

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 13, 2016**

**4:30 p.m., Riverfront Pavilion, Eagle Point Park, 2601 Shiras Avenue**

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

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

**MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:**

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Klinge, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2016 meeting. Unanimous.

**PICKLE BALL PRESENTATION:**

Jay Imhof and Roger Smith spoke on behalf of Pickle Ball Dubuque, a group of about 40 players that use the courts at Flora Park every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They were present to ask the commission to request funding in the FY 2018 budget process to repair and maintain pickle ball courts at Flora Park.

- The courts have cracks. The park staff recently cleaned part of the courts and pickle ball volunteers cleaned the rest. Manager Fehsal thanked the group for their work.
- Most of the pickle ball players are 60+ years old and are looking for ways to stay active and healthy so there has been a lot of growth in popularity. They recommend visiting the website [usapa.org](http://usapa.org) to get information about pickle ball.
- In looking to the future and long range planning the group would like to see another facility somewhere in town, possibly with LED lighting and some wind damping devices but for the immediate future Flora needs work.

Mr. Fehsal said there is a CIP project for courts but the funding was pushed back to FY 2021.

**COMMISSION PRIORITIES; VOTE:**

Commissioners reviewed the draft memo of commission priorities to send to the City Council for consideration. Commissioner Hoffmann asked why spend money upgrading tennis courts if they were going to be converted to pickle ball unless the courts can have a dual use. Commissioner Tigges asked the pickle ball group if you have a tournament, do the courts have to be specifically just for pickle ball. Mr. Imhof said you need a minimum of six courts to run a sanctioned pickle ball tournament and they can be tennis courts that are lined for pickle ball.

It was moved by Larson, seconded by Lyness to add “upgrade court surfaces at Flora Park due to current condition and level of usage” as a bullet point on the commission’s draft priority list memo to City Council. Unanimous.

It was moved by Kirkendall, seconded by Hoffmann to approve commission priorities as listed on the memo to City Council. Unanimous.

**SPRAYING OF WASHINGTON PARK; VOTE:**

Commissioner Larson shared a draft memo to the City Council from the Park and Recreation Commission requesting that Washington Park be reclassified from Mode 1 Landscape to Mode 2 Landscape in the city’s IPM program which would eliminate chemical spraying on the grass / turf areas of the park. The draft memo was sent to commissioners as part of the agenda packet. A general discussion was held and changes recommended.

It was moved by Larson, seconded by Tigges, to send the commission memo with proposed changes to the City Council requesting to reclassify Washington Park from a Mode 1 to a Mode 2 Landscape which means the turf will not be chemically sprayed. Unanimous.

**DOGS IN WASHINGTON PARK:**

Commissioner Hoffmann witnessed two dogs get in a fight at Washington Park. The dogs were not on leashes, they defecated in the park and owners did not clean up. He said dogs are not supposed to be in the park so people are currently breaking the rules and he was wondering what we could do about it.

Manager Ware forwarded a document from Mary Rose Corrigan, Health Services Manager on pets in park enforcement procedure as part of the agenda packet. Health Department two animal control employees are part-time and park patrol are seasonal so if those individuals were not working, a complaint would go to the Police Department and response would depend on priority level of calls going on at time of complaint.

Commissioner Tigges: As commissioners we need to help inform the public and report these things as they occur. Commissioner Kirkendall: We are working with limited resources for enforcement so we should focus on the owners who follow the rules. Encourage proper behavior by being an example to others and increase the number of good law abiding citizens with pets as an example. Commissioner Kennicker: Every citizen should say something to let people know there is a rule / law about pets, if they see someone breaking the law. Commissioner Larson: The majority of dog owns are law abiding and just want to enjoy park amenities like everybody else.

**PARK DIVISION REPORT:**

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal informed commissioners:

- Staff is in the process of planting the fall mums and the new hanging baskets with fall color.
- Interviews are being conducted for the department Mechanic, replacing Charlie Klein who retired in July.
- Steve Pregler, City Forester will be retiring at the end of December. We are working on cross training employees so the crew will be able to keep working if we are unable to fill the position right away.
- There was a public walking tour of the Upper Bee Branch last night. The area is coming together well. We will be ordering hanging baskets for the area soon.
- Capital improvement budget requests are due at the end of the month.
- Miller Riverview campground was closed over Labor Day due to river flooding but was open for the Dragon Boat Festival.
- Ken and Nancy Clayton are retiring as managers of the campground at the end of this season, after managing it for nine years. They did a good job and will be missed. Staff will be meeting to discuss how we want to proceed with management of the campground, what kind of contract / agreement, etc.
- There was a public meeting for the Skate Park on August 31st and input was taken online. The two locations in Flora Park being considered are the grassy area at the corner of Pennsylvania and an area by the volleyball and pickle ball courts.
  - ✓ The commission tour on September 29th will include a stop at the two sites.

#### **RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:**

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger informed commissioners:

- Golf Course Superintendent Gerry Lange discovered an issue with the diesel tank at the golf course. Staff is working with DNR, Fire Department and Engineering Department.
- Six proposals for consultant for the pool assessment project were received. The committee has narrowed the selection to 2 and will be conducting phone interviews. The committee's recommendation for a consultant will be forwarded to the City Council.

#### **MANAGER REPORT:**

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware informed Commissioners:

- Facilities tour on September 29th: Ms. Ware asked if commissioners had any particular facilities they would like to visit, otherwise staff will determine locations to tour.
- Imagine Dubuque: Imagine Dubuque is an initiative being worked on by Planning Department and other city departments to gather input from citizens that will be used in the next comprehensive plan for Dubuque.

The information is all about citizens' vision for Dubuque – things they would like to see. She encouraged use of [imaginedubuque.com](http://imaginedubuque.com). Ware encouraged commissioners to check out the website themselves and share the information with others.

- FY 18 budget preparations: Staff is working on capital improvement budgets that are due at end of September; operating budget is due three weeks later; then improvement level and performance measures. Commissioners should let staff know if there are projects they want considered.
- The ADA consultant will be reviewing Eagle Point, Flora and Murphy parks.

#### **COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS / QUESTIONS:**

- Commissioner Lyness requested that some bike path maps be delivered to the Welcome Center as they get many requests from visitors.
- Commissioner Larson encouraged all commissioners to look through the three documents from Community Engagement process – items citizens viewed as valuable; items viewed as successes; and items viewed as short and major challenges. There are a lot of items related to parks including pets and pet friendly as well as trails. Ms. Larson did a search of the challenges document and “pet” was mentioned 16 times and “dog” 43 times.
- Commissioner Kennicker asked if there was much flood damage at the campground.

#### **ADJOURN; VOTE:**

It was moved by Kirkendall, seconded by Larson, that the meeting be adjourned at 6:30 p.m. Unanimous.