

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

4:30 p.m., Snack Bar, Bunker Hill Golf Course

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Robin Kennicker, Ken Klinge, Kate Lydon, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau and David Schlueter.

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Dan Kroger and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED;
VOTE: It was moved by Klinge, seconded by Kennicker, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

BOY SCOUT REQUEST TO WAIVE E.P.P. ENTRANCE FEE;
VOTE: Peter Flynn and Andrew Hunt were present representing the Order of the Arrow. Mr. Flynn requested to waive the entrance fee to Eagle Point Park for attendees at their pancake breakfast on Mother's Day. In return the Boy Scouts will have a crew work at Eagle Point Park on Saturday, April 26th to pick up sticks and clean up at the park.

It was moved by Nadeau, seconded by Lyness, to waive the entrance fee to Eagle Point Park on Mother's Day for those attending the Boy Scout pancake breakfast. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK DIVISION REPORT: Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal was not in attendance so Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware presented the report:

- There have been 17 **snow and ice** events since last commission meeting. Crews worked over the Christmas and New Year holidays to provide safe parking lots, trails and sidewalks thus ice rinks were not flooded.
- **Sledding** safety signs are up at Bunker Hill and Allison-Henderson Park.
- **Staffing:** Park Ranger Tyson Brown has accepted a Conservation Officer job with the Iowa DNR so we will be working to fill his position. City Horticulturalist Mike Horsfall will be retiring in March. We are also working on the Park Foreman position that needs to be filled.
- Ben Alden will be attending two **boat shows** this month to promote the Marina.
- Steve will be attending the NRPA Maintenance Management School in Wheeling, West Virginia at the end of this month.
- Work continues on picnic tables, tree pruning, equipment maintenance, etc.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT: Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger presented the following report:

- The Recreation **Program Supervisor** position had to be re-opened.
- **Golf:** we sent a letter Friday to 30 season pass holders that have purchased a pass for 10 or more years and asked them to complete a survey; eight have been returned already. Next wave of letters will be to those that have had passes for 5 or more years and then we'll see how the feedback goes.
- Staff is working on **new programs** and utilizing space at Bunker Hill during the off season. There are 11 people registered for a Tai Chi class to be held in the snack bar and an early morning Yoga class is also being offered at Bunker Hill.
- Over 60 people took advantage of the **online early registration**; only 2 people showed up for the in person registration the first day.
- We are **partnering** with **Audubon** and **Lincoln** Schools to offer programs. This past fall Audubon had their first after

continued

school volleyball program and this winter is the first time for the after school basketball. Ed Glaser the Principal is working hard to involve families. The second year of a Saturday program offered at Lincoln had 0 show up for the open house but after working with Dr. Loewen the Principal to promote the program more, 45 children showed up on the first day of the actual program. • **Aquatic Center:** Managers Ware and Kroger and School representatives will be going on an information gathering trip in February to visit pool sites that have city / school partnerships. Plans are to visit two cities near Kansas City, Missouri and two near St. Louis; Byron, Illinois; and Whitewater, Wisconsin. The public engagement process will be starting later this month.

MANAGER
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware reported the following:

- **Bee Branch:** Commissioners were sent a link via e-mail to watch a video relating to Bee Branch project. She told commissioners to let her know if they hear of citizen concerns and/or questions so she can get them to the City's communication committee. Commissioner **Kennicker** mentioned the following: ✓ People have mentioned concerns about where the bridge meets Lincoln – it is low and if flooded, the water running over it could cause a lot of damage. ✓ Are the walkways going to be pavers or regular sidewalk? ✓ Someone saw fencing and thought that was a bad idea because it would make snow removal, etc. more difficult. ✓ If there are going to be water fountains for humans and pets, could waste stations also be installed? ✓ If canoeing / fishing / biking is allowed, maybe the City could provide a building to rent canoes, etc. Commissioner **Lyness** asked where to direct people that had questions on Bee Branch. Ms. Ware said go to the city website for all the general information and to view plans / drawings but for questions, call the Engineering Department. Commissioner Lydon asked if there was any timeline for work on all the alleyways that are included in the project. Ms. Ware was not sure.
- **Chaplain Schmitt Island:** The first round of meetings was held with stakeholders that reside on the island and/or have leases. Meetings also had to be held with the Army Corps of Engineers and IDNR to make sure all environmental requirements are known and met.
- **3rd Grade Reading:** The Community Solutions Action Plan Executive Summary and the 2013 Summer Academy Results Summary were sent to commissioners as part of the agenda packet. Manager Ware said the summer academy had good results for a pilot program.

OTHER
BUSINESS:

- **Budget hearing** with the City Council is Thursday, February 20th with a meal at 6:00 p.m. and presentations to follow. Commissioners need to let office know if they will be attending meal so City Manager's office can order food.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Kennicker, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Attest

Kate Lydon

Carly Kellert
Chairperson