

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 04/19/16

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at City Services Center, 500 15th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

PRESENT: Jeff McLaughlin, Don Clow, Bill Unger, Ron Gonder, Chris Thoms, Jackie Thompson-Oster, Darrel Wridler, Felicia Wyrick, Mary Lee Malmberg

STAFF: Sven Leff, Daniel Gibbins, Lisa Miller, Angie Cole, Gail Loskill, Angie Turner

ABSENT: Michelle Barker, Debbie Schroeder, Barb Hannon, June Schumacher

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 am.
2. Chris Thoms motioned to approve the 03/15/16 Minutes, Don Clow seconded, Minutes approved as written.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Scholarship Assistance request – A letter was submitted requesting financial assistance for a member of the CR Washington High school golf team for \$147.20/\$247.20 of a season pass. Chris Toms asked if this was set a precedent for others. Leff agreed we do risk that but golf has seen very little request for financial assistance and has no fear of it setting a precedent. Unger suggested that the amount be made up in volunteer hours at the golf courses, which could also help with future employment.

Motion by Chris Toms, second by Jackie Thompson-Oster to approve the financial assistance of \$147.20 with the recipient doing volunteer work to off-set the amount given. Motion carried unanimously.
 - b. BBQ Roundup Fundraising Report – Jackie reported that the event has been broken up into zones in order to help with the fundraising goals. There is a Nature, Fitness/Nutrition & Safety/Education and Craft zones. The financial assistance program gets 40% of the sponsorships. Vendors are being secured by Macaroni Kids who is splitting the vendor fee revenue and each vendor will be doing an interactive piece at their booth.
 - c. Harbor Plan Review - A copy of a harbor improvement plan request was submitted for 21EE with the packet. After review, Don Clow motioned to accept the improvement plan request with a Deadman cable to be included, Chris Toms seconded, motion carried unanimously.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. "I'm a Parks & Rec Kid" Campaign – Gail Loskill presented the campaign that includes simple cell phone videos of people sharing their experience with parks and recreation programs and the impact it had on their lives, subtle marketing of recreation programs and asking people to get out and use park facilities and make sure their kids are creating park and rec memories. Billboard will be located at 1850 Blairs Ferry Rd East and West (east of Center Point) and 235 Edgewood Rd NW (corner of Johnson Avenue and Edgewood Road) with 115,000 impressions a day.
 - b. NW Recreation Center Update – Angie Turner presented on the Northwest Recreation Center that will open the summer of 2016. The center will provide the community with a full-sized gymnasium, a divided multi-purpose room, an activity room and a game room. We have formed a successful partnership with Harrison School. It was reiterated that communication with the neighborhood continues with the association in the area and that security is a strong concern with the school use.
 - c. Greenway Development – Leff commented that the same plan is being used that was developed in 2014. Lots of work has been done on the river front. At this point many things cannot be built until flood protection is established. Trees are being removed and property acquisitions are still taking place in the Czech Village area that are in the future plaza and parking area. The Commission agreed that it would be good for Public Works to send out press releases to educate people why the trees are being removed. Discussion was held on absorbing the additional mowing and maintenance into our system. Time Check is also doing trees and infrastructure removal. Gibbins commented that funding was put towards a seed and fertilizer bid to allow this turf to be more established. A skate park is set to be in this area but there are no CIP funds available for this yet.

- d. Parks and Recreation Facility Inventory - Commission members agreed to each take a list of parks to go on site, take pictures and write narratives about their observations. The plan is to begin to compile a database. Areas submitted will be shared at the next Commission meeting.

6. **REPORTS:**

a. Sports Tourism Report:

- Old Capitol Open, an Ultimate Frisbee competition, hosted by CR Parks & Recreation and Iowa Hawkeye Ultimate Club, was held April 2-3, 2016 at Tuma Soccer Complex. 53 teams/1000 people participated. Direct visitor spending: \$124,560. Many thanks to CR Parks & Rec for creating this tournament!
- On Tuesday, May 3rd, the CVB will unveil the new vision of the organization at Black Sheep Social Club, 600 1st Street SE. The relaunch celebration will run from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. Members of the PWR Commission are invited.

b. Director's Report – The Director's Report was distributed via e-mail.

c. Council Report – None – Susie not in attendance.

d. Public Input – None

e. Commissions Report/Agenda Items - None

7. Motion to adjourn, Don Clow, seconded by Chris Thoms – Meeting adjourned 9:10 am.

NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center – Five Seasons Conference Room

Respectfully submitted, Angie Cole