

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

4:30 p.m., Brick Open Air Pavilion, Flora Park

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

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Steve Fehsal, Dan Kroger and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Harris, seconded by Lyness, to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2013 meeting with two corrections: 1) Chuck Harris was not present at May meeting; and 2) on top of page two, Commissioner Hoffmann asked if there are spaces available for local people to park their cars for several days and would we charge them rent. The motion passed unanimously.

ORDINANCE REVISION TO ADD PORT OF DUBUQUE MARINA: Leisure Services Manager Ware explained that this proposed ordinance revision would add the Port of Dubuque Marina to the list of areas alcohol is allowed.

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Harris, to add Port of Dubuque Marina as a location in the Code of Ordinances as proposed. The motion passed 6-1 with Blocker, Harris, Hoffmann, Klinge, Lyness and Schlueter voting yes, Nadeau voting no.

PARK AND RECREATION ORDINANCE REVISIONS; VOTE: There are several revisions proposed to the Parks and Recreation section of the Code of Ordinances: ■ Definitions were added. ■ Restricting horse drawn vehicles – allows for the opportunity to allow horse drawn vehicles through the Special Event Permit process. ■ Permitting leashed dogs and cats in certain trails (Heritage Trail, Powerline Trail, Northwest Arterial Trail and Southern Levy Trail). The leash portion of the City Ordinance will be under Animal Control Section of the Code and is referenced in the Park and Recreation section. ■ Clean-up requirements were established. ■ Park, Open Spaces and Trails description section was revised. ■ The bow / deer hunt is revised to make it consistent and referenced to the Animal Control section.

◆ Commissioner Hoffmann asked if signage could be put up for bikers on trails where pets are allowed – “caution - dogs allowed” or something similar. He does not feel pets should be allowed on Jaycee Trail or Riverwalk. ■ Commissioner Harris thinks pets should be allowed on the Jaycee Trail and Riverwalk and since we allow on the south levy trail, we should include the floodwall going the other way. ■ Commissioner Nadeau said she can see both sides of the issue. The Riverwalk is a very popular spot and attracts lots of tourists so it doesn't seem very welcoming if the pets are not allowed, but if they are not allowed, we need to make sure the signage gets up and is very clear. Manager Ware said there is no signage at the Riverwalk about no pets allowed.

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Schlueter, to approve ordinance revisions as proposed. The motion passed 6-1, with Harris, Hoffmann, Klinge, Lyness, Nadeau and Schlueter voting yes, Blocker voting no.

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PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal informed commissioners:

- The river is predicted to hit 20.6 feet Thursday afternoon so Miller Riverview campground will not be open for the July 4th holiday; refunds will be issued to those with reservations. At this point there is no anticipated opening date.
- Everyone worked together to help get the marina up and running.
- Greenhouse staff has all the flowers planted and the baskets are all hung at the appropriate sites.
- Consideration is being given to security cameras at Jackson Park; 23 trees have been pruned up and the canopy raised.
- Park Foreman Gerry Apel retired June 14th after 38 years of service.

- ♦ Manager Ware shared that the Mystique Casino is having Island Fest in September.
- ♦ Commissioner Nadeau asked if staff that work at Jackson Park get any cultural sensitivity training and training on how to communicate with different cultures. Ware said full time staff does Intercultural Competency Training and the AmeriCorps employees get some training through AmeriCorps.

RECREATION  
DIVISION  
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger informed commissioners:

- Department has 5,000 registrations for summer programs.
- Golf rounds this year through June 25th total 9,000; there were 11,000 at this time in 2012.
- The marina opened June 1st. There were 30 boats for Riverfest (19 advance reservations and 11 that came that day). July has 24 solid booking so far. Fuel sales have been strong.
- He is working toward hiring the third full time Recreation Program Supervisor.
- Recreation staff is working on a new look for the fall brochure and we will be trying to market it in advance of publication.
- Recreation is working with Abeni El-Amin, Multicultural Family Center Director, on partnerships and cooperative programming.

- ♦ Commissioner Nadeau asked about Aqua Zumba discounted fees for drop-in registrations as opposed to registering in advance online or through the office. Manager Kroger said he would check with staff.
- ♦ Commissioner Klinge commended golf course employees because the course looks really good.

MANAGER  
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed commissioners:

- The Park and Recreation Commission will begin to look at potential pet park locations for recommending to the City Council. The FIDO group would like to be part of that discussion.
- The League of Cities Conference is in Dubuque in September so there are lot of priority projects that will get done before that time.

- ♦ Commissioner Nadeau asked if the IDOT location was completely thrown out as a possible pet park location. Ms. Ware said it is still on the table as a possibility. Nadeau asked if we could ask for a list of criteria from the Council of what they want us to look for in a pet park location and get clarification. Commissioner Lyness suggested having the Council look at a map of the city and have them tell commissioners what areas they would like checked out for

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possible sites. Commissioner Hoffmann said he keeps hearing that people want to be able to walk their dog to the pet park, but he thinks you will always have to drive to a pet park because people don't want a pet park in their back yard. ♦ Commissioner Harris asked about the status of the Comiskey project. Ms. Ware said it will start after September.

OTHER  
BUSINESS:

- Council goal setting is in August and last year commissioners sent a memo to the City Council regarding Commission items for consideration. Commissioners agreed to look over that information and communicate directly with Council Members or e-mail Manager Ware with information about projects.
- The Commission decided there will not be a July meeting.
- Commissioner Hoffmann was thanked for all his years of dedicated service as a Park and Recreation Commissioner. Paul served 27 years on the Park and Recreation Commission, plus 3 years on the Plumbing Commission.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Schlueter, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:30 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Chairperson

  
Attest