

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
4:30 p.m., Storybook Hill Children's Zoo

PRESENT: Matthew Garrett, Robin Kennicker, Richard Kirkendall, Jennifer Tigges and Ray Werner

ABSENT: Rebecca Kuhle

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Gil Spence, Zoo Boosters Representative

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Werner, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2018 meeting. Unanimous.

UPDATE BY CHILDREN'S ZOO BOOSTERS REPRESENTATIVE:

Gil Spence was present to represent the Storybook Hill Boosters. He distributed a list of improvements that have been made to the Zoo with grants from the Dubuque Racing Association. Since 1997 the DRA has awarded \$158,078 in grants to the Children's Zoo. Board members are all volunteers. The Zoo has an annual budget of approximately \$18,000. They have an annual fundraiser each year. They rent the two pavilions if someone wants to guarantee usage, otherwise they are first-come, first-served. They serve approximately 6,700 visitors per year. The Board appreciates the partnership with the city. The Zoo is open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR R.E.A.P. GRANT FOR FOUR MOUNDS AND NRPA GRANT FOR COMISKEY PARK; VOTE:

Planning Services Manager Laura Carstens asked for letters of support from the commission for a R.E.A.P. grant application for Four Mounds Environmental Restoration Project and an application for a National Recreation and Park Association Great Urban Parks grant for the Comiskey Park Development Project.

It was moved by Werner, seconded by Garrett, to approve letters of support for Four Mounds R.E.A.P. grant and NRPA Great Urban Parks grant for Comiskey Park Development. Unanimous.

ORDINANCE RELATED TO FIRES / GRILLS IN PARKS; VOTES:

It was moved by Kirkendall, seconded by Garrett, to remove the proposed ordinance amendment related to fires from the table. Unanimous

Commissioners had previously received information obtained from the Fire Marshal related to recreational fires. Commissioner Tigges asked if we have a problem with personal grills in the parks. The current ordinance does not allow people to bring grills, however people do request it. Commissioners Kirkendall and Werner asked if the language of the ordinance could be changed and a few words deleted for clarity.

It was moved by Kirkendall, seconded by Werner, to approve the proposed ordinance amendment with one change – remove the words “in accordance with policies adopted by the City Manager” so ordinance reads in parks, parkways, trails, or open spaces provided by the City for that purpose.
Unanimous.

PARK NAMING DISCUSSION:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware said this topic will be moved to September meeting.

DISCUSS POSSIBLE TOUR SITES FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Ms. Ware asked if commissioners wanted to have a tour in September and if they had any specific facilities they would like to visit. If they did not have locations, staff would choose the tour sites.

Suggestions during discussion: good to reflect on the priority list that went to City Council to see some of the outdated facilities that need upgrade and repairs; Eagle Point Park with the major projects that are coming up; McAleece and Miller Riverview Park; any small undeveloped properties in vicinity of suggested areas; and Bee Branch.

It was decided the tour will start at the All Veterans Memorial by McAleece. Everyone will meet by the Memorial at 4:20 p.m., parking their cars at McAleece. Tour will return to the Memorial after visiting sites.

PARK DIVISION REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal updated commissioners:

- Refurbishing and repainting the Gazebo in Washington Park was completed by Herb Klinkhammer of Colonial Painting. The landscaping has not been completely replaced yet.

- Playground at Creek Wood Park has been installed and the forming up for concrete starts tomorrow. Orange fencing has been placed around the playground area.
- Paul Meissner was awarded the Indian Room roofing project. He will start Wednesday on replacing the cedar shake shingles.
- Skate Park project is moving ahead. The company should have about eight workers on the project by the end of next week.
- Additional playground equipment will be installed at Flora Park in September.
- Valentine Park restoration project moving forward.
- Bids were opened today for the Eagle Point Park water line project. The water lines will be replaced by the Band Shell, spray fountain, Open Air Pavilion and rest room building in that area. An additional fire hydrant is being placed by the Open Air Pavilion.
- All the new hanging baskets will be hung by the September meeting. Riverwalk baskets are contracted out; we grow Millwork District baskets in our greenhouse; and Bee Branch spring and fall baskets are contracted out with Blooms and Plumes.
- RFP went out for Eagle Point Park Restoration project consultant.
- Work on pickleball courts at Veterans' Memorial Park start this week. The courts must sit for 30 days before they can be painted. This project provides 9 dedicated pickleball courts.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger updated commissioners:

- Summer season ends this Friday for most programs. Playground program was extended for two weeks at Flora and Comiskey to end on August 17th. The Boys' and Girls' Club are providing lunches and snacks.
- Fall brochure comes out this Friday.
- The Rec 'n Roll trailer last scheduled event is tomorrow with COPs at Jackson Park.
- Teen program consistently had 16 or 17 participants depending on the scheduled event, but as high as 30 people.
- **Golf:** ♦ There were five golf sessions with the Boys' and Girls' Club with six or seven participants each time. The Club provided transportation to/from golf course to the participants. ♦ Golf lesson revenue is higher than last year; increase in ladies' clinics. ♦ There are golf outings scheduled every Saturday through the end of October and eight Sunday outings. ♦ The snack bar and pro shop revenue is where it was last year even though revenue was down approximately \$23,000 in March and April 2018 due to bad weather.
- **Pools:** ♦ Collected over \$8,000 more in revenue than last year (\$5,000 at Flora) through the end of July. ♦ Sold over 2,900 season swim passes. ♦ Group swim lessons had 2,200 participants. ♦ There were 101 registered for private swim lessons. ♦ Between the two pools there were 63 water saves this summer which is almost double last year.

- **Marina:** ♦ The military ship will be docked at the Marina August 23rd through 27th. ♦ The Twilight paid to have docking system put in at the Marina so their riders are purchasing items at our store. ♦ There were only five boats for the Lighted Boat Parade, but store sales were as good as previous years. We distributed 2,000 glow-in-the-dark bracelets to people on the Riverwalk. Queen B Radio will work with us next year to get a more regional market.

MANAGER REPORT:

- **FDR Park:** Manager Ware gave a little history on Roosevelt Park. In the 1980's FDR was an active park (160 acres) but then it was closed due to budget issues back then. The Storybook Hill Children's Zoo and Tri-State Model Airplane Club both lease a section of the park. There is a Master Plan for FDR Park which does feature a dog park. Forty acres is currently rented for farmland.
- **City Council goal setting** will finish up tomorrow night and they will have their priority list.

SPECIAL MEETING DATE:

Manager Ware requested consideration for a special meeting date for a potential agreement with a recreational group.

COMMISSION QUESTIONS / COMMUNICATIONS:

- Commissioner Kirkendall asked why Sutton Pool closed so early. Manager Kroger said it is a staffing issue. If the pool is open, you need 14 certified lifeguards at all times plus extras to rotate. We keep one pool open longer, extend waterwalking times and have waterwalker appreciation week.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Kirkendall, seconded by Kennicker, to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m.