

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

4:30 p.m., Snack Bar, Bunker Hill Golf Course

PRESENT: Richard Kirkendall, Ken Klinge, Rebecca Kuhle, Kate Larson, Karen Lyness and Jennifer Tigges

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

ABSENT: Robin Kennicker

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Lyness, seconded by Klinge, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017, meeting. Unanimous.

RESCHEDULE PUBLIC INPUT MEETING REGARDING ROUNDABOUT BY ALLISON-HENDERSON PARK; VOTE:

Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware requested to reschedule the public input meeting to November. Part of the meeting will be joint with the Transit Board, the joint portion of the meeting for public input related to the bus transfer project.

It was moved by Larson, seconded by Lyness, to reschedule the public input meeting regarding roundabout by Allison-Henderson Park to the November 14 meeting. Unanimous.

FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET PREPARATION AND SCHEDULE:

Staff are all working on different phases of the budget process. Details will be provided to commission at November meeting.

- Capital improvement budgets were due October 8th. Leisure Services Department has approximately 168 project requests submitted between park, recreation, Multicultural Family Center, Five Flags and Grand River Center. The internal process was different this year with the addition of a scoring criteria. All departments score their projects. Department managers will meet to review scoring and discuss recommendations to City Manager.
- Operating budget is due October 27th which is funding required to maintain current level of service. Improvement level for potential added services or fee changes is due November 3rd. Performance measures are due November 17th.
- Manager Ware compared the priority list from commission to the capital improvement projects submitted. Proposed projects include continued access assessments, trails, mini park funding and second pet park. The

multipurpose green space was not included since we have no space to build one at this point in time.

PARK DIVISION REPORT:

Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal reported:

- Fall flowers are in place, including the fall hanging baskets.
- Park season ends October 23 and staff will be starting to winterize. The campground will close a week later on October 29. Campground Manager John Miller did a good job – received lots of positive comments. Dragon Boat event went well.
- Two Request for Proposals have been posted on the website: 1) Highway 20 Consultant to assess the corridor from Locust Street to past the last bed of roses. The selected consultant will assess the area and then come up with a concept plan. 2) Skate Park for engineering and design including construction documents.
- Tree crew worked for over two months to address the July 19th storm. The vacant Maintenance worker position has been reclassified as a Forestry Technician; working on Civil Service test.
- Trees Forever group has been very active. They scheduled two community service projects including mulching tree rings on Chavenelle Drive and they will be planting ten trees in Eagle Point Park next Saturday. The city paid for the mulch for that project but the trees for Eagle Point are all funded by Trees Forever.
- Working on cleaning leaves and getting snow removal equipment ready for winter.

RECREATION DIVISION REPORT:

Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger reported:

- Bee Branch Fall Festival is from 10:00 a.m. to Noon on October 21st. There will be duck races, pumpkin painting and other fun activities.
- Quotes are back for the resurfacing, resealing and painting project at the pools. The slide at Sutton is also getting refinished.
- There will be continued summer reading program even though the state cut the funding for the summer academy. Our department will work with the schools on the programming to still offer a program.
- LEAP was also not funded by a state grant requested. We are offering a modified program and our department is putting in the largest amount of funds. The golf pro will be going out to the schools to offer golf lessons which transportation issues for students and more will be able to participate.

- Splash pad is on the City Council priority list so currently researching splash pads in other cities.
- Tomorrow there will be a dedication of the new mural at Jefferson Park. Loras College partnered with the Multicultural Family Center Future Talk program to get funding for paint, etc. and Future Talk students completed the work.

MANAGER REPORT:

- Staff is working on renovation phasing plan for the MFC / Colts building.
- AmeriCorps Director Mary Bridget Corken-Deutsch resigned her position to become a Communication Connection Specialist at Marshall School; currently going through applications.
- Manager Ware and several Recreation Division employees attended an equity training. Manager Kroger is working on equity plan for the department and has put forth a lot of effort. The goal is that all levels of staff work on meeting the equity goal – serving people equitably, how we currently do things, how do we improve things, etc. If we want the plan to have an impact it must be everybody in the department, not just the top four managers.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS / QUESTIONS:

- Commissioner Kirkendall asked if there had been any feedback on how Oktoberfest went at AY McDonald Park. Manager Fehsal said it went well although some of their items were still at the park Monday morning.
- Commissioner Kennicker asked about Miller Riverview Park status – people still seem to think it is a definite decision that the city will be eliminating the campground. Manager Ware said no decisions have been made. Ms. Kennicker also asked if the Colts building would be available for the winter farmer’s market and Ms. Ware said yes.
- Commissioner Larson commented that Eagle Valley Park development needs to move forward. There is no place for kids in that neighborhood to go unless they walk out in the street to get to a different site.

ADJOURN; VOTE:

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