

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
Comiskey Park Building
255 E. 24th Street Drive Dubuque IA 52001

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

ABSENT: Jason Henkel

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Fehsal and Dan Kroger.

CALL TO ORDER: Kennicker called meeting to order at 4:32pm.

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Axtel, to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2024, meeting. Unanimous.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATION OF COUNCIL GOALS AND PRIORITIES:

Recreation Division Manager Kroger presented the Successes and Initiatives worksheets from the previous year's Council Goals and Priorities packet. Kroger also provided some direction to the commission on how to either add or make changes to this year's document. The commission first started with reviewing last year's successes and their related impacts. The commission then moved on to the Short-Term Issues and Projects. The commission did not decide to add any new projects but did change the wording within each project as well as reordered them by priority. The commission all agreed that the pools should be the highest priority, followed by the continued marketing efforts for the department and having a better connection to the Chaplain Schmitt Island development.

PROJECT UPDATE:

Park Division Manager Fehsal shared that the 3 mini parks have been bid and the recommendation to award is on the June 17th City Council Agenda. The Axtell asked if the parks will be done by this fall. Fehsal responded that the hope and plan is for them to be complete by the end of November. Like all outdoor projects, weather can be a major factor. The Jefferson Park wall project will be out to bid at the beginning of July. Tigges asked if the whole park will need to be closed during the project. Fehsal stated that the plan is to keep the basketball courts and playground open. The Flora pickleball/volleyball courts were completed this past Friday and we have already received positive feedback. The goal for the Parks Master plan is to have an RFP developed by the end of July.

MANAGER REPORTS – COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Ollendick asked how the pools started the season. Kroger stated that with the over 60% retention of staff from last year, that we have been able to start the season strongly. Axtell asked about the banner sale reference in the report which has generated over \$20,000 of additional revenue for the department. Kroger explained the role of the new Business Development Manager position and how it relates to the banner sales and other non-programmatic revenue opportunities for the department.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS/QUESTIONS:

Ollendick asked when staff will be able to get out to Bergfeld to clean up after the storm. Fehsal stated that the hope is to get out there within the week, but with all the tree damage around town, it may get delayed. Jorgenson asked if there was an idea of when the campground would re-open. Fehsal said that there is no timeline but that reservations have been cancelled through June 28th.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Axtell, seconded by Ollendick, to adjourn the meeting 5:28 p.m. Unanimous.