

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
Tuesday, June 14, 2016  
4:30 p.m., Comiskey Center, 255 East 24th Street

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

STAFF PRESENT: Marie Ware, Steve Fehsal and Eileen Trimble

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE: It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Kennicker, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2016, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD PRESENTATION: Members of the Board of Directors of the Miracle League of Dubuque were present to share information about the proposed miracle field project at Veterans' Memorial Park. Miracle League is a national organization serving children and adults with physical and mental disabilities that causes them to be excluded, whether intentionally or not, from conventional youth baseball leagues. The field and playground surface are flat and smooth, completely rubberized and cushioned and accessible for all.

The Dubuque project started several years ago with Tom Witry's vision to build a Miracle League baseball field and all-inclusive playground for Dubuque area people with special needs. Over the last five years the group partnered with Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque; researched multiple locations (public and private) in the area; hired IIW, P.C.; consulted with multiple community agencies and current site users; hired a local attorney; completed legal documents to form a 501(C)3 organization; and formed a Board of Directors. Several service organizations are interested in helping fund the project but before the group officially begins fundraising they need to have a definite site and city approval, etc. Joe and Linda Chlapaty have agreed to help through matching funds up to \$500,000. The Board hopes to raise more money than needed to build the field and playground so funds are available for uniforms, equipment and future maintenance.

In fall of 2015 Mike Jansen with IIW PC worked with the group to evaluate the site of Veterans' Memorial Park and come up with a concept and cost estimate.

Commissioners commended the board members for a great job, how well thought out the project is and all the hard work in moving the project forward. They felt our community needs something like this. General questions were would there be enough parking if tournaments were being held on fields 2 and 3 and an event on the miracle field; ongoing cost of maintenance and repairs of breakdowns; would we have to hire personnel to run the facility and insurance costs.

Manager Ware said a good design and proper installation can reduce maintenance. Over time, components of the project would go on a budget

replacement schedule the same as other department assets. The department would work with Wahlert High School to develop an agreement to allow overflow parking in their lot; Leisure Services already maintains the field where the Miracle League field would go. A playground is already maintained at the park.

Ms. Ware is working on a draft agreement which is the next step. She commended the board members for all their work and leadership roles in meeting user groups face-to-face and being so dedicated to this project.

Miracle League Board members said they have a huge commitment to this project and fundraising and they want it to be an ongoing success, not to just get it built and then walk away. They look at this project as a partnership.

INTEGRATED PEST  
MANAGEMENT  
WORK GROUP  
UPDATE:

Commissioner Larson provided the following information:

The last formal meeting of the work group was Tuesday, June 7th. A lot of work has been done and the plan is ready to move forward to the Council. The group came up with a list of approved chemicals and will be trying to phase out the more toxic chemicals. Approving the IPM Program is on the June 20th City Council agenda as an action item. Manager Ware and other committee members will be giving a full presentation to the Council.

Ms. Larson personally feels the work group made a tremendous amount of progress in a short amount of time. The plan is very in depth and will be an ever evolving document. Manager Ware said this needs to be a continuous and ongoing effort. The plan recommends that an IPM Coordinator and committee be appointed for continued progress; and recommends that an annual report be presented to the Environmental Stewardship Commission on how the plan is working, what changes may need to be made, what plans are for the upcoming year, etc.

Commissioner Lyness asked who decides if the plan is successful? Ware said the work group created a work plan which lays out what to work on, data and measurements and checking progress. Commissioner Hoffmann doesn't want the city to be locked into something if it isn't working, just because a rule was in the IPM Program. Ms. Ware said the program is set up to pilot actions and if they don't work out we will try other options.

Ware thanked commissioners Larson and Tigges for working with the Facebook group and being active as a part of the work group.

PARK DIVISION  
REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal informed Commissioners:

- All the flower baskets are out and the annuals will all be planted by the end of the week.
- The skate park location has been narrowed down to two locations in Flora Park. The consultant is tentatively scheduled to come to

Dubuque July 5th to evaluate the locations in Flora Park. • The City received a \$200,000 REAP grant in October for environmental restoration at Eagle Point Park. The Request for Proposals was advertised and we are in the process of scheduling a consultant. This will be an evaluation of the entire park – drainage issues, trees, landscaping, runoff problems, etc. The consultant fees will be \$50,000 and the remaining \$150,000 will be used to start implementation of a management plan.

MANAGER  
REPORT:

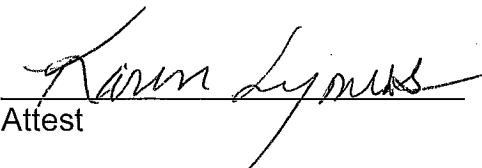
Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed Commissioners:

- The department has sold 2,599 season swim passes since April 4th. • It is that time of year for the City Council to work on their goals and priorities so if commissioners have any ideas or projects they would like to pass on to the Council, now is the time. Discussion of possible ideas will be placed on the July agenda. Commissioner Larson asked if the information forwarded to the Council the last two years could be sent to commission with July agenda.
- There will be three open commission spots at the end of June – vacant position previously held by Mr. Schlueter and expiring terms for Larson and Lyness. Ms. Ware said there is one new individual that has applied and former commission Bob Blocker has re-applied. City Council will make appointments at the June 20th meeting.

ADJOURN;  
VOTE:

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Klinge, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Chairperson

  
Attest

