

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

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

PRESENT: Tom Blocklinger, Chuck Duggan, Gary Harjehausen, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness and Evelyn Nadeau

ABSENT: Mark Noble

Staff present: Pat Prevenas, Bob Fritsch and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED;  
VOTE

It was moved by Blocklinger, seconded by Nadeau, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2008, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE  
RECREATION  
DIVISION C.I.P.  
BUDGET; VOTE

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas reviewed with commissioners the golf and pool projects in the five-year C.I.P. budget.

In golf, most projects are funded by golf revenue, except golf course renovation project and replacing irrigation system. The money requested for the irrigation system would be if the renovation project is not approved. The control panel for the irrigation system is thirty years old and it is very difficult to find parts. The other projects were in last year except for the tee improvements (if renovation project is not approved).

For swimming pools, the C.I.P. budget basically concentrated on maintenance. Number 16, surge tank joint repairs has never been done; paint bathhouse interiors has been done by pool staff in the past but never by a professional.

It was moved by Harjehausen, seconded by Nadeau, to approve the Recreation Division C.I.P. budget as presented by staff. The motion passed 5-1, with Blocklinger, Harjehausen, Hoffmann, Lyness and Nadeau voting yes; Duggan voting no.

APPROVE PARK  
DIVISION C.I.P.  
BUDGET; VOTE

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch told commissioners that last budget year there was \$6,099,300 in projects eliminated from the C.I.P. budget. We began this year's budget process by reviewing those projects to determine which ones were essential and then we requested them again.

Commissioner Duggan asked about #28, park drinking fountains. Mr. Fritsch explained that this project was for new drinking fountains in parks; maintenance of current drinking fountains is absorbed in the regular operating budget.

Mr. Duggan also asked about #65 all areas, mulch. Mr. Fritsch explained that this money is an ongoing yearly item for the chocolate brown mulch in high profile tourist areas and high maintenance areas.

It was moved by Nadeau, seconded by Lyness, to approve the Park Division C.I.P. budget as presented by staff. The motion passed 5-1, with Blocklinger, Harjehausen, Hoffmann, Lyness and Nadeau voting yes; Duggan voting no.

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Commissioner Duggan explained on the record that he voted no on both budgets because he does not agree with the way we have to cut important projects and watch our spending, but the City Manager doesn't – he does whatever he wants. The City Manager spent a lot of extra money getting ready for the Iowa League of Cities conference; he wanted a new secretary and he got one; he wanted another assistant city manager and he got one, et cetera.

Commissioner Lyness said there were 600 visitors here for an Iowa Credit Union conference and the people were very impressed with the look of Dubuque and the growth and development. She feels it will draw people back to Dubuque and bring in tourist dollars.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch updated commissioners:

- ♦ We have a lot of “**natural**” **areas** coming into the park system and natural prairie areas that we will be maintaining. There is a new phase of work going on at Industrial Center West and there will be another fifteen acres of prairie planting there that we will maintain. There is 100 acres of park property along with the Catfish Creek hike-bike trail that will be planted with native prairie eco systems. We will have to have a lot of knowledge on how to care for these area, including burning once every three years.
- ♦ Trees and shrubs are being planted in the **Heron Pond** area.
- ♦ Miller Riverview **campground** had a very successful Halloween party – the managers are doing a great job.
- ♦ **Fall flower baskets** had a different design this year; look beautiful and have been well received.

RECREATION  
DIVISION  
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas updated commissioners:

- ♦ Leisure Services Manager Gil Spence requested to use some of the money budgeted for the **Petrakis** infield turf project to improve the field if the cooperative project with Loras College does not go through, because the field is in need of work.
- ♦ September **golf** rounds were down 8%; first two weeks of October are the same as last year; rounds are down 4% for the season. Apel Parking Lot services is working on repairing and extending some of the cart paths.
- ♦ **After school sports** had seven football sites and eight volleyball sites; very challenging finding coaches. Program Supervisor Molly Weis is back on half days; off since June 1st.
- ♦ The Just for Kids **preschool** we have offered at Allison-Henderson for years only had a few registrations and the first session had to be canceled. There is a new state grant program available that allows for free preschool programs for 4 year-olds, so nobody signed up for ours.
- ♦ **Adult athletics** basketball had the same number of teams as last year; volleyball was down a little; only three teams registered for the dodgeball program. The trend for dodgeball seems to be gone – three years ago we had 50 teams and this year only 3.

OTHER:

**Pet Park:** Commissioner Lyness asked what the status of a replacement pet park is. Mr. Prevenas said there was a possibility at McAleece Complex but the skate park would have to be moved.

continued

**Petrakis Field:** Commissioner Hoffmann wanted to update commissioners on the cooperative project with Loras College for the infield turf replacement at Petrakis Field. Loras feels the city had a breach of contract since they had permission for logo on field etc and then the city changed their mind. He received a packet from the City Manager trying to explain why the city disallowed Loras' name on the turf. He feels the City Manager and City Council are being unreasonable, but they are trying to work out a consensus. This was for informational update only, since Mr. Hoffmann had discussed the issue at other meetings.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Duggan, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



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Chairperson



Attest