

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 02/17/15

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at City Services Center, 500 15th Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:33 am.
2. Jeff McLaud motioned to accept the 01/20/15 Minutes, Darrel Wrider seconded, Minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. Request to Fund Financial Assistance Program – Sven gave an overview of the Financial Assistance Program and process. Sven stated that it is his intent to report on the status of the fund the first of each year as well as report on revenue forfeited to support the assistance program. The amount of revenue forfeited through registrations at Ambroz for calendar year 2014 was \$7,574. The fund currently has approximately \$13,967 available. The commission is currently investigating fund raising opportunities to help the fund grow. Due to the fact that there is not a definite revenue stream right now, the department is asking for 50% reimbursement to the fund to cover the revenue forfeited. This is a request of \$3,787 to be transferred from the low-income assistance fund back into the general operating fund. Jackie stated that she felt this was a good way to approach it while transitioning to a new fund raiser. Jeff motioned to transfer \$3,787 from the low-income assistance fund back into the general fund. Tammi Janey seconded, motion carried.
 - B. Forestry, ROW Mowing Urban Core Maintenance – Daniel reported on the organization chart of the departments merging into Parks & Recreation and how they had been set up. The reorganization is a result of the Matrix evaluation completed for Public Works. Forestry and Right of Way mowing was determined to be better suited under the Parks & Recreation Department rather than Public Works. Sven gave an overview of the Commission to Todd Fagan, City Forester. Introductions were made. Forestry's role in the Emerald Ash Bore epidemic was also discussed. Sven has submitted a request for funding of an Urban Core Maintenance work team to help with the increased demands of the revitalized downtown area. This request matches the City's goals for development. The budget will be presented to City Council on March 12th. Daniel is excited about the explosion and use of volunteer groups.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Fund Raising – Angie Cole reported the fund-raising committee was investigating a Fat Bike event. Angie introduced Alexis, the intern who will be assisting with gathering information

and implementing the event. A proposal will be submitted to VenueWorks. Also looking at a family day event to incorporate with BBQ Roundup.

- B. Foundation Discussion – Sven Leff stated that he met with Michelle Beisker of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation to discuss foundations and “Friends” groups. Both funds are good ways to start receiving gifts. A foundation can be started with \$10,000. Sven has a few questions left to determine next steps. The important thing is to do it correctly and make it sustainable. It will be important to build trust and prove integrity so people know the money is being used as intended. Often times, a “Friends” group can raise enough to provide the seed fund for the foundation.

6. REPORTS:

- A. Sports Tourism Report: Mary Lee gave the following report.
- The Intl Jugglers Assn site visit went very well. Their Board is reviewing the report of the trip, and we hope to have some news by the end of February. We are bidding for the July 2017 week-long festival.
 - Iowa USA Wrestling has signed a contract to bring their Youth Super State Championship back to the U.S. Cellular Center Arena in January 2016 & 2017. Visitor spending as a result of the competition is projected to be more than \$80,000 each year.
 - Ragbrai will be coming to Hiawatha July 23, 2015.
- B. Director’s Report – The Director’s Report was distributed via e-mail.
- C. Council Report– No report – Susie reported that the Council was working on the budget and she is working hard to support Parks & Recreation. There is a need for the Urban Core Maintenance position. Staff will be needed to sustain the added green space. It is important to Susie that all people have opportunities to be involved in Parks & Recreation. There is a gap in funding for Greene Square Revitalization but there is hope it will be resolved.
- D. Public Input – There was no public input.
- E. Commissions Report/Agenda Items: None given.
- F. Motion to adjourn, Jeff McLaud, seconded by Don Clow– Meeting adjourned 8:35 am.

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

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher