

MINUTES
Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, October 5, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Angie Haller, Brad Bark, Dana Kraft, Al Wagner, Tim Riley and Greg Harper

Members Absent: Kim Warren

Staff Present: Rich Klimes

Guests Present: Dr. Jeff Shay and Melanie Alexander

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

Motion to approve minutes of the September 7, 2016 regular meeting. Moved by Haller. Second by Harper. All ayes; motion carries.

Presentation – Dr. Shay Historical Project

Dr. Shay discussed some brief history on the Battle of Shiloh that took place on April 6, 1862. The Battle of Shiloh had the greatest loss of Iowans than any other war with dozens of them being Muscatine soldiers. For 50 years Muscatine held a Shiloh Celebration but it ended in 1914.

Dr. Shay stated Finley Newell and Bill Mikesell are two soldiers who perished during the battle and were buried at Geenwood Cemetery. However, they no longer have headstones recognizing them. Dr. Shay stated he would like to see the soldiers receive new headstones and would also like Muscatine to honor the Battle of Shiloh with some type of monument.

Commission Member Riley motioned to endorse the historical project as presented by Dr. Shay subject to approval by City Staff. Seconded by Commission Member Wagner. No further discussion. All ayes; motion carries.

Presentation – Riverfront Community Art Request

Alexander stated the Community Improvement Action Team created an informal public art group that has been working with the University of Iowa's Art Share Program. One of the students they've been working with, Yelena Mass, has now graduated but would like to help create a public art piece for Muscatine. She primarily works with metals and can powder coat the top to sustain the original piece. Alexander stated they would like to attach the art piece to the Riverfront Restrooms or the Papoose Lift Station.

Wagner asked if they could connect this projects to other parks in the community. Alexander stated there are no plans at this time for that. Klimes informed the Commission there is no funding set aside to fix or maintain this project.

Commission Member Haller motioned to endorse community art on the Muscatine Riverfront subject to approval by City Staff. Seconded by Commission Member Riley. No further discussion. All ayes; motion carries.

Update – Leadership Muscatine Project

Klimes stated the Leadership Muscatine group originally wanted to build a shelter and water fountain at the bottom of Canon Avenue. There weren't enough funds for the shelter but they have raised enough to put a concrete slab and water fountain there.

Update – Greenwood Cemetery Steps

Klimes stated the Friends of Greenwood Cemetery Steps group are about \$13,000 short for the project but will be meeting with him tomorrow to reevaluate the project.

Update – Dog Park

Klimes asked the Commission if anyone would like to join the Dog Park Committee. Commission members Bark and Riley volunteered to join the group.

Klimes stated the Committee has raised enough money to seed the land. However, the City will not commit resources to maintain the area until they've raised enough money for the project.

Update – R.E.A.P. Grant Project

Klimes gave an update on the phases of the R.E.A.P. Grant Project. The flood has put the Harbor Rip-Rap Project on hold. Klimes stated they are still working on logistics to replace the current long dock. We would like to go with a telescoping system that would raise and lower with water levels.

Other Business

Klimes stated the City is in the process of starting a Waterfront Design Project from Mad Creek to the Millennium Plaza. We are looking for committee members and have requested Harper to join as a representation for trails.

Klimes stated the Aquatic Center Design Committee will be meeting soon and will consist of City Staff and Commission Members Haller, Bark and Kraft.

Klimes informed the Commission that the Pickleball Committee will consist of Carol Ward, Tom Beckley, Blaine Carroll and Julie Edmonds. Klimes asked if any Commission members would like to join the Committee but there was no interest at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Office Coordinator