

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, May 10, 2016
4:30 p.m., City Council Chambers, Historic Federal Building

PRESENT: Paul Hoffmann, Robin Kennicker, Ken Klinge, Kate Larson, Karen Lyness, and Jennifer Tigges

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

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Klinge, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2016, meeting with one correction – Karen Lyness was not in attendance at April meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MANAGER REPORT: Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed commissioners:

- David Schlueter notified her he would be resigning from the commission effectively immediately. He enjoyed serving on the commission with all of you.
- The Eagle Point ribbon cutting flier from Public Information Office was distributed to commissioners.
- The NRPA Grant sent as part of agenda packet will announce awards by the end of May. Some funding would be spent on Lower Bee Branch and some for community engagement activities in Jackson Park.

DUBUQUE POISON FREE PARKS REQUEST TO ADDRESS COMMISSION: Todd Lange of 549 Almond Street was present to represent the DBQ Poison Free Parks Group. He read a statement from the group that they wanted to make sure was part of the official record.

Mr. Lange said “DBQ Poison Free Parks (DPFP) submitted significant content for consideration in the development of a Dubuque IPM policy and program. We request that our submitted but declined content be made part of the public record of the IPM Workgroup and this Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Concerns include the following: 1) We believe Integrated Pest Management should be first founded on a sustainable, resilient policy and then followed up by crafting a program from the policy; 2) We believe the work group has so far failed to adequately integrate Dubuque’s core sustainability principles to guide the IPM planning process to better manage our community parks related to health and justice for people and other living things; 3) We believe the current IPM document is written in such a way as to defend, and sometimes give preference to chemically-based “best” management practices that neither are ecologically sound, nor socially just; 4) We believe that this program’s current design creates a loophole that allows the city to abdicate its responsibility to safely maintain our public parks in favor of expecting volunteers to do so in order to provide justification for an end to a “failed” IPM program in the future; and 5) We believe there needs to be citizen representation from DPFP on the ongoing IPM committee to help facilitate transparency, accountability, and public education, etc.”

Commissioner Hoffmann would like to see a little more concrete statement and not as vague as “socially just.” Commissioner Lyness agreed with

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Hoffmann and said the statement is so wide and all encompassing. Their request should be broken down and done in parts. Commissioner Larson stated that the statement read by Mr. Lange is the group's response to the proposed IPM Plan shared at the last work group meeting.

INTEGRATED PEST
MANAGEMENT
(IPM) PROGRAM
REVIEW &
RECOMMEN-
DATION; VOTE:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware thanked Commissioners Larson and Tigges for meeting with the original Facebook group and then becoming part of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Work Group. Ms. Ware presented a PowerPoint that detailed the DBQ Poison Free Park Facebook group request, what is an IPM and IPM work group and development process.

Ware shared the current IPM program proposed does not include any additional staff or budget – it will have to be done with current resources. Some items implemented do take additional time, additional signage and notifications. Some ideas presented would cost additional time and/or additional equipment and would need to be proposed in upcoming budget processes.

The City actions taken to date include: 1) 9 parks pesticide free and signs installed at all 9 saying they are pesticide free; 2) Usha Park designated as a zoned park where pesticides will only be used in a specific area; 3) revised required signs that are placed at locations of pesticide application to include more information about what was applied, time and date and location; 4) increased number of signs placed during an application; 5) created a "Pesticide Application Notification" category for the city "notify me" notification system; 6) created maps to assist public in identifying areas that may be sprayed; 7) Leisure Services staff purchasing only pesticides that are classified as least toxic to the environment; 8) IPM city work group members have held meetings with other city departments to orientate them; 9) Park staff have had several meetings to keep park employees up to date on the program and how it will affect daily duties and using pesticides; 10) City staff and citizens will be notified when pest control contractors will be treating inside of buildings; 11) Pest control contractors will notify city staff when they plan to contract spray specific areas; 12) Park staff have implemented some alternate methods to controlling weeds before resorting to using herbicides, such as hand pulling and line trimming; 13) Park Division has committed to not spraying any pesticides within defined borders of play structures in the parks unless there is a risk to health or safety; 14) Begun to address indoor pest management in City Hall; and 15) Library implemented their own IPM policy as part of their LEED certification.

The process for input and approval includes Parks and Recreation Commission, city leadership team and Environmental Stewardship Commission. It will then be presented to City Council.

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Commissioner Hoffmann feels it is a very one-sided discussion and there is need for more diverse public input. This seems to be getting pushed through very quickly and a lot of people are not getting a chance to speak on the subject. He was concerned that some persons with allergies would prefer spraying to take place to rid area of allergens. Commissioner Kennicker agreed with Mr. Hoffmann and is also concerned about the cost to the city with licensing and signage, etc. If Leisure Services is already following state requirements, isn't a lot of this redundant? Commissioner Klinge also asked why the city needs an IPM if we follow the state. It seems like a lot of work when the state already has requirements. This is happening so fast and the majority of the general public is not aware of the whole issue.

Manager Ware said the state does not really have an IPM, just the requirements you must follow and signage you must display to be legal. The IPM we establish would notify people in advance so they know areas that are treated before they go there. It would also include using the least toxic chemicals to improve city practices.

Commissioner Tigges said the Facebook group first came forward they wanted absolutely no spraying or chemical use of any kind and they wanted that to start immediately. Commissioner Larson said following state requirements is legal and just the minimum you need. The IPM the city is working on is to make us better. This is a moving, ongoing document and it will continue to evolve. Commissioner Lyness asked about putting the plan on hold and getting more general public input but Ms. Tigges said the City Council action specified that the IPM be completed by July 1st and the public will have the opportunity to give input at the City Council meeting and both commission meetings.

It was moved by Larson, seconded by Kennicker, to approve the IPM as written with notice from the Park and Recreation Commission to recommend increased public awareness and input before submission to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously.

PARK DIVISION
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal informed Commissioners:

- The campground opened April 22nd, one week late due to the water.
- Things are super busy in the greenhouse. We are in the process of bringing back all the flowers. Baskets will be out before Memorial Day.
- Park rangers are back on duty. The full time ranger has been eliminated and there is one seasonal ranger scheduled Monday through Thursday and two working Friday through Sunday.
- Staff is spending a lot of time with the integrated pest management program.
- Mr. Fehsal is working with the consultant for skate park to compile all the public input.
- The tree crew is out removing Ash trees and grinding stumps. They will be injecting more Ash trees this month.
- All seasonal laborers have been hired for the summer.
- The department has contracted the mowing of 16 areas that are cut with push mowers.
- Opening

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weekend at the parks had nice weather. On Mother's Day 583 cars were admitted to Eagle Point Park for free for the pancake breakfast. In 2015 there were 378 for the breakfast. • Reminder that May 21st is Kids to Parks Day and entrance fee to Eagle Point Park was waived by the commission.

RECREATION
DIVISION REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger informed Commissioners:

- Golf course irrigation project is near completion.
- The pool project at both Flora and Sutton is moving forward. Cameras, data cables for Internet, etc. are being installed and concession equipment continues to arrive.
- Saturday, May 3rd the office was open from 8:00 a.m. to Noon with three staff selling season swim passes.
- There will be some special programs at Eagle Point Park on Kids to Parks Day May 21st including live music from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and various yard games for families. The Jule will be providing free shuttle rides from the intermodal transportation center to Eagle Point Park from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Ben Alden worked in April to get the marina C-store open a week early.
- The city has an engagement pilot program for Jackson Park neighbors. Mr. Kroger reached out to 18 different agencies within a few blocks of Jackson Park and there are 9 of those agencies that want to get together and do something for 14 to 25 year-olds. The idea is to get the group together and start talking about things they would like to see the city do to get youth involved in the community and employment, etc.

MANAGER REPORT
CONTINUED:

- Manager Ware said the city is working on a LAWCON grant. The grant would be used for Comiskey Park to expand the proposed project.
- Ware is working on drafting a donations and naming policy and drafting an RFP for a consultant for an ADA review and update.

COMMISSION
COMMUNICA-
TIONS AND
QUESTIONS:

- Commissioner Lyness asked if Eagle Point Park brochures and some of the new campground brochures could be delivered to the Welcome Center. Fehsal will provide.
- Commissioner Larson asked if we could also deliver fliers that had a list of parks where pets are allowed.

ADJOURN;
VOTE:

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

Chairperson

Attest