

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

4:30 p.m.,

PRESENT: Robert Blocker, Chuck Harris, Ken Klinge, Evelyn Nadeau and Dave Schlueter

ABSENT: Paul Hoffmann and Karen Lyness

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

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Schlueter, seconded by Nadeau, to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

FLOODING UPDATE:

PARKS: At **Miller Riverview Park** 5 days of camping were lost but the park reopened for limited camping on Wednesday. Some of the sites had to be re-rocked and total damage repairs and staff time is estimated at \$20,000. **Eagle Point:** there were problems with the spillway by the back gate, detention basin behind the Indian Room, back road, entrance drive and below Trolley Line Trail. **FDR Park:** A large boulder came loose and blocked the road across the stream. **Gay Park** had several sink holes. Large sink hole about 10' across opened up on **Hill Street**. Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware called Miller Riverview Park about 3:00 a.m. and told the campground manager to get people out of all the lowest areas and temporarily move them to higher ground areas until daylight when it would be safe to travel. There was no damage to any campers.

RECREATION: Bunker Hill **Golf Course** lost one and one-half days of golf but did not sustain much damage. The **pools** had a lot of excess water.

Commissioner Schlueter asked how much damage was done to Water Sports Club area, after all the work they had done. Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch said the water went back down fast and he didn't think there was much damage.

PARK DIVISION REPORT:

Park Division Manager Bob Fritsch notified commissioners:

- Staff is dealing with flood-related issues.
- Things were being spruced up along Highway 20 from old Family Restaurant to Locust Street.
- Staff is working on trying to get all the campground sites useable by Labor Day.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Pat Prevenas notified commissioners:

- Eight-week **playground** program ended last Friday. It served 10,000 children at 18 sites and special events.
- June **golf** is better than 2010, the course beat all time revenue for snack bar, and best ever month for cart rental.
- Pools had the sixth best July in the last twenty years – 30,000 admissions for Flora and 16,000 for Sutton. The pools have not been closed a day since June 9th. Sutton's last day of operation is August 14th with the Doggie Dip on Monday night the 15th and Flora closes the following Sunday with that Doggie Dip on Monday, August 22nd.
- Adult softball leagues are finishing up for the season but fall leagues will be starting soon. Registration is going well because

continued

we are getting a lot of teams from Dubuque Sports Complex where fall leagues had to be canceled due to flooding damage. • Bid documents have gone out for Flora Pool Painting Project and they are due back August 24th.

Commissioner Schlueter asked how the Iron Kids Triathlon went. Mr. Prevenas said it went well with approximately 200 participants, half from Dubuque and half from out of town. The department provided some of the staff and the pool and everyone was basically very pleased with the event. This is the first time ever in the history of the event that the swim portion started out with participants sliding down a water slide.

DEPARTMENT
MANAGER'S
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Ware notified commissioners:

• Phase III of the NW Arterial **trail** (between Buffalo Wild Wings and past Hy-Vee) was paved this week and crews are working on backfilling and finishing work. • **Bee Branch**: meeting was held to discuss the design of the landscaping and plant material in the Comiskey area of the project. Next month additional meetings will be held on that subject and a meeting with the neighbors and then there will be a public presentation.

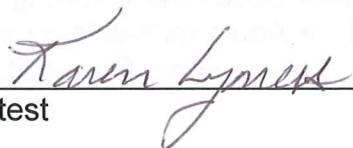
• A lot of thank yous go out to staff in the department and across the city for **flood** reaction and help. Volunteer Service Coordinator Mary Bridget Corken, with a lot of help from Tony Elskamp, did the lion's share of organizing and carrying out a plan, collecting information regarding citizens that needed help and what type of help, organizing volunteer crews to give assistance and working with other departments to do whatever was needed to get the job done. They developed tools for this crisis and future situations, including special waiver liability forms for both the volunteers and homeowners to sign. Mary Bridget called Cedar Rapids and other places that have gone through this before. Health, Housing, Fire, Engineering and Building Departments along with people from outside the city organization helped in the community-wide effort to get assistance to people as soon as possible. Prescott Neighborhood Resource Center and Comiskey were opened as shelters to assist people and distribute flood cleaning kits. Centers were open Saturday and Sunday staffed with a combination of full time and seasonal employees and Red Cross.

OTHER
BUSINESS:

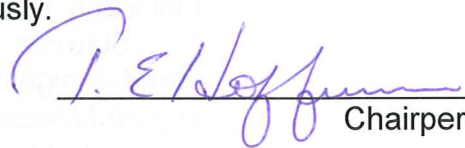
• Commissioner Nadeau asked if there were any further conversations about having a **water park by Comiskey** as part of the Bee Branch project. Manager Ware said she hoped to have that worked in with public input and neighborhood meetings regarding improvements. • Reminder that the **September meeting** will be held at the Dubuque Water Sports Club building.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Klinge, seconded by Schlueter, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Attest



Chairperson