

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

4:30 p.m., Multicultural Family Center, 1157 Central Avenue

PRESENT: Paul Hoffmann, Robin Kennicker, Ken Klinge, Kate Larson, Karen Lyness, David Schlueter and Jennifer Tigges

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Dan Kroger and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Kennicker, to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

INTRODUCE MULTICULTURAL FAMILY CENTER (MFC) DIRECTOR: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware introduced Farris Muhammad, the new Multicultural Family Center Director who started February 15th. Mr. Muhammad was born and raised in Detroit. He has an MBA in Marketing and Business Management and a Doctorate from University of Georgia.

The MFC is currently working on cultural events and empowering projects; interviewing for Future Talk jobs; launching new website and more.

UPDATE ON INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP – KATE LARSON Commissioner Kate Larson is one of members of integrated pest management work group and she gave the following progress report: ■ City Council passed approval for nine parks to be pesticide free; ■ Park Division has committed to not spraying playground areas in all parks; ■ working on signage for the nine pesticide free parks; ■ Cori Burbach has been gathering information from other cities; ■ starting to work on the actual “plan” and Jeff Ahlers is spearheading that effort. City Council required the plan to be ready by July 1st so it needs to be presented at the second June council meeting. The draft plan will be on the May commission agenda and the Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting prior to presenting to the City Council.

Commissioner Hoffmann asked if there has been any representation from anyone with the opposite viewpoint, so both sides of the issue are being considered; will there be a time when people with concerns about results of not spraying, etc. will be able to present their views. Commissioner Kennicker asked if not spraying, is staff going to cut or mow the weeds so critters don’t have hiding places. She said there is an all-natural product available by EPA but it considerably more expensive.

Commissioner Tigges, also a member of the work group, reminded commissioners that this is not just a park issue, this plan is being created for the entire city to use; there are no guidelines to follow right now. She suggested commissioners get the minutes of the work group meetings to keep up on progress. Lead Secretary will forward commission e-mail addresses to Cori Burbach so future meeting information can be sent to commissioners.

continued

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

In the absence of Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal, Manager Ware updated Commissioners:

■ Several of park employees along with Steve, Dan and Marie are working on the Integrated Pest Management Plan. The department is drafting the plan and then the work group is reviewing and making suggestions for changes. ■ Seasonal workers start next week. ■ Miller Riverview Campground will open April 22nd instead of 15th due to flooding and standing water in the park. Refunds will be issued to campers that had reservations for April 15th through 21st. ■ Staff will start planting pansies this week and the greenhouse is full of lots of pretty flowers. ■ Information from the three public skate park meetings is being compiled. ■ Forestry crew continues to remove poor condition Ash trees. Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Murphy Park and the Grandview Avenue area. ■ The tree crew is working on grinding stumps for city trees that have been removed. ■ Division staff are all getting ready for spring.

RECREATION
DIVISION
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger updated Commissioners:

■ The summer brochures went out April 1st. Online registration started at 8:00 a.m. on April 4th and by 2:00 p.m. that day we had over 1,000 registrations. Walk-in registration started April 11th. As of 1:00 p.m. today we had 2,100 total registrations, 70% done online. ■ The swimming pool project has been moving forward, getting the fiber run down Pennsylvania Avenue so we can have cameras, point-of-sale system with scanners, et cetera at the pools. Season swim passes are now photo ID cards which will be scanned each time patron enters the pool. Next year to renew we will only have to click a button and take payment. Lost or stolen cards can be deactivated. ■ First phase of the irrigation project on golf course is pretty much done and staff is working with contractor on punch list items. The next phase of the project is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2021. ■ Last year the golf course had great numbers in the spring. This year the weather hasn't been as good. In comparing the last two weeks to same time last year, revenue is down \$25,000 for the golf operation. However, the golf revenue to date for fiscal year as a whole is up \$7,000. ■ The marina convenience store is opening April 23rd, a week earlier than last year. ■ Swift Water Adventures is purchasing a larger boat that will accommodate ten or twelve passengers.

Commissioner Klinge asked if there were any plans to repair the sink hole on #14 at the golf course. Manager Kroger said funds for a permanent repair are currently in the CIP budget in Fiscal Year 2021 or 2022 when that entire sewer pipe is to be replaced. Denise Ihrig from Engineering is going to bid out the section that we need replaced now to see what it would cost. If it is a reasonable amount, we may be able to do in the fall out of general sewer project funds. John Klostermann from Public Works is bringing rock to fill for a temporary repair.

continued

MANAGER
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware updated Commissioners:

■ The 25-year lease with Arboretum Association expires next year so a meeting was held to start the renewal process early. The Association is excited for another lease but would like to add and clarify a few items. ■ Two RFP's have been publicized for masonry rehabilitation work at Five Flags Theater and Ham House Museum, both of which are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Ham House is leased by the Historical Society but the City is responsible for taking care of the exterior of the building. ■ The City has a partnership with Dubuque Community School District (DCSD) for the LEAP program which is in its fifth year of a 5-year grant. DCSD reapplied for the grant but did not get it so we are meeting to see if there are ways to continue the program. ■ The Mines of Spain, DNR and City have several agreements all related to Mines of Spain that they would like to combine into one agreement. Manager Ware drafted an all- inclusive agreement and sent it to Legal Department for review. ■ Staff is working on the Comiskey Park engagement model – how to engage the neighbors from the area to get involved in the planning process. ■ Manager Ware is working on a draft policy related to naming areas on City property. The City has a number of projects where there would be potential naming opportunities and people are asking what they would have to do to name an area. ■ Ms. Ware told commissioners the May meeting could potentially be much longer than usual so plan some extra time on their schedules.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

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



Katie Larson
Chairperson



Attest