

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 01/20/15

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at City Services Center, 500 15th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

PRESENT: Jackie Thompson-Oster, Jeff McLaud, Barb Hannon, Debbie Schroeder, Ron Gonder, Bill Unger (via phone), Felicia Wyrick, Darrel Wrider, Don Clow, and Tammi Janey
STAFF: Sven Leff, Lisa Miller, Angie Cole, Daniel Gibbins, June Schumacher, Gail Loskill
ABSENT: Susie Weinacht, Michelle Barker, Mary Lee Malmberg

1. Meeting called to order at 7:34 am.
2. Jeff McLaud motioned to accept the 12/16/14 Minutes, Don Clow seconded, Minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Scholarship & Financial Assistant Reports – June presented the reports on scholarship funding and usage for 2014. A report on financial assistance given through the Ambroz main office was also given. Sven discussed the cash on hand and how fund raising will be important to replenish if the fund is to remain intact.
 - B. Scholarship Fund Request – Tanager Place has requested swim punch cards for the 2015 aquatics season. The punch passes are to be used for their inpatient children. Based on use of the 2014 season, Barb Hannon motioned to award four (4) punch cards with the ability to award 2 additional cards or thirty two (32) punches if the first four (4) punch cards are all used. Jeff McLaud seconded, motion carried.
 - C. Fund Raising Progress – Angie Cole discussed the memo of ideas which was distributed. Discussion was also held on sponsorships and how the money would be dedicated to the low-income fund. Felicia Wyrick commented on how communication was the key in providing the reasons for gaps in funding and needed to take place prior to asking for funds. Gail stated that marketing hesitated to get the word out prior to the fund getting some substantial donations as it would greatly increase the demand. Angie stated that she had met with the CVB and bike enthusiasts regarding a cycling event. Locations for such an event were discussed with pros and cons. There was extensive discussion on the various possibilities regarding cycling events. Sven recommended the Special Events Committee get together and flush out to get to “the” event the group would like to focus on.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Aquatics – Angie Cole discussed the memo regarding post season dates that went out with the agenda. Angie stated that the feeling and hope was that the waiver to start school August 17th would most likely be approved. This start date is a week sooner than the last couple of years. A chart of post season swimming was included on the memo.
 - B. Foundation Discussion – Sven Leff stated that he would be meeting with Les Gardner of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation. A 501(c)3 will need to be established. The City Manager has expressed the desire for a foundation to be established. Sven will proceed with gathering the necessary steps to get this accomplished.

6. **REPORTS:**

A. Sports Tourism Report: Mary Lee was absent; however, she sent the following report.

- Last month I talked about the 2016 Goalball Nationals, an event for athletes with visual impairments. Both the Eastern Iowa Lions Club and SportAbility of Iowa have turned down the opportunity to become the lead planner for the tournament if it was awarded to Cedar Rapids. Reasoning was financial as well as volunteer availability. Therefore we had to pass on submitting a bid.
- The CVB is flying the planner for the 2017 International Jugglers Association Festival to Cedar Rapids January 29-30. He will tour the DoubleTree Hotel, Convention Center, Paramount Theatre, downtown, NewBo area and Coe College's track. Thanks to Don Clow's suggestion, we will suggest an offsite workshop in Skuggling (waterski juggling) if Cedar Rapids is selected. As far as we know, Cedar Rapids is the home of Skuggling!
- The Iowa Amateur Softball Association has awarded Cedar Rapids their Men's Major 16" Slow Pitch Softball Tournament. It will be hosted by CR Parks & Recreation at Tait Cummins Sports Park on August 22-23, 2015. 20 teams participated in the tournament last year. Direct spending is expected to be \$38,190. Many thanks to CR Parks & Rec for agreeing to host this event!

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

- Lisa Miller explained the new Family Golf Pass that is being offered.
- Daniel briefed the Commission on the Matrix reorganization that will affect Parks & Recreation.
- Sven invited the Commission members to the Variety Playground Press Conference – Tuesday, January 27th at 10:00 am at the Noelridge Greenhouse.
- Greene Square Revitalization project is out for bid and due February 4th. The City had applied for a grant and did not receive it. There will not be any extras on the project because of this as well as the department will need to fund raise for the shortfall.

C. Council Report– No report – Susie absent.

D. Public Input – There was no public input.

E. Commissions Report/Agenda Items:

- Felicia Wyrick reported on the Cedar Lake project. The agreement is nearly complete to begin discovery.
- Ron Gonder inquired about the goose problem. Daniel and Ron will get together to discuss.

F. Motion to adjourn, Felicia Wyrick, seconded by Jeff McLaud– Meeting adjourned 8:53 am.

NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center - Five Seasons Conference Room – 500 15th Ave. SW.

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher