

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 10, 2010
4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course Snack Bar

- PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Tom Blocklinger, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau and Mark Noble
- ABSENT: Paul Hoffmann, and David Schlueter
- OTHERS: Staff present: Marie Ware, Pat Prevenas, Bob Fritsch and Eileen Trimble
- ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE: Karen Lyness, reappointed to another three-year term, signed the Oath of Office papers.
- MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Blocklinger, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2010, meeting with a clarification to the motion regarding memorial benches and trees. The motion was corrected and changed to: Fees will be reviewed each year and adjusted according to cost for memorial trees and benches plus cost of memorial plaque; labor will be provided by the city. The motion passed unanimously.
- SAFE COMMUNITY TASK FORCE: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware brought commissioners up to date on the Safe Community Task Force. The second set of the task force recommendations was presented at the last City Council Meeting. The City Manager asked staff in all departments to look at their department and see what they could do; look beyond the recommendations -- look at their intent and what our role is. The council is meeting tonight to go over the recommendations. Each department has been and will be involved in safe community recommendations. The Multicultural Family Center is involved as well. Comiskey, Orange and Jackson Parks are areas we are focusing on. Ware shared safe community mission must be a partnership with the citizens – it can't just be the city as an organization or one department trying to do everything.
- NORTHWEST ARTERIAL TRAIL, PHASE II: Manager Ware told commissioners that the one mile stretch of trail from Kennedy Road to Plaza Drive has not been officially opened even though it looks like the trail is completed. There are a number of issues we need to solve. There are drainage problems and the hillside is sloughing in a couple areas. We are working on a plan for additional drainage and/or French drains. We need to find the extra money to pay for this additional work because the work needs to be done. With the change orders, including cost to fix these issues, the total project is now up to \$300,000. Also, the pedestrian poles/signals are not installed yet so even if the drainage issues are fixed, the trail will not open without the pedestrian signals.
- RECREATION AND PARK DIVISIONS' STAFFING: **Recreation** Division will be advertising soon for the full time program supervisor job that has been open since Molly Weis retired at the end of January. We are shifting jobs around a little and refocusing this job. This

individual will still be doing kids programming but also looking at targeted areas and partnering with other organizations to reach those areas. This person will also be our liaison with the Multicultural Family Center.

Park Division: Manager Ware and Division Manager Fritsch are looking at how we have done business in the past, can we make it more efficient, better ways to organize, etc. They are meeting August 16th with all park division staff including seasonal workers to get ideas from actual work force – ideas on how to better organize, better serve, etc. After the full division staff meeting, managers will have a follow-up meeting with foremen.

VETERANS'
MEMORIAL
PLAZA
ACCEPTANCE:

Manager Ware explained to commissioners that several years ago the City Council said the city would take over ownership and maintain the Veterans' Memorial Plaza once it was completed. Ware has worked with the Veterans' Board to get a resolution to accept. When the council does accept, Managers Ware and Fritsch will meet with the Veterans' Board to turn over maintenance duties.

MYSTIQUE
COMMUNITY ICE
ARENA

The ice arena is coming along well – with an open house planned on September 11th and a ribbon cutting. That same evening the Fighting Saints have an exhibition game. The parking lot at McAleece is getting paved and is half done; hope to finish second half tomorrow. The lot by the skate park is also getting paved. DICE has hired general manager and advertised for other jobs.

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch informed commissioners:

◆ **July 22nd storm:** **tree crew** worked twelve hours straight from 10:00 p.m. Thursday night to 10:00 a.m. Friday without a break and took care of 40 tree call sites; seven trees fell on houses; there will probably be hundreds of calls by the time everything is cleaned up. The **campground** flooded Friday and we called Biechler Electric to get the electrical poles removed. He responded immediately and pulled his workers off other projects so the job was done quickly. The park reopened the following Wednesday so we could make sure the 25 Ragbrai campers had their sites; they were told in advance they would have to accept the park in the condition it was in. **Harvest View Park** had to be closed because the detention basin and park both flooded. **Eagle Point Park** had trees down, one across the entrance to the park so the front entrance was closed for twenty-four hours and citizens had to go in back gate. **Bergfeld** – railing blew out. We are going to try and get more employees trained on tree crew equipment so others could run log loader and bucket truck. ◆ Video surveillance equipment was stolen from the new building at Veterans' Memorial Park and the building was vandalized. We are discussing the possibility of sending radio signal to Wahlert since their fiber optic security equipment is connected to the Law Center. ◆ Progress at Rockdale Park has been slowed down by the rain. The brick paver sidewalk will be done as soon as it dries out. ◆ Need to spray crabgrass at Miller Riverview Park to kill it and so the rock pads are more visible.

RECREATION
DIVISION
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas informed commissioners:

- ◆ **Storm:** **Golf course** was affected by the weather – course was closed Friday and Saturday of the storm and that Saturday was the first day of the two-day two-man tournament which had to be canceled. Trees were down in areas and the pond liner on #16 came loose. All four chemical controllers at **pools** were struck by lightning and had to be shipped back to California. Since then staff is doing manually which requires them to be there more hours.
- ◆ July golf rounds were down from last summer.
- ◆ Eight week summer programs finished last Friday.
- ◆ Both pools had an average July; Sutton's last day of operation is scheduled for Sunday with the doggy dip on Monday night; triathlon had 55 participants; Flora's final day is scheduled for August 22nd with the doggy dip that Monday night.

OTHER
BUSINESS:

Charles Winterwood from Tri-State Trail Vision was present to ask the commission to request funding be included in the capital improvement budget for the western phase (I) of the **Catfish Creek Trail Project**. They are requesting 30% matching funds from the city for the grant.


Commissioner Blocker commended the park division employees for fast work on **storm cleanup** and switching over to getting routes ready for Ragbrai.


Commissioner Lyness asked about the status of the second **pet park** and Manager Ware said it is still in the works but there is not much happening right now. We hope to move the project forward through the winter, getting approvals and preparing bids. Commissioners also asked about pet park revenue and if usage was down at the park. Mr. Fritsch did not have numbers available but will report at the September meeting on the actual revenue so far. He feels usage is down, although in recent weeks it could be all the rain and the hot temperatures.

Commissioner Nadeau said she was happy to see **Usha Park** and the Dubuque Cricket Club featured in the Telegraph Herald. It was nice to see activity at that park.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Lyness, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


Chairperson


Attest