

MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, September 4, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Chris Howell, Dana LaRue, Angie Haller, Gina Othmer, Rick Bierman, Pete Degabriele and Jennifer DeFosse

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Rich Klimes

Guests Present: Ben Morgan

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Selection of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

LaRue moved to elect Angie Haller as Chairperson. Second by Howell. Haller moved to elect Chris Howell as Vice-Chairperson. Second by DeFosse. All ayes; motion carries.

Motion to approve minutes of the April 3, 2019 regular meeting. Moved by DeFosse. Second by Howell. All ayes; motion carries.

Discussion – Parks and Recreation System Overview

Staff distributed and discussed Programs and Facilities Fact Sheet for the Muscatine Parks and Recreation Department.

Discussion – Kiwanis Playground Request

The Kiwanis group has reached out to staff requesting expanded handicap accessible features in the park system. May look at making a portion of the playground at Fuller Park inclusive. The Kiwanis subcommittee is in the process of discussing options and will approach the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission when ready.

Update – Flood 2019 Impact

There is an extensive list of damages from the 2019 flood but all are repairable. Many city resources have been and will continue to be used to finish clean up and repairs. The transient dock spud pole bent which forced the dock to buckle. It will be repaired once funding is received from FEMA.

Update – Houser Parking Expansion

Musco will install light standards sometime this month. Staff is currently working on seeding the fields. The trail is now open and the rapid flash beacons are working. We do not anticipate usage until next year once the fields are established.

Update – Dog Park

The Dog Park opened last fall and 430 tags have been sold to date. Staff is working on a renewal process for the next annual membership which will start January 1, 2020.

Update – Weed Park Street Lighting Project

New light standards at Weed Park were installed by Musco and are now operating. The old light standards will be removed soon once staff is available.

Update – Weed Park Restroom

Looking at replacing or refurbishing the restroom facility near the Rose Garden. Would like to add an additional restroom in the center of the park. Currently waiting on some other projects to finish to see what funding is available.

Update – Weed Park Drainage Repair

A culvert collapsed in Weed Park which is causing sink holes in the lower area next to the lagoon. This will be repaired soon and once completed the speed hump will be removed.

Update – West Side Trail Project

The remainder of the West Side Trail Project which will connect the Dog Park to Discovery Park will be completed by this time next year.

Update – Riverfront Fencing

The chain link fence from Cedar Street to Mad Creek needs replaced. Waiting to see if it will be covered by FEMA. If not, an additional funding source has been located.

Update – Riverfront Concrete Repair

The concrete is upheaving next to the restroom building on the riverfront. Waiting on approval from FEMA to get it repaired.

Update – Fuller Park Playground

City Council approved \$140,000 to replace the playground surfacing at Fuller Park. Bids were sent out and are due next Tuesday, September 10th. The Kiwanis request for expanded handicap accessible features may fold into this project.

Update – Native American Trail Marker

Staff has been working with Commission Member Bierman in regards to finding a location for a Native American Trail Marker. Looking at possibly placing it in Weed Park due to its native american history. Bierman discussed history of the artifact and provided possible wording for a descriptive plaque. More information will be presented to the commission at a later date.

Update – College Search Kickoff Event 2019

Ramona Barber created this event 24 years ago and has a copy right on it. Last year Ramona gifted this event to the City to be ran by the Parks and Recreation Department. The 24th annual College Search Kickoff took place the last week of July. There were 60 teams and about 175 college coaches in attendance. Staff will be requesting additional resources going forward as this is a large event that requires attention throughout the year.

Other Business

Staff asked commission to let them know if they ever have any questions or suggestions on the commission process or parks and recreation system.

Haller informed commission that the participation numbers for the Muscatine Girls Softball Association has declined dramatically in the last few years. The boys have stated they are experiencing the same problem. Haller asked commission for ideas or suggestions on how to grow the program. Commission suggested we invite all organizations to the next commission meeting to discuss.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Office Coordinator