

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, June 13, 2017

4:30 p.m., Brick Open Air at Flora Park, 2605 Pennsylvania 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, Janna Beau and Jolene Rettenberger

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Klinge, to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2017 meeting. Unanimous.

BEE BRANCH RENTAL FEE RECOMMENDATIONS; VOTE:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware shared that the Bee Branch Creek Greenway has been added as a new park into our system, thus rental fees for the two overlooks, the two open spaces at 24th Street and the Amphitheater need to be established. The recommended rental fees for these five new areas are:

16th Street Overlook \$30
24th Street Overlook \$30
Creekside Amphitheater \$35
Creekside Landing \$25
Greenway Landing \$30

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Kirkendall, to approve and recommend the above rental fees along the Bee Branch Creek Greenway to the City Council. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION AND INPUT FOR CITY COUNCIL; VOTE:

As a follow-up to the May 9, 2017 Commission meeting, commissioners reviewed a list of recommendations for City Council from that meeting and discussed other additions. The recommendations were as follows, not in a specific order:

- Increase accessibility and ADA compliance in parks, recreation facilities and areas
- Pets
 - ✓ Legalize leashed pets in additional parks
 - ✓ Improvements to current Pet Park
 - ✓ Construction of an additional Pet Park

- Fully fund staff positions that are frozen to reflect increased responsibilities within the Park and Recreation Divisions
- Allot additional staff to reflect increased maintenance responsibilities, at least to 1980 staffing levels or above
- Continued improvements to Comiskey Park and Jackson Park
- Continue expansion of recreational trails throughout Dubuque
- Establish funds for donated mini parks and new parks, not yet developed (Eagle Valley, Pebble Cove, English Ridge, Westbrook, North Fork Trail-not listed in a specific order)
- Create a multi-use green space area (100 x 150) for usage of soccer, football, lacrosse and rugby

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Klinge, to accept the commissioners' priority list to recommend to City Council. Unanimous.

PARK DIVISION REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal reported

- Staff is working on the clean-up of the Miller Riverview Park and Campground which has been closed since April 20th due to flooding along the Mississippi River. He hopes to re-open on Friday, June 23rd.
- He will be scheduling interviews for park maintenance worker position created by the retirement of Art Hedley.
- The State approved the nomination of Eagle Point Park to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places and it will now be moved for federal review.
- Staff is busy with park maintenance work; all flowers will be planted by the end of the week.
- Ribbon cutting scheduled for Wednesday, July 19th at 4:00 pm for the Bee Branch Creek Greenway.
- Largest crowd in history attended the annual Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast at Eagle Point Park on Sunday, May 14th. A total of 747 vehicles were admitted free of charge into the park.
- Even though it was rainy weather for *Kids to Parks Day* on Saturday, May 20th, a total of 268 vehicles entered Eagle Point Park free of charge.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger reported

- Aquatics Supervisor, Janna Beau, was introduced to the Commission. Congratulations to Janna Beau for receiving the ARK Advocates "*Distinguished Community Service*" Award for her outstanding service to those with disabilities in our community.
- Janna reported to the Commission

- ✓ Our first Family Pool Party/Movie Night is scheduled for Friday, June 16th at Flora Pool. Come join us for our pool party from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, followed by the movie “*Surf’s Up 2*” to be shown on the big screen behind the diving well.
 - ✓ Our swimming pools have been well attended due to the hot, humid weather. Since opening day of Saturday, May 27th, there have been 17 water saves made by the lifeguards.
 - ✓ From the Memorial Day holiday through June 12th, attendance at Sutton Pool was near 5,000 people. At Flora Pool, attendance was over 20,000 people.
 - ✓ Staff has been busy selling / printing over 2,000 pool pass I.D.’s at the Leisure Services Department. This number includes close to 575 family membership passes of which just over 50% are low income.
- Thirty-two (32) out of 150 scholarships have utilized their \$125 in scholarship monies.
 - Processed over 4,200 registrations for summer activities to date.
 - During the summer of 2016, we offered 4 programs in the Bee Branch area, which involved 22 paid participants. During the summer of 2017, we added 4 additional programs in the Bee Branch area, which increased our participation to 58 students with a Wait List started. Out of the 58 students, 42 of the students were free to attend. (NOTE: These classes are offered in partnership with the Dubuque County ISU Extension.)
 - Wi-Fi is up and running at the Port of Dubuque Marina which was the most requested service.
 - All Port of Dubuque Marina slips were rented out during the *2017 America’s River Festival* which was held June 8th-10th.
 - 2,100 students have enrolled in our summer swimming lessons. We are offering free swim lessons to the Dream Center, as well as the Boys and Girls Club.

Commissioner Klinge shared that he has received complaints regarding the softball field conditions at the McAleece Complex.

MANAGER REPORT:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware reported

- An RFP is going to be developed for engineering services for Creek Wood Park located in Timber Hyrst Subdivision. The council items to swap land with the Reimers is moving forward and then a donation of an additional lot will be done by developer Marty McNamer.
- Work is set to begin on the planning of Comiskey Park renovation.
- Work has been ongoing with the Skate Park committee as the Miracle League group regarding naming opportunities with their projects. This will be presented to City Council for approval based on the Council’s approved policy.

- The City of Dubuque hired a consultant (Convention, Sports and Leisure International) to conduct a study of the Five Flags Civic Center. Commissioners are asked take time to submit your input regarding the future of the Five Flags Civic Center through an online survey available at www.cityofdubuque.org/fiveflagssurvey. The survey will be available online until June 25th.
- The end of the fiscal year is near so work is being done on capital improvements and reviewing where all projects are.
- We will hear on Friday, June 16th regarding the *2017 All-America City Award* for the community's efforts in the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading.

ADJOURN; VOTE:

It was moved by Hoffmann, seconded by Klinge, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. Unanimous.