

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 05/17/16

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 at City Services Center, 500 15th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

PRESENT: Jeff McLaud, Don Clow, Bill Unger, Chris Thoms, Jackie Thompson-Oster, Darrel Wrider, Felicia Wyrick, Michelle Barker, Debbie Schroeder, Mary Lee Malmberg
STAFF: Sven Leff, Daniel Gibbins, Lisa Miller, Angie Cole, June Schumacher
ABSENT: Barb Hannon, Ron Gonder

1. Meeting called to order at 7:32 am.
2. Chris Thoms motioned to approve the 04/19/16 Minutes, Don Clow seconded, Minutes approved as written.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. Presentation: Monarch Zones & Prairie Habitat – Daniel Gibbins introduced Becki Lynch, President of the Friends of Noelridge Park who is helping with this project. Daniel gave a power point presentation on the project including areas of future prairie habitat and history of the need for pollinators.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. Scholarship Assistance Request – Big Brothers/Big Sisters of East Central Iowa submitted an application for assistance for recreation programs. Bill Unger motioned to award \$500 in scholarship funds, Chris Thoms seconded, motion carried.
 - b. River Event Endorsement – The Cedar Boat Club is requesting that the Parks, Waterways, & Recreation Commission endorse the 41st Cedar Boat Club Fireworks to be held near the Ellis Harbor July 3, 2016. Don Clow motioned to endorse this event, Chris Thoms seconded, motion carried.
 - c. BBQ Roundup Fundraising Report – Jackie reported on the progress of the event. The financial assistance program will get 40% of the sponsorships. Megan Corrigan from Bever Farm will have goats and rabbits. Megan will need fencing for that area. The event is June 26th and volunteers will need to commit to 11 am – 2pm. Jackie could still use approximately 6 volunteers. There will be another meeting with VenuWorks on June 14th.
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Park & Recreation Facility Inventory – Sven talked about what to look for when taking photos in the parks. Capture what you feel is worthy. Discussed the GPS tracking app available for phones. Sven had additional copies of park listings for those who may have misplaced or not received one.
 - b. Goose Management – Sven briefed the commission on the prospective change of ordinance pertaining to hunting geese that will go as a Public Hearing before Council on May 24, 2016. The history of partnering with the DNR was explained and various methods used in the past were also discussed. No methods up to this point have consistently worked. The Ordinance would allow for hunting geese south of Highway 30 and west of Interstate I-380. DNR has stated that they will no longer do roundups unless adults are taken to process.
 - c. Reschedule June 21st PWRC Meeting – Sven is requesting to change the June 21st PWRC meeting due to a mandatory meeting scheduled for City of Cedar Rapids Management team members. After a discussion of various dates, it was decided that the best date for most would be to meet Wednesday, June 15th at 7:30 am. The June meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.
7. **REPORTS:**
 - a. Sports Tourism Report:
 - The Cedar Rapids Area Convention & Visitors Bureau is now known as GO Cedar Rapids. GO Cedar Rapids is dedicated to enhancing the local economy by promoting the area as the premier destination in the region for travel, tourism and events.

- GO Cedar Rapids just unveiled **Overalls All Over** which is part of this year's celebration of Grant Wood's 125 birthday. Twenty-five life-sized 6' fiberglass statues of the farmer and daughter depicted in the American Gothic painting are located throughout Cedar Rapids as well as in Eldon and Amana.
 - Sports Tourism is working with Mount Mercy University Athletics to submit a proposal to host NAIA Men's & Women's Cross Country Nationals at Seminole Valley XC Course in November 2018 and 2020. We are partnering on this bid with the Cascade Conference from the Pacific Northwest. They will offer to host 2017 and 2019. By doing this we will be able to host the meet on "Away" dates for University of Iowa Football Games and not compete for lodging. The meets will be awarded this Fall.
- b. Director's Report – The Director's Report was distributed via e-mail. Sven reported that the golf RFP is being evaluated and staff has been given the direction that they will be leading the research.
 - c. Council Report – None – Susie not in attendance.
 - d. Public Input – Public comment was heard at this time.
 - e. Commissions Report/Agenda Items – Michelle Barker shared the following information on the United Way's Day of Caring. Here's a brief summary of [LAMBA's United Way Day of Caring project](#). Thank you to Mike and his staff for taking care of all of the debris gathered by the volunteers. The highlights were locating cassette tapes of Jock Jams and morel mushrooms.
 - Numbers breakdown:
 - -9 groups represented
 - -80 volunteers
 - -293 hours
 - -6 tons of debris and trash
 - -75 bags of garlic mustard
 - -Approx \$7000 value at 2015 volunteer rate

Other Important Dates:

June 19th – Mountain Bike Race

June 25th – LAMBA – Squaw Creek – Take a kid mountain biking.

Felicia Wyrick reported that Daniel Gibbins and his staff have done a good job cleaning up the Cedar Lake shoreline. Felicia was headed to Des Moines to visit a similar lake there.

8. Motion to adjourn, Don Clow, seconded by Chris Thoms – Meeting adjourned 9:00 am.

NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING DATE BELOW:

NEXT MEETING –Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center – Greene Square Conference Room , 2nd Floor.

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher