

MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.
Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present: Chris Howell, Dana LaRue, Angie Haller, Dana Kraft, Rick Bierman and Jennifer DeFosse

Members Absent: Brad Bark

Staff Present: Rich Klimes

Guests Present: Dan Clark, Tom Meeker, Ann Meeker, Tom Emerick and Frank Kelly

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

Motion to approve minutes of the January 9, 2019 regular meeting. Moved by Kraft. Second by DeFosse. All ayes; motion carries.

Presentation – Peace Park

Kelly gave a presentation on a potential Peace Park in Muscatine. Kelly explained the group is looking at the old Hawkeye Lumber site or Carver Corner for possible locations. Meeker explained the Hawkeye site would be too small. The park would be a place for the community to come together but also bring a lot of tourism to town. Would like it to be a large venue that could hold hundreds of people for special events. There was no cost estimate or concept hardscape plan presented but there was a “Theory” as the presenters called it.

Klimes asked if the group was aware that the City was in the process of developing an R.F.P. to develop the site.

Meeker replied that is why we want to grab it now. The City is not the only ones that can talk to the McKee family.

Klimes asked if the group had considered any other sites and the group responded no they had not because the Carver Corner area is the perfect site for the Peace Park.

Commission member DeFosse asked the group if the park would be accessible for the entire community. Kelly stated the goal of the group is for the park to be inclusive for everyone in the community.

Commission Member Kraft motioned to endorse the theory for a Peace Park subject to a concept plan and cost estimate. Seconded by Commission Member Haller. All ayes; motion carries.

Update – Houser Parking Expansion

Staff is currently working on seeding the fields. The contractor is back on site to complete work for the project. Musco will be in there soon to finish lighting. The trail will open in a few weeks and the rapid flash beacons will be installed. We do not intend on using the fields until later this year or Spring of 2020.

Update – Dog Park

There have been 299 Dog Park tags sold so far and more tags have been ordered. Minimal issues have been reported to date. Additional benches and trees will be added. The donated entry sign and kiosk will be completed soon.

Update – Weed Park Street Lighting Project

Musco has been contracted for this project and will start installing lights very soon. The lights will replace all of the street lighting in Weed Park.

Update – Weed Park Restroom

Once the lighting project is complete staff will start working on the restroom project. If there is any money leftover from the lighting project it will be allocated to the restroom project. As of now, the restroom at the Rose Garden will be replaced or refurbished and potentially an additional restroom will be added in the center of the park.

Update – West Side Trail Project

A portion of the trail in front of the new parking lot and soccer fields will be completed in a few weeks. The other portion of this trail will go up Houser Street, cross Lucas Street, continue up Houser Street to Crossroads Inc. then connect to Discovery Park.

Update – Riverfront Fencing

Staff is looking at options for the Riverfront Fencing Project. One option is to replace the fencing from Cedar Street to Mad Creek. The second option would be to repaint the fencing and request to use the saved money budgeted for additional fencing in other park areas.

Update – Riverfront Concrete Repair

City Council approved the Riverfront Concrete Repair Project which will consist of taking out the concrete next to the riverfront playground restroom and replacing it.

Update – Fuller Park Playground

City Council approved the request to replace the playground surfacing at Fuller Park. May look at adding more inclusive playground equipment as well if funds are available.

Update – Native American Trail Marker

Staff has been working with Commission Member Bierman in regards to finding a location for the Native American Trail Marker. One possibility may be at the new West Side Trail site.

Review – 2019 Special Event Listing

Staff distributed the 2019 Special Event Listing and discussed upcoming events.

Discuss – Kiwanis Playground Request

Kiwanis has requested to look at adding a playground that would have lots of inclusive playground equipment for kids. May look at making a portion of the playground at Fuller Park inclusive as well.

Other Business

Staff informed the commission that restrooms in the parks will be open once the weather is consistently above freezing at night.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Office Coordinator