

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

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

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Tom Blocklinger, Gary Harjehausen, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau and Mark Noble

ABSENT: Pat Prevenas

OTHERS: Staff present: Gil Spence, Bob Fritsch and Jolene Rettenberger

MINUTES APPROVED;  
VOTE: It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Noble, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2009, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING AND DECISION ON PET PARK SITE; VOTE: Before this discussion begun, it was noted that no one was present at the meeting to address the commission on this issue.

Leisure Services Manager Gil Spence mailed out a Pet Park Site memo, overview map that shows the three Pet Park options, and comments from the Open House to all commissioners asking them to review the information prior to the meeting. (Please note that soil testing did not get done at the IDOT site.) Before the discussion began, Commissioner Lyness shared a copy of an email that was sent to her from David Resnick.

With knowing that our current Pet Park is scheduled to close on April 1st, 2010, Gil Spence's recommendation is to select the Thermo Fisher Scientific location (3.19 acres), as well as including future plans for development of pet parks at FDR Park and the Humane Society. This location would work out best with parking, location and noise not being an issue. However, if the Thermo Fisher Scientific site does not work, then Gil would recommend the IDOT site at the corner of Dodge and Locust Streets be further considered.

Several commissioners voiced their opinions on which site would be the best location, but yet not cost a lot of money to develop. Commissioner Lyness asked about the timeline for the future plans on developing pet parks at the Humane Society and FDR Park locations. It was noted that it would be between 3-5 years (depending on funding), with the possibility of having a partnership with these pet parks.

The overall consensus from all commissioners is to come up with a compromise that works for everyone and to send a recommendation to the City Council for their September 21st meeting.

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Nadeau, to recommend to the City Council that we reduce the size of our current Pet Park, start the construction of a new Pet Park at the Thermo Fisher Scientific site (upon lease agreement). If problems arise with Thermo Fisher Scientific, the IDOT Property at the corner of Dodge and Locust Street consideration will be given, along with having the possibility of another Pet Park located at FDR Park, as well as a possible future site in conjunction with the Humane Society. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch informed commissioners:

- ◆ At Flora Park, rain gardens (including 2 dams/swale for storm water) are ready for installation. Park staff is designing/doing the work, along with the help of Great Plains Landscaping, Drew Cook & Sons Excavating and Chuck Nauman. Project will be completed within the next few weeks. Signage will be posted at the rain gardens.
- ◆ Mums will be planted along Third Street/Port of Dubuque tomorrow; fall baskets were hung last week.
- ◆ Renovation, in cooperation with Dubuque Community School District, is taking place at the Eagle Point Park Promenade Bridge, Bridge East Room and Bridge Annex North and South pavilions.

RECREATION  
DIVISION  
REPORT:

With the absence of Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas, Gil Spence informed commissioners on the following:

- ◆ This was the best season for golf rounds since 2005 – up 7% from last year.
- ◆ This was the worst season for pools since 1990.
- ◆ We had 132 dogs participate in Doggie Dip 2009 at Sutton Pool on Monday, August 17th and 250 dogs participate in Doggie Dip 2009 at Flora Pool on Monday, August 24th.
- ◆ With the recent break-in on August 24th, 2009, at the McAleece Recreation Complex, \$1,600 was taken (including the safe), along with \$1,500+ in property damages.
- ◆ Security cameras have been installed at Veterans' Memorial Park and Comiskey Park. We are looking at installing security cameras at McAleece Recreation Complex and Park Headquarters.

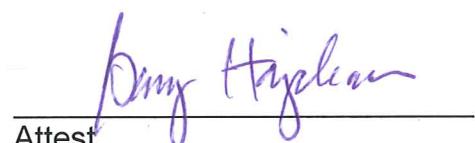
OTHER  
BUSINESS:

- ◆ Commissioners were asked to attend the next City Council meeting to be held on Monday, September 21st regarding our recommendations on the Pet Park decision.
- ◆ Our October Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be held at Eagle Point Park.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Harjehausen, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:37 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Chairperson

  
Attest