

## PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 04/21/15

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at City Services Center, 500 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

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

1. Meeting called to order at 7:33 am.
2. Jeff McLaud motioned to accept the 03/17/15 Minutes, Don Clow seconded, Minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  - A. Fund Raising Update – Jackie Thompson-Oster reported on the Family Fun Day that will take place June 28<sup>th</sup> at the Amphitheatre. VenuWorks is securing sponsors and the event will run from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm. Jackie gave a rundown of what was planned for the day. The event is free for children 12 and under. The next meeting is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. Jackie will try and get a later meeting time. The Fat Tire Bike event was discussed. Due to Michelle Barker's new employment position she does not have time to be the lead on the event. Michelle recommended having a small committee to get the event done. Mary Lee stated that she would take it to the CVB's Sports Tourism Advisory Committee to see if someone would be interested in being the lead. This person will need to have race experience. Michelle is willing to help with the event; she just can't be the lead. The next step will be to identify a lead person for the committee and report back. If one cannot be identified, the event may not be able to move forward.
  - B. Foundation Update – Sven reported that he met with attorney Maureen Kenny regarding setting up a foundation. The cost estimate to establish such a foundation is \$2,500. There are several steps to get the process going; 1) A corporation needs to be formed; 2) Need to apply for a 501(c)(3) non-profit status; 3) Need roughly 7 people as a startup group. Sven asked that members be thinking about who would be a good starter person to get this up and going. Sven sees the role of the group as fundraising and helping to promote Parks & Recreation programs and events. Sven stated that he still feels that there is a need for both a "Friends" group as well as a foundation. Sven will spend time writing down what each group would be doing and what the expectations might be. Maureen Kenny will work on documents to help the Commission get started.
  - C. Smoke/Tobacco/Nicotine Free Parks – Sven discussed the information that was distributed as well as the draft proposal. Signage will be important as it communicates the expected behaviors. Signage will also empower good-minded citizens. A grace/educational period was discussed as well as the application on city-owned operations at Gardner Golf Course (a city-owned facility in a County park with a Marion mailing address). Consistency will be important. After extensive discussion, Jeff McLaud motioned to bring the proposed ordinance back for action at the May Commission meeting. Darrel Wrider seconded, motion carried.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- D. Harbor Dock Review – Two (2) harbor plans were reviewed. The Kent plan needs to add a safety line/dead man cable. Jeff McLaud would like to see 12' poles instead of 14'. Aswegan plan was fine. Jeff McLaud motioned to approve both plans with the amendment to the Kent dock, Felicia Wyrick seconded, motion carried.
- E. Scholarship Applications – Two scholarship requests were submitted. Four Oaks Total Child submitted a request for a family swim pass and The Arc of East Central Iowa for punch passes. June reported on the cost for each as well as what their usage was the previous summer. Felicia Wyrick motioned to approve a family swim pass to Four Oaks and seven (7) aquatic punch passes to The Arc. Michelle Barker seconded, motion carried.

**6. REPORTS:**

A. Sports Tourism Report:

- Cedar Rapids has been awarded the International Jugglers Association 2017 Juggling Festival. They will use the U.S. Cellular Convention Center, Paramount Theatre and Coe College as their facilities. The 600 jugglers and family members attending the festival are expected to generate \$356,500 direct spending and more than 900 hotel overnights. Dates are July 10-16, 2017.
- Mount Mercy University's Athletic Department has created a new cross country invitational to showcase the new Seminole Valley Cross Country Course. This will build credibility for the course for the next time we bid on the NAIA Men's and Women's Cross Country Nationals. At last check, 14 NAIA schools have agreed to participate on October 24th.
- Cedar River Soccer Association hosted the Chill Out Tournament at Tuma on April 18-19. More than 170 teams from 5 states participated.
- The CVB has rolled out a refreshed website. Go to [www.cedar-rapids.com](http://www.cedar-rapids.com).

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

- Sven reminded members that Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> was Earth Day and there would be a tree planting taking place at Noelridge Park.
- Four (4) members of the Parks & Recreation staff were selected to present sessions at the National Recreation & Parks Association Conference in Las Vegas, NV in September.
- The department is partnering with the Iowa BIG program to plant fruit trees in Noelridge Park on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

C. Council Report – No report Susie absent.

D. Public Input – There was no public input.

E. Commissions Report/Agenda Items: The Fat Tire Frenzy will be held at Bever Park on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cedar Lake Clean-Up was held Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 100 kids will also be helping to clean up McLeod Run.

F. Motion to adjourn, Jeff McLaud, seconded by Don Clow– Meeting adjourned 9:11 am.

**NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center - Five Seasons Conference Room – 500 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. SW.**

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher