

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

4:30 p.m., Miller Riverview Park – Iowa Pavilion

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

ABSENT: Tom Blocklinger and David Schlueter

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

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Lyness, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2011, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

THANK YOU TO COMMISSIONERS: Commissioners Tom Blocklinger and Mark Noble are attending their last meeting as neither is seeking re-election when their term expires June 30th. The commission and staff thank both for their service to the community through their position on the Park and Recreation Commission.

PORT OF DUBUQUE MARINA UPDATE: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware updated commissioners on status of the Port of Dubuque Marina project. The amenities building is located as a new building on the southeast corner of the River Museum. It will be a separate building even though it is in close proximity. It will have 4 showers, laundry room area with key code entry; television; Internet access, and public rest rooms on one side of the outside of the building. There will be 68 docks; floating plaza for gatherings; a portable concession stand; and a fuel attendant station on dock. Each boat slip will have water and electricity. A sanitary dump will be available. The operations will likely be contracted out.

The facility cannot open until the grant is closed out. The projected completion date for the building is March 2012 with opening of the Marina in spring 2012.

RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF TIMBER-HYRST LAND DONATION; VOTE: Marty McNamer wishes to donate a one-acre parcel of land in the Final Plat of Timer-Hyrst Estates Subdivision II for park purposes. There is a flat area that can support a playground with benches and a water fountain. The remainder of the proposed area is a south facing slope that is forested and an open space hillside. The hillside would be natural landscape and the forested area is already established.

Commissioners had looked at the area prior to attending meeting and they noticed that many of the houses in the subdivision had elaborate play areas in their own yards so they were wondering if it was really necessary for the city to pay for play equipment. Could neighbors in the subdivision donate the playground equipment so the city is just paying for maintenance and mowing? Manager Ware explained that accepting the land donation creates the opportunity for a park and development costs would need to be budgeted in the upcoming C.I.P.

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Lyness to recommend acceptance of the Timber-Hyrst Subdivision land donation for park purposes to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMEND  
ACCEPTANCE OF  
THE URBAN  
FOREST STUDY;  
VOTE:

After receiving information related to tree planting efforts through the Greenprint Initiative and care of urban forest, conversations among city staff led to the decision to have an evaluation of Dubuque's urban forest. RFP's were sent out and Confluence was selected to take a snapshot of our urban forest, review that and report to the city on current practices and how and where to improve urban forest management practices.

Confluence inventoried a sampling of the street trees and trees within our park areas. They analyzed parkway widths. Statistics showed that Dubuque has a lot of certain species of trees. The Ash tree is highly prevalent and that population will be greatly affected when the Emerald Ash borer gets to Dubuque. The company gave suggestions on species diversity, where to focus our efforts, education and best practices. The evaluation is a platform of factual information and gives us something to work with and refine as the years go on, and it raises our awareness level on the importance of our urban forest.

It was moved by Nadeau, seconded by Lyness, to recommend acceptance of the Urban Forest to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch updated commissioners:

◆ Police and Park Patrol met regarding issues with young kids misbehaving at Pinard Park. There has been a concerted effort to patrol more and things have improved since then. ◆ Two weeks ago the City Council approved the reclassification of the vacant Foreman position to Natural Areas and Sustainable Practices Specialist. The job will require a four-year degree or equivalent experience and a Civil Service Test will have to be established. We hope to have someone hired within 90 days. ◆ The Gardener and two Assistant Gardeners will now be classified as Horticulturalists. ◆ Dave Birch the Lead Mechanic is retiring August 5th. The position will be changed to Mechanic and will require taking a Civil Service test. ◆ One offer of employment has been extended so far for the Urban Youth Corps Grant program and that person will start in the next couple weeks. ◆ Future Talk program with Multicultural Family Center starts next week. The program participants will be working on the 11th Street and 15th Street steps and helping with some construction by Jackson Park steps. ◆ Miller Riverview Park will open Saturday, June 18th at 7:00 a.m. for in person registration for the holiday weekends; phone reservations will begin at 8:00 a.m. Currently there are only 35 sites available since we are in the middle of repairs from flood damage. It is costing approximately \$25,000 for clean-up. Public Works loaned the department a grader and end loader and personnel to assist with getting the park ready.

RECREATION  
DIVISION REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas updated commissioners:

◆ Weather has affected operations so far this season. Bunker Hill golf rounds are down 1,900 from 2010; Flora Pool had 2,400 admissions one day and then two days later only ten people. ◆ Monday was the first day of summer programs including playgrounds, tennis, golf, swim lessons, recreation classes,

Neighborhood Recreation Programs, et cetera. There are special events every Wednesday evening. ♦ Spring report was e-mailed to the commissioners and may be found as part of the original minutes. ♦ There was a robbery at Bunker Hill Golf Course.

BEE BRANCH  
UPDATE:

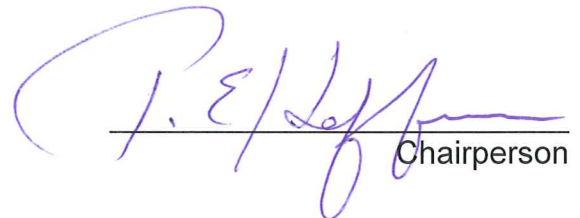
A meeting was held last week to look at draft concepts of the northern most part of Bee Branch project. The City Council approved purchasing a couple more houses in the area where Bee Branch meets Comiskey so there is a more direct connection. There have been a couple meetings on fundraising – donating trees or benches or naming rights, et cetera. By this time next year the department will be maintaining part of the lower Bee Branch area.


OTHER BUSINESS:

► **Miller Riverview Park:** Campground managers Ken and Nancy Clayton were present to ask consideration of changing the customary opening date of the campground from April 1st to at least April 25th or possibly the same opening date as the rest of the parks. They said many times the campground is flooded at the beginning of April anyway and even if it's not, the park does not generate very much revenue until the end of April. Recreation Division Manager Bob Fritsch said we will need to watch the profit/loss close this year and bring this back for discussion at a future meeting.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Nadeau, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Chairperson

  
Attest