

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 9, 2018**  
**4:30 p.m., Bunker Hill Golf Course**

**PRESENT:** Matt Garrett, Robin Kennicker, Richard Kirkendall, Rebecca Kuhle, Robert McCoy, Jennifer Tigges and Ray Werner

**STAFF PRESENT:** Marie Ware and Steve Fehsal

**OTHERS PRESENT:** FIDO Representatives Nikki Ender and Amy Weipert

**MINUTES APPROVED; VOTES:**

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Kuhle, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting. Unanimous.

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Kuhle, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2018 special meeting. Unanimous.

**FIDO GROUP REQUEST TO ADDRESS COMMISSION:**

Nikki Ender and Amy Weipert were present representing the Friendly Intelligent Dog Owners (FIDO) to let the City know they are here as a group to help as discussions continue on constructing a new dog park. They know there will be a public input process coming and they would like the chance to work with the City on the best location and amenities for the park. Once a quality location is identified the group would like to help raise funds to make the dog park the best it can be. Ms. Ender said FIDO holds monthly meetings and has several committees. Their biggest issue right now is dogs in parks and then helping to fundraise for dog park down the line.

Commissioners asked if we knew how many permits for dogs were issued by the city? Leisure Services Manager Marie Ware will check with Health Services on the number of current licensed pet owners.

**PET FRIENDLY COMMUNITY DISCUSSION**

Manager Ware shared information related to the City Council priority of pet friendly community. Staff has had some conversations related to this topic, knowing it involves more than just a pet park. The Mayor attended the US Conference of Mayors and brought back a packet called *Playbook for Pet Friendly Communities* (may be found as part of the original minutes). What does “pet friendly community mean?” Pet park is one piece, but it is also about licensing, amenities for dogs and other policy items. The Playbook for Pet

Friendly Communities provides tools to assess where your community is at and what are the next steps that can be considered.

Ms. Ware said the process could be like the integrated pest management program where various city departments and staff and representation from various pet and dog friendly groups, and potentially businesses could be part of a work group that would work through the assessment and playbook.

Commissioner Tigges asked what the next step would be if we want to get started with a work group. General discussion was held about who would be part of a work group; who decides what departments are represented; what they would do at meetings.

Commissioner Kirkendall said a holistic approach is good especially with regards to the dog park. He sees letting people walk their dogs in parks as a related issue and part of the holistic assessment, but it doesn't need to wait for all this stuff to be done.

Commissioner Tigges said she would not want to see making policies and going through the assessment stall for a year or two anything to do with moving forward on some of those items.

Commissioner Werner agreed and said he sees it as a two-tiered system where we have the idea of allowing pets in parks. Some language writing was already done for the previous recommendations that can be used. He sees that as something that the commission can take action on sooner rather than later, maybe even by end of year get that conversation rolling.

**CREATE PET FRIENDLY WORKING GROUP; VOTE:**

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Garrett, to create a pet friendly community work group with citizens, city staff and area professionals and businesses to work on pet friendly assessment and policies. Unanimous.

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT; VOTE:**

The Integrated Pest Management working group completes a report each year and reports to Environmental Stewardship Committee and the City Council. It was presented to Council in June 2018. A copy of the report was included in commission agenda packet and may be found as part of the original minutes.

Commissioner Tigges asked if the report is shared with the citizen group that was involved from the beginning? Has citizen group volunteered as talked about during formal meetings? Park Division Manager Steve Fehsal said the report is on the website plus public information through council meeting, but he doesn't know if anything is formally sent to those individuals. The volunteer

group is not formally working with the City but may be doing things on their own on an informal basis. Commissioner Werner asked if expansion of pesticide free parks has been considered? Manager Fehsal said yes, staff has talked about it and plans to pull spray records this winter to review and see if there is any opportunity to make some additional changes.

It was moved by McCoy, seconded by Kennicker, to receive and file the Integrated Pest Management Annual Report. Unanimous.

#### **PARK NAMING DISCUSSION; VOTE:**

The commission discussed the policy drafted by Commissioners Kirkendall and Tigges.

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Garrett, to adopt the park naming policy with typographical corrections to section 1 c (add a semicolon and the word or at the end). Unanimous.

#### **MANAGER REPORTS:**

Commissioners generally liked the idea of getting the managers written reports with the agenda, so they could look over before the meeting and know their questions in advance. It was recommended to put reports on the agenda as a separate item in the future.

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

- Commissioner Garrett asked about softball fields. The Miracle League field at Veterans' is going to be a wonderful thing and a lot of kids will have an opportunity to play ball, but he wants to assure we have enough ballfields in the community. Mr. Garrett is working with Recreation Division Manager Dan Kroger to see what can be done with existing facilities. Mr. Kroger will get Park Division Manager and Youth Sports Supervisor together with Commissioner Garrett and look at some options and talk with youth baseball and softball groups.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

It was moved by Tigges, seconded by Garrett, to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 p.m.