

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
JOTC East View Conference Room 2
949 Kerper Blvd., Dubuque, Iowa 52001

PRESENT: Robin Kennicker, Ron Axtell, Jessica Ochoa, Lori Ollendick,
Jennifer Tigges (Virtual), Josh Jorgenson

ABSENT: Jason Henkel

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Kroger, Marie Ware, Jared Charland, and Angie Metcalf

CALL TO ORDER: Tigges called meeting to order at 4:31pm.

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Axtell, to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024, meeting. Unanimous.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RFP REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

Recreation Division Manager Kroger presented the Comprehensive Plan RFP. Ochoa asked if the mission statement would be developed by Leisure Services Staff. Kroger confirmed, yes. He also confirmed that there will be a robust process for community involvement. Kennicker made a motion to approve and recommend Comprehensive Plan RFP. Ochoa seconded. Unanimous.

SCHMITT ISLAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION:

President & CEO Q Casino, Alex Dixon and Ryan Peterson a consultant with RDG gave a presentation of the Schmitt Island Development plan. The motion by Axtell "We like the plan and the concept and appreciate the presentation. We are not against it, but we feel strongly public input is necessary before we give a recommendation." Kennicker seconded. Unanimous.

MANAGER REPORTS – COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS:

Park Division Manager, Steve Fehsal was not present at the meeting, but did provide a written update on ongoing projects for the parks division:

- Eagle Valley Park, English Ridge Park, Westbrook Park Development: Construction on English Ridge scheduled to start October 7th.

- Jefferson Park wall- Contractor started work September 23rd. Much of the existing wall has been removed. Clean up of trees and debris along eastern side of park is complete. Project is on schedule.
- Welu Playground replacement- Staff is finalizing contract with Vendor to purchase equipment. This most likely will be a spring 2025 project due to timing.

Other Projects and Updates-ongoing

- Staff continues seasonal maintenance including grass mowing, litter control, planter maintenance and restroom and facility maintenance.
- Staff is working to fill a Forestry Technician position.
- Staff is working to fill a Part-time year-round Parks Groundskeeper.
- The “park season” officially ends on October 27th and the campground will also close on October 27th.
- The City was awarded a 1.974 million dollar grant from the National Park Service Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership project to complete Phase 2 of Comiskey Park. Staff is working with Saiki Design for final design plans.
- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps(NCCC) assisted with planting 13 trees in the north end neighborhoods for our Branching Out Dubuque campaign.
- Staff has begun working on the FY26 budget recommendation.
- Staff has begun maintenance responsibilities of 897 Central Park.
- Fall flowers have been incorporated into landscaped areas.
- Flora Pool playground has been updated with a tiled rubber surfacing that replaces the sand.
- Staff is working to complete an RFP for a consultant to complete a Comprehensive Master Plan for the Leisure Services Department.

Recreation Division Manager, Dan Kroger, provided an update on ongoing projects in the recreation division:

- Mineshaft project to cap the sink hole at Bunker was completed on Monday.
- The Port of Dubuque Marina’s last day was Sunday, October 13th.
- Adult Softball finished for the year on Monday.
- We have again had a record number of registrants for Adult Volleyball.
- Our new Golf Pro, Nick Stroschein, started a couple weeks ago and the feedback from golfers has been very positive.
- Steve and Dan are currently working on FY26 CIP’s and Operating Budgets.
- Steve and Dan finalized the RFP.
- The new playground surface project started at Flora Pool.
- We have been able to expand our before/after school programs at Lincoln, Marshall and Prescott to accommodate more kids.
- Staff are working to finalize Phase 2 plans for Comiskey.
- Dan worked with Jenny Larson in finance to find a way to fund Phase 3 of the irrigation project which will be going to council in November.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS/QUESTIONS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Ochoa, seconded by Ollendick, to adjourn the meeting 6:54 p.m. Unanimous.