were recognized along their respective base paths from both teams and their family members information, military service was announced.
- Letter read from Congressman Fortenberry recognizing the Veterans.
- Certificates presented to players for their family's military service
- Veterans in attendance were provided a Certificate in recognition of their service and were afforded an opportunity to sign a banner that will be displayed during all home games at the park.
- Free popcorn and hotdogs for all Veterans in attendance.
- Note: Attendance for Veterans is free for any game at Pawnee Park.
- Held a 50/50 Split Pot Raffle.
  
- July 1<sup>st</sup> during the Columbus Seniors DBL header with Gretna.
  - o Two airplane flyover during the National Anthem.
  - o Glenn Loseke threw out the first pitch.
  - o Hartman Post #84 presented the Colors.
  - o American Legion Post #84 had a sign-up table.
- July 5<sup>th</sup> during the Lakeview Reds/Seniors DBL header with Albion.
  - o Jim Jacobs (DAV) threw out the first pitch.
  - o Humphrey American Legion Post 80 presented the Colors.
  - o DAV had a sign-up table.
- July 6<sup>th</sup> during the Columbus Blue DBL header with Freemont.
  - o Ed Brezenski threw out the first pitch.

- Columbus VFW Post 3704 presented the Colors.
- VFW had a sign-up table.

5. Held a Youth Baseball Recognition Night during the last game of the season at Pawnee Park July 13<sup>th</sup> during the Columbus Seniors DBL header with Blair:

- Between games, recognized the following teams, players and coaches at home plate:
  - Outlaws 10U team that won the USSSA 10AA Silver State Championship Tournament and compiled a 35-16 regular season record on their way to the championship.
  - Mariners 11U team that went 5-1 overall and won the USSSA 11AAA Gold State Championship Tournament and compiled an overall season record of 29 wins, 23 losses, and three ties. Their overall tournament record was 19 wins and 10 losses.
  - Columbus Youth Baseball League Tournament Championship Teams to include: Pony League = Dodgers; Major League = Diamondbacks, and the Minor League = Orioles.
- All players ran the bases before heading back to their seats!
- Free attendance for all players wearing their uniform top.

6. Tremendous support this year from the following:

- Columbus Park and Recreation Coordinator, Betsy Eckhardt for making the season a total success.
- Columbus Park Department for all their arduous work on the field and the fence.
- American Legion Post #84 for volunteering to work the ticket booth at all home games.
- American Legion Athletic Committee Board members who volunteered timeless hours at the ballpark.
- Denise Van Dyke for running a flawless concession stand.
- Coaches and parents for all their tremendous effort and support to the program.
- And finally, all the ball players for providing us a great season of American Legion baseball.

Respectfully,

*Kenneth E Robinson*

Ken Robinson  
American Legion Hartman Post #84  
Athletic Committee Chairman

**5. Wilderness Park Operations Committee annual report.**

<b>Columbus Soccer Club 2021 Financials</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	
Tournament Registration (June)	\$ 22,690.00
Tournament Registration (October)	\$ 33,220.00
Player Registration	\$ 15,385.55
Fine Designs (T-shirt Sales)	\$ 2,292.40
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 73,587.95</b>

<b>Expense:</b>	
City of Columbus (Electricity/Field)	\$ 103.71
Rival Design (Website)	\$ 396.00
CSC Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00
2021 Turf Maintenance	\$ 4,465.00
Goalkeeper Camp Expenses	\$ 1,246.17
USPS PO Box	\$ 148.00
Comm Director	\$ 1,000.00
Audio Video Specialist	\$ 829.32
Player Registration - to NSSA	\$ 5,533.00
Registrar Fees/Expense	\$ 1,676.05
Field Striping Supplies/Paint	\$ 1,766.49
Goal/Net Expenses	\$ 720.41
Tournament Expense (June)	\$ 17,898.84
Tournament Expense (October)	\$ 22,569.34
D&B Yard Services	\$ 1,607.91
Memorials/Donations	\$ 210.47
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 62,170.71</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 11,917.24</b>

<b>AYSO 2021 Financials</b>	
<b>Income:</b>	
AYSO Registrations	\$ 27,407.55
Sponsorship Income	\$ 1,466.51
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 28,874.06</b>

<b>Expense:</b>	
Field Expenses/Supplies	\$ 10,616.94
Rent/30 Center Mall	\$ 3,000.00
NAGM/Conferences	\$ -
Equipment-Tax Paid	\$ 869.00
Ads	\$ 2,793.09
Volunteer Expenses	\$ 9,058.91
Utilities	\$ 1,082.28
Postage	\$ 26.35
Office Supplies	\$ 2,512.11
Service Charge	\$ 20.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 29,978.68</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ (1,104.62)</b>

<b>Wilderness Park Concessions</b>	
Concession Income	\$ 15,398.27
Concession Expenses	\$ (10,222.04)
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 5,176.23</b>

<b>Park Improvements Completed Previous Year</b>	<b>Cost</b>
D&B Yard Services - clean and plant in berm area south end of Pavilion	\$ 1,004.91
Water new plants/schrubs/bushes	Donated Time
D&B Yard Services - removed debris/cleaned area around trees south end of Pavilion	\$ 603.00
New wiring and speakers (City \$300/AYSO \$829.31/CSC \$829.32)	\$ 1,958.63

<b>Park improvements Needed</b>	<b>Total Project Estimated Cost</b>
Blacktop/Gravel NORTH PARKING LOT	?? City
Addition to North Storage Room	?? City
Plant shrubs/bushes south end of Pavilion	WPC will pay for this \$ 1,000.00

**Number of Participants** (List as appropriate for your organization, i.e. leagues)  
**List of Board Members & Park Department Contact person.**  
**PARTICIPANTS: AYSO - 890 Players, 98 Teams**  
**Columbus Soccer Club - 307 Players, 20 Teams, 47 coaches**  
**Contact Person(s): AYSO/Katie Gassmann, CSC/Kay Arlt**  
**Tournament Teams: Classic (June) - 62 Harvest Cup (October) - 83**

**AYSO Board Members:** Regional Commissioner-Katie Gassmann; Region Registrar-Belle Maldona; Assistant Registrar-Karli Amack; Treasurer-Jordan Mueller; CVPA Coordinators-Tim Sky & Kelli Parsons; Safety Director-Robert White; Head Coach-Tim Gentile; Assistant Coach-Chrissy Wood; Head Referee-Jason Beiermann; Assistant Referee-Matt Moseman; VIP Coordinator-Amber Stary

**CSC Board Members:** President-Kay Arlt; Tournament Director-Jason Beiermann; Treasurer-Melissa Goc; Registrars: Jean Cornwell, Nicole Henderson, Head Referee-John Arlt; Director of Coaching-Vacant; Director of Marketing-Brenda Preister

**Requests from WPOC to City - 2022**

(1) The North Parking Lot was in the 2020 budget. Please keep this on our Requests so it doesn't get lost in the shuffle. It is very important to the growth of our AYSO program and our Club tournaments that we have the additional parking to the north.

(2) We request that the north store room be expanded to the north by 20 feet. With the Kawasaki Mule, the AYSO Gator, and golf cart, tubs of nets and coyotes, there isn't much room left in the store room for all of our "stuff" - which include paint strippers, tables, paint, ladders, nets, tents, paper towels for restrooms, toilet paper boxes, etc. **We want to purchase more benches for the fields for players and we have no room to store those at this time.**

We suggest leaving the current brick wall that is on the north in place, and just add a new north, east, and west wall and new entry door and roof. I have not gotten estimates on what this would cost, but can get them if the City needs them. Currently we store our U5/U6 goals outside and locked up because we don't have room for them in the storeroom.

(3) Parking lot - needs to be sprayed for weeds this spring/summer. It was pretty overgrown last year. AND the parking lot needs to be restriped.

(4) And this may be the most important for this spring/summer. We are requesting that the Park Dept mowers MOW east to west at the soccer complex. There are considerable ruts forming (north to south) and to stripe the fields is becoming rather difficult to form a straight line while going over those ruts. AND on the topic of fields, we need to keep a request at the forefront. 2 weeks prior to CSC tournaments and 2 weeks prior to AYSO first Saturday or play, we really need the fields mowed twice a week to prevent the "hay rows" of grass build up. Piles of grass laying on the fields again makes it VERY difficult to stripe fields and it's a waste of paint to paint over grass piles.

<b>Future Capital Improvements (Long Range Planning)</b>	
<i>Turf Field w/Lighting</i>	Long Range Plan
<i>Trees planted along north fenceline</i>	2-5 year plan

**Comments**  
We want to thank the Park Department for all the work that goes into keeping our complex beautiful. From mowing, trimming, and this past December, cleaning up the tornado damage. We appreciate all the time and effort to making our complex one of the more pleasing complexes in the state!!

<b>2022 Look Ahead</b>	
<b>AYSO Regular Season</b>	<b>August 6 - Oct 1, 2022</b>
<b>Columbus Classic Tournament</b>	<b>June 10-12, 2022</b>
<b>Harvest Cup Tournament</b>	<b>October 7-9, 2022</b>

**????'s**

- 1) When is it planned to get the north fence fixed - tornado damage
- 2) What is the deductible that we are working with?
- 3) Will the city replace the 2 damaged bleachers?
- 4) How do we go about claiming our damaged goals on the insurance?
- 5) It's in the Park Dept budget to put covers on the bleachers - is that still on the table? Can we NOT do that and put that money towards the other projects.

**6. Public Property Director report.**



# The City of **Columbus**

## PUBLIC PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

Director (402) 562-4240

Fax (402) 562-4265

February 2022

Monthly report

Taking applications in all departments for seasonal and summer staff

### Park Department

- Storm damage at Centennial, Wilderness and Sock Pond
- Some minor tree damage at other parks
- Have started winter equipment repairs
- Trimming trees throughout park system
- Replacing damaged wood posts and cable in Pawnee Park
- Repairing and painting some benches in Frankfort Square that have been chipped
- With warm, dry weather, watering young trees weekly
- Damage to Pawnee Park bridge, working with Kirkman Michaels for cost to repair
- Adding wood chips to all playground areas
- Changing clocks on all facilities for winter hours and replaced any lights if needed
- Painting inside of restrooms and Memorial Stadium
- Working with schools on ice skating rink west of Columbus High School
- Repairing worn picnic tables
- Receiving quotes for storm damage at Centennial and Wilderness Parks
- Staff attended tree care workshop at CCC/Nebr. Extension
- Pawnee Park restrooms and port-a-potties
- Pawnee Park baseball field lighting project
- Cleaning up shelter belt north of bark park

### Park and Recreation

- Actively scheduling fields and facilities
- Applying for grants for facilities and programming
- Beginning to plan for 2022 events
- Meeting with organizations that use city facilities
- Going over agreements with organizations
- Fundraising continues on Fitness Court at Sunset Park
- Working on plans to operate Gerrard Park softball fields this season

### Aquatics report

- Painting office area at Pawnee Plunge
- Have received letters of interest for construction of family slide
- Normal operations at Aquatic Center
- Contacting last year's staff at Plunge
- Starting lifeguard classes

Golf report

With the nice weather, a lot of play during winter, will probably have more winter damage than usual

Quail Run will be closed during January, Van Berg will remain open weather permitting

Very little damage during recent storms, mostly small branches down and a small tree at Quail Run was blown down

Staff going through all the equipment and making repairs and sharpening reels

Staff recently attended an irrigation/computer workshop in Omaha presented by Toro irrigation which is the system at Quail Run

Staff attended Nebraska Turfgrass Conference in Omaha

Staff attended tree care workshop at CCC/Nebr. Extension

Replacing posts and cable around Van Berg

Put in new fire door at Van Berg pro shop

7. **Financial activity of Columbus Softball Association.**

8. **Adjournment.**