

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
City Council Chambers 350 W 5th Street
Dubuque IA 52001

PRESENT: Jennifer Tigges, Josh Jorgenson, Ron Axtell, and Robin Kennicker, Jess Ochoa, and Lori Ollendick.

ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fehsal, Dan Kroger, and Kristen Dietz.

CALL TO ORDER: Kennicker called meeting to order at 4:37pm.

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Axtell, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 meeting. Unanimous.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Kevin Firnstahl 525n Candlewick Lane – recommended “Sister City Park”.

Lois Dolphin 1150 Carmel Drive – recommended “Sister Carolyn Farrell Park”.

Roger Maiers 3161 Pasadena Court - recommended “Jaycee’s Park & Trail”.

PRESENTATION AND REQUEST – TEENS TAKE CAARE PROGRAM:

Teens alongside Jared McGovern, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium shared the project/program they have been working on. The city already has some Pesticide Free Parks, and the teens request the possibility of adding Bergfeld Recreation Area to be added. Park Division Manager Fehsal shared the primary area that currently is not pesticide free is the landscaped area near the entrance in addition to the restroom and flag area. It is possible to make this request happen. There are pollinator friendly plans.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF RENAMING PYATIGORSK PARK:

Commissioner Axtell shared this has been an extensive process with excellent selections with the three finalists. Based upon location it would make sense with the Jaycee’s Trail there and since being near the river, Gordon Kilgore would make sense. Gordon Kilgore was connected to the river for over 40 years – he was the Voice on the River. Other possible names could be used for future park names.

Commissioner Jorgenson shared this has been a very difficult decision with all being names being excellent choices. This assists us with renaming future parks in the future and has created high exposure.

Commissioner Ochoa shared she liked all three names. Kilgore is related to the KDT River Show. She provided a shout out to the sisters who have been awesome. Continuity is very important with the naming.

Naming is also important to the history. Fireworks have been hosted by the Jaycee's. All are important and liked the Sister City name recommendation.

Commissioner Ollendick shared she agreed with Ochoa. Representation of the Sister City is important but could be another park submission. That the park is connected to it.

Commissioner Kennicker knew Kilgore, Sister, and Jaycees. All is a difficult decision and appreciate all the public input we received.

Commissioner Tigges shared this has been a difficult decision. She was part of the naming policy drafted and approved in 2017. Based on the criteria, Jaycees over 4, Sister Carolyn Farrell covers 3, and Kilgore covers 2. The Jaycees have over 80 years of history.

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Ollendick , to recommend the renaming of Pyatigorsk Park to Jaycee's Park. 5-1 vote, Jorgenson against.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF DUBUQUE WATER SPORTS CLUB LEASE:

It was moved by Ochoa, seconded by Jorgenson, to approve the Dubuque Water Sports Club Lease. Unanimous.

RECOMMENDATION AND APPROVSL OF MILLER RIVERVIEW CAMPGROUND MANAGER CONTRACT:

It was moved by Axtell, seconded by Ochoa, to approve the Miller Riverview Campground Manager Contract. Unanimous.

TEMPORARY STAFFING UPDATE:

Recreation Division Manager, Kroger shared that both pools will be able to open this upcoming season and can provide full programming. The only area needing additional applications is parks groundskeeper. With the collaboration with the Human Resources Dept and Public Information Office this has become possible.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION GOALS AND PRIORITIES:

Commission members reviewed previous goals and initiatives and created new ones.

MANAGER REPORTS – COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

None.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS/QUESTIONS:

Park Division Manager Fehsal shared Jennifer Tigges won the Claude Ahrens Community Service Award at the Spring Iowa Park and Recreation Association Conference.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Jorgenson, to adjourn the meeting 6:25 p.m. Unanimous.