

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

4:30 p.m., in the snack bar, Bunker Hill Golf Course

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Chuck Harris, Paul Hoffmann, Ken Klinge, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau and David Schlueter

STAFF: Marie Ware, Pat Prevenas and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Nadeau, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2012 meeting with one change – third paragraph, second line on page 3 should say “served golf” signup process (not softball). The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSS STATUS OF SECOND PET PARK: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware told Commissioners that the area selected for a second pet park is an area owned by IDOT at the southeast corner of Locust and Highway 20. IIW Engineers was hired to do preliminary work and they recommended doing soil tests on the site since we were looking at having people and pets there. IIW has a proposal for a company to do the testing. IDOT has to grant permission to do the test since it is their property. The city's environmental attorney is reviewing the information. After testing IIW will begin conceptual design.

Ware reminded commissioners that this location is only a temporary solution because when the new Highway 20 bridge is constructed in the future, this piece of property would be needed for the bridge. It could be years before funds are available for that project.

3RD GRADE REREADING INITIATIVE: This year the All America City competition is for a third grade reading initiative. A group of partners forms a plan and if chosen, the All America City program potentially brings resources to your community to help implement the plan. Research has proven that if you can't ready by the time you are in third grade, you are behind and just keep getting farther and farther behind.

Dubuque has many partners working on this project, including the Community Foundation, Dubuque Community School District, Leisure Services, Multicultural Family Center, St. Mark Community Center, the universities, day cares, people that work with children from age 0 to 5, etc. They have come up with a Community Solutions Action Plan with three major components – improve school attendance, improve third grade reading levels and cut down on summer reading loss. The application has been submitted and it is in the review process right now. Leisure Services is involved because we have a lot of summer recreation classes, along with programs at Multicultural Family Center.

Commissioner Hoffmann isn't sure why we should be involved in a program trying to improve reading. Leisure Services Department has a responsibility to promote physical activity and exercise and provide recreational opportunities for kids. He doesn't want us to get away from our core purpose. Commissioner Nadeau said Hoffmann has a good point but maybe we can incorporate the reading into some of the more active classes, turn kids on to

reading. Commissioner Schlueter said it sounds like things are in the formative stage right now, no cost estimates yet. We can see what the possibilities are and maybe enhance the physical activities and it could be a positive thing. Commissioner Lyness agreed with Schlueter and said it could be another good cooperative effort like others that have worked well for the department.

Manager Ware said it takes many different groups to work through all the different issues and every group brings their strengths to the table.

CAMPGROUND  
HOLIDAY  
RESERVATION  
LOTTERY:

Manager Ware told commissioners that everyone present at the lottery got campsites and after everyone left, there were still sites available for all three holidays. Ware did the drawing – she dumped all slips out of a particular box, turned them all upside down and started drawing from all over the pile.

Commissioner Blocker said there were winners and losers. He heard from a lot of people that the process took too long; would like to be able to reserve at least 2 spots per person; would prefer online reservation to the lottery process. He asked why we couldn't do it like pavilions – reserve it over phone or in person at the office. The waiting was too long. Some people with kids had to leave. Commissioner Harris thinks the lottery is the closest to fair you can get but wondered if you could do similar to pavilion process, 13 months in advance, i.e. you could reserve the 4th of July holiday in June the year before and Labor Day in August the year before, etc. Commissioner Klinge received numerous calls and talked to a lot of people. He thought the lottery was the fairest way. He said as far as people waiting in line, people had to wait in line the old way too. The lottery was more of a problem for nonresidents that had to drive to Dubuque if they wanted to be included in the lottery. Commissioner Nadeau said she read the letters to the editor but did not see anything that would change her feeling the lottery was the fairest process.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

- ◆ Due to the weather, seasonal laborers have started working early to try and catch up on grass cutting and weed control. ◆ Gil's time as Acting Park Division Manager ended last Wednesday and Mike Horsfall is back to work. He started out with four-hour days and will be switching over to eight-hour days starting next week. ◆ Application deadline for Park Division Manager position is Tuesday; 49 individuals have applied so far. ◆ Civil Service test for the Natural Resources and Sustainable Practices Specialist is May 1st.

RECREATION  
DIVISION REPORT:

- ◆ **Winter report** was distributed to commissioners. Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas noted that the big gap in numbers from previous year for Hempstead **swimming** lessons was due to canceling all the lessons due to a problem at the pool. **Adult athletics** shows teen basketball in previous years because our department operated the program, but this year it was incorporated into the LEAP program. Neighborhood Recreation **open gym** participation at Prescott was down because people were outside more due to nice winter. **Golf course** opened March 14th and had the third most rounds in the last thirty years. That was really good but now have a concern for the greens – they need moisture. ◆ The water slide at **Sutton Pool** is being renovated; replacing metal lockers at both pools; adding ADA pool lifts at both pools. ◆ **Softball** registration declined from 162 teams to 136 in the last three

years. In the last ten years the national trend has been a decrease in teams because of less baby boomers. We have seen less competitive men's teams and more coed teams. ♦ **Brochures for summer programs** were distributed at City Expo. The booklet is 56 pages this year with the Neighborhood Recreation programs as an insert in the middle of the book. There are some unique classes offered this year. One of the programs is a cooperative effort to incorporate a 90-minute boat ride with some of the nature type programs offered. ♦ Registration began Wednesday, April 11th. Eighty percent of the registrations processed that first day were done online by individuals. ♦ Online pavilion rental will be coming soon – have a few kinks to work out first.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

♦ Department applied for the Urban Youth Corps grant through IDOT. We will be able to hire three young people that need employment skills. The program gives them a leg up to build skills and experience. They will work on Highway 20 roses again and other projects outlined in the application.

♦ Manager Ware told commissioners that June 11th and 12th is scheduled for department managers to give input to City Council for goals and priorities. Commissioners asked at the last meeting about presenting some Commission goals to the Council for consideration when they are goal setting. If the commission wants to get their priorities to the Council for this year's goal setting session, it would need to be done at the May meeting. Ware asked if commissioners wanted to set up a special meeting to work on priorities or just use the regular May meeting. Commissioners Blocker, Lyness and Nadeau thought a tour of facilities would be helpful; Schlueter, Klinge and Hoffmann thought the regular May 8th meeting would work.

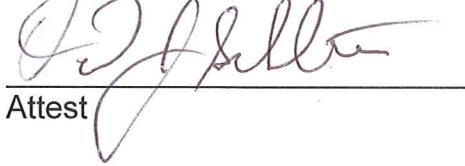
The following sites were suggested by commissioners as possible stops on the tour: Miller Riverview, Usha, Comiskey, Bee Branch, new marina operation and FDR. It was decided to use the regular May meeting for the tour. The May agenda will list where to meet. After the tour, commissioners will have discussion and set list of priorities for Manager Ware to recommend to City Council; box meal will be provided.

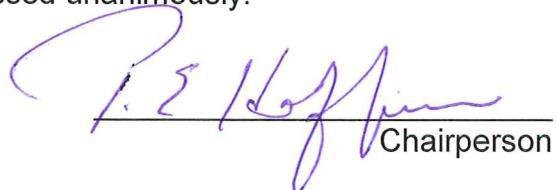
OTHER BUSINESS:

- Commissioner Blocker thanked Manager Prevenas for meeting a group of former ski club members at the old building at Veterans' Memorial Park. The building was a cooperative effort of the club and the city at the time it was built. Stopping at the building brought back a lot of memories for the members.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Schlueter, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Attest

  
Chairperson