

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 02/16/16

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 McLeod, Don Clow, Bill Unger (phone), Ron Gonder, Debbie Schroeder, Barb Hannon, Chris Thoms, Susie Weinacht

STAFF: Sven Leff, Gail Loskill, June Schumacher, Daniel Gibbins, Lisa Miller, Angie Cole, Megan Corrigan

ABSENT: Jackie Thompson-Oster, Darrel Wridler, Felicia Wyrick, Michelle Barker, Mary Lee Malmberg

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35 am.
2. Chris Thoms motioned to approve the 01/19/15 Minutes, Don Clow seconded, Minutes approved as written.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. Ambroz Recreation Center – Sven gave an overview regarding the Ambroz Recreation Center and the ADA shortfalls the building is facing. Due to the cost to bring the building up to code and the effect the current inaccessibility of the building has on customers, the plan is to close the facility by fall. Sven discussed how the NW Recreation Center could accommodate almost all of the current Ambroz programs. For those cultural arts programs that could not be accommodated, Harrison School has expressed interest in possibly providing space within the school for the ceramics programs and staff is working with the Library regarding possibly holding music programs in that facility. Ron Gonder expressed that he would have liked to have seen a replacement facility on the SE side prior to the closing of Ambroz. Staff stated that program opportunities were currently being offered at various facilities throughout the city such as Gibson and Harding schools.
 - b. Bever Farm – Megan Corrigan, Bever Animal Exhibit Coordinator, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the plans for the updated Bever Farm. Megan discussed the various partners she is pursuing as well as working with and what the plans are for the Farm beginning with programs for summer 2016. Chris Thoms stated he had contacts with organizations as he has been involved with the previous zoo since 1977. The PowerPoint will be attached with these minutes.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. End of Season Pool Schedule – Barb Hannon stated that Sven’s email was very well written and informative however; she still disagrees with the proposed closing schedule for Bever Pool. Staff reported that Noelridge Aquatic Center provides swimming until Labor Day. Barb stated that the Wellington Heights kids cannot get to Noelridge. Barb would like the Dog Swim delayed until after school opens. She feels that it does not look good when the dogs can swim but the children can’t. Barb feels that her job on the Commission is to be the voice for those kids. Gail Loskill provided research and demographics gathered on low-income pool passes which shows that the Jones Pool demographic applies for more pass assistance than any other area.
6. **REPORTS:**
 - a. Sports Tourism Report: Mary Lee gone, no report.
 - b. Director’s Report – The Director’s Report was distributed via e-mail. The harbor repair bid came in very high. There are challenges on the design, will need to discuss how to proceed. Sven will get Chris Thoms a thumb drive with PWRC documents.
 - c. Council Report – Susie reported that Council is looking at Golf sustainability by issuing an RFP for a consultant to review operations and facilities. Susie is excited about the Bever Farm and suggested Megan look into “One Million Cups” as a funding opportunity.
 - d. Public Input – None

- e. Commissions Report/Agenda Items Ron reported that Alliant is ready to turn Cedar Lake over to the city. Finalizing legal language on who will be responsible for what is in the lake. The Master Plan for Cedar Lake will be presented at the March meeting.

7. Motion to adjourn, Don Clow, seconded by Chris Thoms – Meeting adjourned 8:50 am.

NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center – Five Seasons Conference Room

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher