

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

4:30 p.m., Virtual Meeting via GoToMeeting

PRESENT: Jennifer Tigges, Robin Kennicker, Hobie Wood, Rob McCoy, and Justin Hochberger.

ABSENT: Ray Werner and Jessica Ochoa.

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Steve Fehsal, Dan Kroger and Kristen Dietz

CALL TO ORDER: McCoy called the meeting to order at 4:31 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Kennicker, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting. Unanimous.

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input.

(Recreation Division Manager, Kroger informed the commissioners February 9, 2021 Commission meeting that past commissioner, Matt Garrett is sitting in on the virtual meeting with several of his students who will be listening in going forward until school is out.)

BE AWARE PETS PROGRAM – ROBIN MACFARLANE, OWNER, THAT’S MY DOG:

Robin MacFarlane, Owner, That’s My Dog introduced “Be A.W.A.R.E.” Campaign to the commissioners. Essentially to put your phone away and pay attention to your surroundings and knowing what is okay and what is not okay with pet owners. A stands for Alert. Pay attention to surroundings, be watchful of other pets and owners. W stands for Walk. Just keep walking and never force your pet to interact with others. A stands for Admire. Admire pets from a distance and never rush up to greet someone’s pet. R stands for Responsible. Always pick up waste and control your pet’s nuisance behaviors. E stands for Educate. Set a good example and help others if needed. In addition to information cards being handed out, Robin was seeking guidance on parks that she could hand out these cards to and create signage. Commissioner Kennicker asked about Farmer’s Market possibility and adding information into the “Little Libraries” around the City of Dubuque. Commissioner McCoy asked about people providing donations and Robin directed him to the webpage, www.awarepetowner.com. Robin will be following up with the Commission in coming months.

NATIONAL KIDS TO PARKS DAY – REQUEST TO WAIVE THE FEE AT EAGLE POINT PARK FOR MAY 15TH 2021:

Park Division Manager, Fehsal shared National Kids to Parks Day is scheduled for Saturday May 15th, 2021. Last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic this event was virtual but this year it will be back to the parks. Kennicker made a motion to approve the request to waive the fee at Eagle Point Park for May 15, 2021. Wood seconded. Unanimous.

PRESENTATION AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CONCEPT MASTER PLAN AND PHASE 1 OF COMISKEY PARK:

Recreation Division Manager, Kroger introduced Abbie Moilien with Saiki Design and Markus Pearson with Urban Assets to present the Master Plan and Phase 1 of the Comiskey Park. Markus reviewed the Public Engagement Overview that took place prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in January of 2020. The community was involved from all ages to provide feedback to the designers. PARKitecture Workshop was directed towards the youth. Abbie reviewed Park Design, Budget, and Phase 1 Schedule. The overall budget currently is \$2.6 million, and the construction beginning date is set for fall of 2021. It was moved by Wood, seconded by Kennicker, for the recommendation of Concept Master Plan and Phase 1 of Comiskey Park to the City Council. Unanimous.

STAFF INFORMATION ON VACCINE CALL CENTER / DRIVE THRU CLINIC AT PORT OF DUBUQUE:

Recreation Division Manager, Kroger shared with the Commission that as vaccines allocations increase, City of Dubuque staff have been staffing the call center and local drive thru clinics. This has been named number one priority by the City. Several staff members from the department are currently assisting and we only ask for patience and sharing of information to while additional responsibilities are taking priority.

MANAGER REPORTS – COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Park Division Manager, Fehsal informed commissioners that seasonal recruiting his still continuing. Staff are working towards opening the campground April 15th, 2021.

Recreation Division Manager, Kroger informed commissioners that after school sports reached an all-time high with over 500 youth and all thirteen schools. A form of the brochure will be published online in the near future and staff is currently pushing hard to get this done.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS/QUESTIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Wood, seconded by McCoy, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Unanimous.