

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, February 12, 2013
4:30 p.m., Port of Dubuque Marina, 450 East 3rd Street

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Ken Klinge, Chuck Harris, Paul Hoffmann, Karen Lyness and Evelyn Nadeau

ABSENT David Schlueter

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Steve Fehsal, Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Klinge, seconded by Lyness, to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

BOY SOUT REQUEST TO WAIVE E.P.P. ENTRANCE FEE; VOTE: Britt and Drake Oswald and Curtis DeWulf were present representing the Order of the Arrow to request waiving the entrance fee to Eagle Point Park for attendees at their pancake breakfast on Mother's Day. In return the Boy Scouts work with staff to schedule a service day where Scouts clean up at the park.

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Klinge, to waive the entrance fee to Eagle Point Park on Mother's Day for those attending the pancake breakfast. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT ON LINCOLN SCHOOL AND NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS Recreation Program Supervisor Tony Elskamp distributed two handouts which may be found as part of the original minutes. The department started a pilot program at Lincoln School with programs for the school students in the surrounding area. There has been a good response for the first three weeks – 59 registrants for 13 different activities, with total participation of 189. January 12th was the kickoff for the program with 60 attendees. It was a chance for neighbors to meet the instructors, see some sample programs and enjoy a free lunch.

Commissioner Nadeau asked if there was much **participation from** Spanish and Marshallese **speakers. participation.** Elskamp said not a lot during the school year but more in the summer. Nadeau asked if maybe fliers and handouts in their language and offering adult programs in the same location at the same time so the parents could be at same site while their children were participating in classes would increase the participation.

REPORT ON FAMILY POOL PASS; DROP FAMILY PASS; VOTE: Informational documents sent to commissioners in agenda packet may be found as part of the original minutes. Recreation Program Supervisor Janna Beau explained the current procedure for purchasing family swim pass. There is a form to fill out where you list yourself and up to five other people, spouse and child dependents on your taxes. Residents that qualify for low income can get a pass at half price.

As the department has witnessed, there are several situations where fraudulence occurs on family forms: ■ A family may state that mother, father and

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four kids will be attending the pools, but knowing that a tag will never get used by the father, it gets transferred to a friend or neighbor; ■ conversations have been overheard in the parking lot where deals are being made to add people to a family if they don't have 6 total people; ■ advertisements have been witnessed on Craigslist, et cetera.

Ms. Beau surveyed many other cities for their season swim pass policy. Today there are so many nontraditional and blended families. Our current policy requires a couple to be married and the children to be dependents on the taxes – individuals living together would not be given a “family” pass. If a couple felt their circumstances warranted a family pass they filled out a special form that went to the division manager for approval or denial.

Staff has been looking at options to assist in the pool pass solution: ■ discard the family pass and have two passes – youth and adult; ■ discard the family pass and have one fee across the board – one tag per person no matter the age or if associated with other family members. One tag would eliminate the guesswork and judgment about family.

Commissioner **Lyness** asked if we had any idea what percentage of people cheat. Commissioner **Harris** felt the single admission would probably be the best way to go but it might be hard for Dubuque people to accept. Commissioner **Nadeau** said it would seem simpler to go with individual tag but asked if there would be less adult presence at the pools to watch kids because parents would just drop off their kids? Ms. Beau said that happens now and she didn't feel it would get any worse than it is now. Commissioner **Hoffmann** felt we need to maintain a standard of excellence so we don't get complaints. We don't discount season golf passes or discount pavilion rental fees, et cetera so do we need to have discounted season pool passes?

Manager Ware said the city wants to provide a safe place for children to go and be active at a reasonable price. She said citizens can keep doing the “exceptions” requests; maybe give six tags no matter who they are for; or keep studying the issue.

Commissioners Blocker and Lyness don't want to see the issue go cold, they feel some action should be taken now; Nadeau asked if purchasers could show something that shows they live in the same dwelling; Blocker suggested putting off a decision until next month so staff could come forward with a couple proposals that commissioners could vote yes or no; Hoffmann likes the individual tag option if priced appropriately, so it eliminates a lot of hassle; Nadeau felt single tag option penalizes larger families and those that need assistance.

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Harris, to change the season pass sale to individual tags based accordingly, amortized out by current cost and pending staff proposal received by e-mail and then to be voted on via conference call. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal informed commissioners:

• Crews are busy: • plowing and shoveling from the snow and ice; • working on picnic tables; • started planting in the greenhouse; • installed a couple memorial benches; • trying to catch up on general maintenance; • only able to keep one ice rink open – Allison-Henderson if weather allows; • painting some rooms at Bunker Hill; • repairing some of the chairs and benches from the plaza area; taking more trainings – recent meth lab training, Iowa 1-Call and GIS. • Manager is in the process of purchasing a van, garbage truck and dump truck.

Commissioner Blocker asked about Miller Riverview campground: • reservation process for camping – he thought it was going to be the same as pavilions; • road paving; and possible water and sewer offered at each campsite. Leisure Services Manager Ware said that Mr. Fehsal will be researching other campgrounds and online reservation programs that can be implemented next season; there is some money in the capital improvement budget to blacktop or concrete some of the campsite pads; there is \$30,000 in funds for renovating the current rest room. As far as water and sewer at each site, it would be a really major expense.

MANAGER
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed commissioners:


■ The Grand River Center has been open for over ten years and the contract will expire in April. ■ Personnel: Interviews are being conducted for the Multicultural Family Center Director position; advertisement is out for the Golf Technician; Steve is working on Assistant Horticulturalist position in his division; and interviews are being scheduled for Recreation Division Manager. ■ Dubuque Visitors' Guide had a really nice picture of the marina on the cover. ■ Sledding item was left off the agenda in error.

OTHER
BUSINESS:

• Commissioners went on a tour of the interior of the Marina building after the meeting

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Harris, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


Chairperson


Attest