

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

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

PRESENT: Paul Hoffmann, Robin Kennicker, Richard Kirkendall, Ken Klinge, Kate Larson and Karen Lyness

ABSENT: Jennifer Tigges

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Steve Fehsal, Dan Kroger and Eileen Trimble

OTHERS PRESENT: Jesse Shekleton – Dubuque Water Sports Club

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Klinge, to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting. Unanimous.

APPROVE LEASE WITH DUBUQUE WATER SPORTS CLUB; VOTE:

Jesse Shekleton was present for the Dubuque Water Sports Club to formally request that the City renew their lease for a section of Miller Riverview Park. Their average membership for the last five years has been about 45 members. They are working hard to keep the area in good shape. Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware reported the only change from last year's lease is a \$10.00 increase in the rent making the fee \$535.

It was moved by Larson, seconded by Lyness, to renew the lease with Dubuque Water Sports Club for May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. Unanimous.

APPROVE LEASE WITH DUBUQUE JAYCEES; VOTE:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware reported the proposed lease for the community garden at Veterans' Memorial Park is the same as last year except for date changes and current insurance requirements. She consulted with Miracle League and their timing allows Jaycees use of the space for the 2017 season.

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Kirkendall, to renew the lease with Dubuque Jaycees for a community garden at Veterans' Memorial Park. Unanimous.

WAIVE ENTRANCE FEE TO EAGLE POINT PARK ON NATIONAL KIDS TO PARKS DAY; VOTE:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware shared with Commissioners that the "National Kids to Parks Day" will be celebrated on Saturday, May 20th. The last couple years the commission waived the Eagle Point Park entrance fee to

celebrate the day and encourage families to be active and get out and enjoy one of the many beautiful city or county parks. The Proclamation will be on the May 1st City Council agenda.

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Klinge, to waive the entrance fee to Eagle Point Park all day on National Kids to Parks Day, May 20, 2017. Unanimous.

GRADE LEVEL READING REPORT:

AmeriCorps Director Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch shared the program is in the third year of a three-year grant, with the current funding to end August 31st. AmeriCorps members along with partner agencies have been focusing on improving reading for kindergarten to third graders. During the school year, 416 students (89%) tutored by AmeriCorps improved reading score; 439 students (92%) attended school 90% of the time or more and overall chronic absence reduced by 25%; four year-old preschool participation increased by 4%; and third grade reading improved by 2%.

Three years ago, the playground program was revamped to include more education through fun recreational activities and participation increased by 100%. With the help of AmeriCorps, the program will be expanded to all 16 playgrounds in 2017. In the summer, AmeriCorps also partnered with the Library, St. Mark's and the Multicultural Family Center's Future Talk program.

Recreation Division and AmeriCorps both supported the Summer Academy. Recreation oversaw the Reading AmeriCorps members who supported the morning and afternoon components of the Summer Academy. AmeriCorps supported the before school and after school components of the Summer Academy. 78% of students in the Summer Academy maintained or improved reading proficiency.

PARK DIVISION REPORT:

- Port of Dubuque, Upper and Lower Bee Branch spring baskets were planted last week by contractors. The Historic Millwork District baskets have also been planted and are growing in the City greenhouse.
- Friday is the due date for campground manager RFQ's. A manager will be hired by April 15th, the campground opening date.
- Urban Forester candidates have been interviewed.
- Staff is preparing equipment for the upcoming season and seasonal laborers will be starting in mid-April.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:

- Summer brochure will be mailed out March 31st. Online only registration will begin April 3rd and all other forms of registration will be accepted beginning April 10th.

- New exterior cameras have been added to the existing cameras at the Marina. Wi-fi is being added to the marina. Signage improvements are being researched for Riverwalk and on the docks.
- Snack bar at Bunker Hill has been re-carpeted and new flooring in the rest rooms will be done soon. The pro shop will be having improvements made. Rest rooms have been inspected and ADA improvements completed by Park Division staff.
- The trailer with equipment including 20' blow up screen and a projector are all set for the summer movies and events. Recreation Division is partnering with the Police and Community Police to have three block parties where a street will be blocked off and the police officers come and play games in the street with neighborhood children.

MANAGER REPORT:

- Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware thanked commissioners that attended the budget hearing with the City Council.
- Bids are due March 31st for the Five Flags and Ham House Masonry Projects.
- Several projects were approved by the City Council at recent meetings: the consultant company recommended by the committee to do the Five Flags Assessment and Study; the Miracle Field project, which allows staff to move forward on a formal agreement; Skate Park final design; and Exclusive Beverage Rights Agreement with Coke.
- The aquatic facility evaluation report and Marina report were both presented to City Council at recent meeting.
- Various city staff have a meeting set to discuss and recommend policies for both Upper and Lower Bee Branch. Staff recommendation will come to the Park and Recreation Commission to approve and recommend to the Council.

Manager Ware asked if commissioners would want to discuss any input for the City Council for their August goal setting session at an upcoming meeting. The consensus was to have the discussion placed on the April commission agenda.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS / QUESTIONS:

- Commissioner Lyness asked about the status of the aquatic center.
- Commissioner Larson asked if we could add a discussion about pet friendly amenities at the dog park to the April agenda.

ADJOURN; VOTE:

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Kirkendall, to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m. Unanimous.\

