

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, August 8, 2017
4:30 p.m., Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 West 11th Street

PRESENT: Robin Kennicker, Rebecca Kuhle, Kate Larson, Karen Lyness and Jennifer Tigges

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

ABSENT: Ken Klinge and Richard Kirkendall

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Lyness, to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017, meeting. Unanimous.

LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR REAP GRANT; VOTE:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware reminded commissioners that two years ago the City applied for a REAP grant for Eagle Point Park restoration. This grant was to establish a restoration plan and begin implementation of the plan. This phase 2 grant would provide funding to continue implementation of the plan.

It was moved by Larson, seconded by Lyness, for the Commission to give a letter of support for the REAP Grant for Eagle Point Park Environmental Restoration, Phase 2. Unanimous.

**COMISKEY PARK – LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM GRANT:**

Manager Ware explained that the City applied about one and one-half years ago for a \$500,000 LAWCON grant for outdoor recreational improvements at Comiskey Park. The grant was recently awarded. All the paperwork has to be processed and approved at the federal level before work can begin. The City is required to provide matching funding and that has been established. Comiskey Park improvements is a top priority of the City Council.

PARK DIVISION REPORT:

In the absence of Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal, Manager Ware distributed a written division report and verbally highlighted some of the items. Report may be found as part of the original minutes.

- Damage from July 11 storm was extensive throughout the city; Eagle Point Park was hit bad. Tree calls were entered in the city Web QA software – over 250 requests for service. The entire department placed all hands on deck July 12th. Other departments were also instrumental in the response and clean-up effort.
- July 21st there was another severe rain event which caused the campground to close; damage was minimal; able to reopen on Thursday, July 27th.
- Park Division has taken over maintenance of Bee Branch Greenway, except the landscape which is still under contract. Staff responsible for trash, amenities, flags, sidewalks, et cetera.
- The Park Division maintains over 25 miles of paved trails; list included in written report. There are seven trail counters in various locations which allows us to determine what days and months trails are used more, which helps prioritize maintenance.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:

- Social Media: The department is coming to the end of a one-year contract that works on department's Facebook page. The vast majority of users are women age 35 to 44. Prior to the contract, the Facebook page had 0 video viewers and since Forge there have been 2,855 minutes of video views. January through October 2016 Leisure Services created 60 posts; November 16, 2016 to August 17, 2017 there were 140 posts created; 16,000 people were reached. After the contract the summer brochure reached 4,411, with 68 post reactions. They did a post announcing jobs for summer and there were 2,149 people reached.
- AmeriCorps Summer Only Grant: An additional grant was requested and approved. The grant allows for 8 AmeriCorps staff for 14-18-year-old programs and five additional staff to work with Multicultural Family Center Future Talk program next summer. The program grant is for \$41,250, of which \$7,200 is the city's portion. Also included is a one-time equipment expense which provided \$4,000 for two high quality basketball hoops that will fit in the Rec 'n Roll trailer.
- Marina: Eleven boats participated in the lighted boat parade this year. Ice cream has been a big hit.
- Staff is working on fall brochure.
- Office hours are changing to Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

MANAGER REPORT:

- The Leisure Services Department has items on the City Council list of goals: flower planting; MFC; Five Flags study; Comiskey improvements; programs

for teens, young professions and seniors; splash pad, are all among the many items on the list.

- City Council approved the sponsorship levels and naming rights for the Skate Park so skate group will be able to give specific information when fundraising.
- Two tuckpointing projects are close to being done at Five Flags and Ham House.
- Plan is being worked on for Multicultural Family Center / Colts building.

Manager Ware asked about changing the date of the September meeting. After discussion, it was decided to have the meeting / tour on Tuesday, September 19th.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS / QUESTIONS:

- Commissioner Kennicker said she had been contacted by citizens asking about Miller Riverview Campground being eliminated in the new plan for Chaplain Schmitt Island. They asked her to pass on their opposition – improve the campground but do not get rid of it.
- Commissioner Larson noted that none of the Commission's priority list was included in the City Council goal list. She was wondering if we could somehow get the list factored in to the City Council process. An idea suggested was to have a commissioner read the commission's priority list at the council meeting when it is on the agenda.
- Commissioner Tigges asked about the status of the Colts / MFC building. Manager ware said staff has had two meetings with the architect. We hope to have a drawing, phasing approach and funding needs by October. The Winter Farmer's Market will be able to use the building this winter.

ADJOURN; VOTE:

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Lyness, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Unanimous.