

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

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

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness, Evelyn Nadeau, Mark Noble and David Schlueter

ABSENT: Tom Blocklinger

OTHERS: Staff present: Marie Ware, Pat Prevenas, Bob Fritsch and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Schlueter, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2010, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK DIVISION REPORT: Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch informed commissioners:

◆ started flooding ice rinks and Allison-Henderson is useable now; ◆ new memorial at Schmitt Island is very popular and we are working with the Veterans' Association – they do not want us to remove snow so we do not scratch the memorial/pavers; we will see how the public reacts. ◆ Snow has been a challenge – things are open but it is hard to get down to pavement. Trails are open; Bergfeld is very popular and has turned into a year-round site with a portable rest room. ◆ We are working on the Bee Branch project, seeing how it will affect our department for maintenance / recreation / staff time, etc. ◆ Manager Fritsch told commissioners that a future agenda will have discussion on the reservation system for campsites at Miller Riverview Park. He has had several communications from Don Foley a frequent camper at the park, and he feels people need to pay when they make their reservation so that they honor the reservation and show up or lose fee. Another option would be not to take any reservations at all and go with a first-come, first-served system. Commissioner Blocker who also camps frequently thought maybe we could pay at time of reservation for any campsites with electricity or pay for certain better sites at time of reservation and then first-come, first-served for the rest. Mr. Blocker felt it would not be good to go with no reservations at all. Mr. Fritsch just wanted to make commissioners aware the item would be on an upcoming agenda, not that we needed to decide anything today.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT: Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas informed commissioners:

Golf: ◆ water line connection for the new irrigation system is in place and the satellite controllers are in place; pump house will be replaced in spring; ◆ golf season rounds ended at 28,910 which is best season since 2004 which seems to be a trend in the Dubuque area; a lot of courses across the country are down; ◆ news release was sent out for the tee sign donation promotion. Mr. Prevenas shared a copy of the form and said we have already sold 4 at \$600 since the news release was published; ◆ sale for discounted 2011 golf passes is going on now. **After school:** ◆ Program Supervisor Janna Beau received

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\$2,800 in contributions from anonymous donors to purchase winter clothing for 48 children that participate in our after school programs. She worked with Old Navy on the clothing items and they gave her a good deal. Then another donor contributed \$500 to be used for Christmas gifts, food etc. for a few families with children involved in the program. ♦ Mr. Prevenas shared a copy of memo sent to City Manager clarifying budget increase for after school sports program to pay for more coaches since registrations have increased. He also included comments received from coaches and participants about the program. ♦ **Special populations** winter dance is this Thursday evening at Roosevelt. ♦ **Uptown weekend open gym** had 900 total participants in November at three gyms. December numbers so far are lower than last year, most likely due to the weather. ♦ **Flora Pool playground equipment:** last year CIP budget included new playground equipment and replacement of the sand safety surface but there was not enough money for both. The project was moved to this year for the equipment only and it will be installed in the spring.

MANAGER
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed commissioners:

♦ **Budget:** the text in the public budget documents for half the city departments will be performance measures based and some will look different. There will also be a Facility – Program - Leases Division shown. Once the document is final, we will share it with commissioners. ♦ **Bee Branch:** a lot of meetings are being scheduled regarding Bee Branch project and we are included more now for the planning for maintenance issues. ♦ **Transient boat docks:** The city has a project for transient boat docks underway at the Port of Dubuque. It will improve the area and offer more services to the public. The plan includes a building to connect to the Museum and complement it, but it will be its own entity and have showers, laundry, convenience store, etc. It will fall under our department to take care of it. I will start working out a business model from similar facilities. ♦ We are in a **hiring** mode right now. Steve Ohnesorge, foreman for Eagle Point Park is retiring at end of December; full time program supervisor interviews are being scheduled; AmeriCorps Director recommendation was made to the City Manager. ♦ Managers are working with Park Division employees/foremen to come up with an operational plan to best utilize staff and equipment. ♦ **Riverboat Museum:** The Museum wants to lease and fence in the park area between the two buildings so they can connect the two buildings. They would need to pay a certain amount as part of the lease so we are working out a partnership where they can pay down rent by offering free admission to underserved population and / or do programs for our classes, Library and Multicultural Family Center. We will be meeting with them to work out details.

OTHER
BUSINESS:

Commissioner Hoffmann was concerned about the **Bee Branch** project and how it effects our department. The paper said it was a \$44 million dollar project and \$20 million was for landscaping. How is our department going to


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take care of all that additional area and not get more money and help budgeted? He hopes the City Manager sees how much extra work has been dropped on our department without more money or help. Commissioners asked to get an update each month about this project.

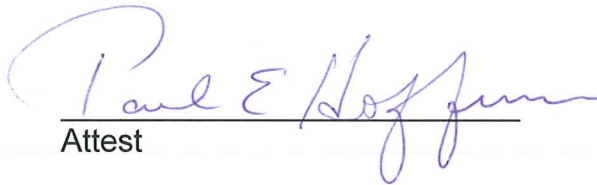
Manager Ware said about \$9 of the \$20 million is RECAT grant for bridges that will be part of the project. She also reminded commissioners that as citizen advocates they can go to Council meetings or talk to council members about their concerns regarding workload and budget.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Blocker, seconded by Nadeau, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:15 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Chairperson



Attest

