

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

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

PRESENT: Bob Blocker, Paul Hoffmann, Robin Kennicker, Ken Klinge, Kate Lydon, Karen Lyness and David Schlueter

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

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Schlueter, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

RAISE THE LEVEL OF MILLER RIVER-VIEW PARK: Leisure Services Manager Ware said a question had been raised at a previous commission meeting regarding the possibility of raising the level of Miller Riverview Park. Information was sent in the commission packet regarding floodway, mitigated wetlands and protected natural resources, etc. The packet had information including costs and regulations. Commissioner Blocker appreciated the excellent research and information and said it would obviously be financial insanity to try and do that project.

C.I.P. BUDGET SUBMITTAL REVIEW; VOTE: Capital improvement project priority lists were sent to commissioners as part of agenda packet and may be found as part of the original minutes. A revised **Park Division** list was distributed at the meeting. Manager Ware said the revised list had the same projects but some were renumbered in priority. Maintenance projects are top priority. Projects related to City Council goals and priorities are higher on the list. Staff is proposing moving North Fork Trail, Pebble Cove and English Ridge park development projects from 2018/2019 to 2020/2021 and moving Eagle Valley, Creek Wood and Westbrook park developments to 2018/2019. Those three projects were cut due to the budget shortfall at end of Fiscal Year 2014.

Commissioner Kennicker asked what the Town Clock Plaza rehabilitation project consisted of, and if the rest room in Jackson Park would mimic the Bluff Street building because she was concerned there wasn't enough money requested. Ms. Ware said the plaza project was for replacing the terrazzo, repairing sidewalks, re-painting the railings and installing irrigation to planters. The Jackson Park rest room could potentially have some of the features of the Bluff Street building but we would build it for \$250,000. Kennicker also asked about the Port of Dubuque Park development project – where is it and is it new. This area is the big green space by Flexsteel and McGraw-Hill at the corner of Bell and 5th Streets. An arts group is working to design and fundraise for that park/area.

Commissioner Lyness asked about funds for playground mulch – she thought the division made their own mulch from all the tree trimming and/or removals, but Division Manager Steve Fehsal said those wood chips do not meet playground standard. The mulch has to be certified playground mulch. Commissioner Hoffmann told commissioners as an FYI that the FDR Park redevelopment project was first requested in 1986 and keeps getting bumped out of the five-year budget.

Recreation Division: Mr. Klinge asked if the **golf** projects would be funded from the self-supporting funds (development fund). Division Manager Dan Kroger said most of the projects are but not the irrigation project. The RFP is out to hire a consultant to help develop bid documents for the first nine holes of the irrigation project; the second nine holes would be requested five years out. The golf cart barn renovation project includes a request to purchase golf carts instead of leasing. Kroger said cart rental revenue is pretty consistent and it would be better for the city to own the carts.

At the **pools**, the water flume refinishing and bath house plumbing fixtures were moved from 2016 to 2018 so painting Flora Pool tank could be moved forward to 2016. There is also a new CIP for 2016 for Internet access. This would allow for getting rid of the cash register and going to a membership system improving internal cash controls. The proposed Flora/Sutton assessment CIP would take a long term look at pools and how to best spend the capital improvement money, and looking at ways to generate money.

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Blocker, to approve the Park and Recreation Divisions' C.I.P. budgets as proposed by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC
COMMENT
BUDGET
HEARING:

Manager Ware told commissioners that the budget meeting open to the public for public comment is Monday, November 24th at 5:15 p.m.

PETS IN PARKS-
REVIEW
ORDINANCE
RECOMMEN-
DATION AND
SET PUBLIC
INPUT
PROCESS AND
DATE; VOTE:

Manager Ware said the Legal Department and ICAP reviewed the current pet section of city ordinance and the proposed changes from commission. The color copy in the agenda packet is the ordinance change recommended by the commission (blue) and the changes by Legal Department showing in red. Also included in the agenda packet is a copy showing the effect of the proposed changes. The question about whether the ordinance changes could be considered discriminatory was answered by Assistant Attorney Crenna Brumwell – discrimination would be related to protected classes but there are no protected classes related to animals. Ms. Ware said the ordinance was changed enough that it needed to be reviewed again before the public input meeting.

Commissioner Schlueter asked if Animal Control and Police could give us their numbers on problems with pets in parks / bites, etc. Division Manager Fehsal said staff was logging the number of pets they saw in parks as best they could but the main concern has been compliance. Commissioner Lydon asked if staff could check with Health Department.

Commissioner Lydon reviewed the changes proposed by Legal and ICAP and felt the main change was legal wording like banning pets in pavilion and picnic areas and adding penalties.

It was moved by Lydon, seconded by Schlueter, to accept the changes to the language of the ordinance recommended by Legal Department and to set a date for the public input meeting. The motion passed 6-1 with Blocker, Kennicker, Klinge, Lydon, Lyness and Schlueter voting yes; Hoffmann voting no.

After discussion, consensus was to have the public input at the November meeting after regular agenda business was taken care of, and to allow each person two minutes to speak. Commissioners would hear the public input at the November meeting and then discuss it and vote on the ordinance at the December meeting.

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Schlueter, to hold a public input meeting at the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, November 18th as part of the regular commission meeting, with public input starting at approximately 5:00 p.m. and a two-minute per person limit. The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW CITY
COUNCIL
ADOPTED
PRIORITIES:

Manager Ware included a copy of the recently adopted City Council goals and priorities list as part of the agenda packet. There will be another list that is part of the management agenda but it has not been shared yet.

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal updated Commissioners:

◆ Park season ends October 26th. ◆ Most seasonal park employees will be done by the end of October. ◆ Miller Riverview Park closes October 26th. It was a pretty good season even though it was shortened by the flood. ◆ Staff is getting equipment ready for the snow removal season. ◆ Interviews are scheduled next week for the two Maintenance Workers and the Horticulturalist positions.

Commissioner Blocker commented that the Halloween weekend at the campground had an excellent turnout and it went well. He would suggest that for that weekend in the future port-a-potties be placed somewhere in the middle of the park where the large crowd is instead of at the end by the pavilions.

RECREATION
DIVISION
REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger updated Commissioners:

◆ For the period March 1st through October 14th, golf rounds are up 1,000 generating \$13,000 in revenue, as compared to same period in 2013. Snack bar and pro shop revenue is up \$22,000. The overall golf course operation is up \$17,000. ◆ Staff has tried a couple test runs with online reservation systems for the marina, including interactive map and think we are ready to go with one of the companies; hope to be up and running by February. ◆ Adult basketball team registration is up 10 teams from last year.

MANAGER
REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed Commissioners:

- ◆ Staff is spending a lot of time on budgets and getting them ready to go. As a City, we are focusing on “outcomes” in the budget to tell the story of what we do and what it means to citizens. The city is working on a newsletter that will talk about outcomes and the new focus for the city as an organization.
- ◆ Reminder that commissioners voted to **change the November meeting** to Tuesday, November 18th since city offices are closed November 11th for Veterans’ Day.

COMMISSION
COMMUNICA-
TIONS /
QUESTIONS:


- Commissioner Kennicker encouraged commissioners and staff to go online and vote for the riverfront – there is still time and you can vote as many times as you want.
- Ms. Kennicker saw some information on a new project in England by the Thames River where they are having problems with providing a bike trail. It is a floating bicycle pad that goes along the river and then connects back up to land.
- Commissioner Lydon asked who was responsible for the city Facebook page related to Bee Branch. Ware shared it is a new city employee that is a part of the Public Information Office.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Lyness, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.



Chairperson



Attest