

PARKS, WATERWAYS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – 06/16/15

The Cedar Rapids Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission met on Tuesday, June 16, 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, Darrel Wridler, Don Clow, Mary Lee Malmberg, Ron Gonder, Tammi Janey, Felicia Wyrick, Susie Weinacht, Michelle Barker (via phone)
STAFF: Sven Leff, June Schumacher, Gail Loskill, Todd Fagan, Angie Cole, Lisa Miller
ABSENT: Daniel Gibbins

1. Meeting called to order at 7:31 am.
2. Jeff McLaud motioned to accept the 05/19/15 Minutes, Darrel Wridler seconded, Minutes approved.
3. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Fundraising Report – Angie Cole reported on the Color Vibe. Lots of people attended, approximately 2,000. Thanks to Mary Lee and husband for working the water station. Jackie Thompson-Oster reported that the Family Fun Day event is still in need of volunteers. Jackie asked that members sign up by the end of the day June 16th so she could see what was needed. The Commission members agreed to do this event so all are encouraged to volunteer that day.

Fat Tire Bike Event – There was a lengthy discussion regarding not having a lead person with expertise in this type of event available. With that being the case, the Commission decided to respectfully decline running this event. Mary Lee stated with that being the decision of the PWRC, the Cedar Rapids Area Visitors and Convention Bureau would take the event and start running with it in another direction. Jackie stated that the Commission was not as far fund raising as she had hoped. The small group committee approach was discussed and members felt that maybe it would be more beneficial to discuss issues as a large group. Jeff McLaud stated that this first year of the merged commission experienced growing pains and the group was trying several little things to find a match. The fundraising discussion was tabled at this time.

- b. Foundation Update – Sven reported that he met with Angie Charipar and Jeff Pomerantz regarding the foundation. Discussion included who would be the right person in the community to spearhead such a foundation. It was felt that a couple of individuals from the Commission would also be beneficial on the foundation. The draft documentation was discussed and reported that after some minor adjustments, it was back to the Attorney's Office for review. Looking for the right people to engage early is key. The board can be started with only 2 people. Sven is waiting for a response from the Attorney's Office.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Cedar Boat Club Fireworks – The Cedar Boat Club will be hosting fireworks near Ellis Park on July 3, 2015. This is the 40th year for this event. Jeff McLaud motioned for the Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission to endorse this event, Felicia Wyrick seconded, motion carried. It was reported that the road will be closed and the crowd starts to gather at 4:30 pm.

- Scholarship Application – Two scholarship requests were submitted. One from Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eastern Iowa for \$500 and one from Juvenile Court Services for (30) admit ones to the pools. Barb Hannon motioned to approve, Tammi Janey seconded, motion carried.
- Thank You to Tammi Janey – Sven reported that the Commission was about to complete the 1st year cycle of the Parks, Waterways & Recreation Commission. Tammi Janey had a 1 year term and due to work obligations decided not to reapply. Tammi stated that the Commission does a wonderful job and encouraged everyone to keep up the good work. Sven thanked Tammi for her year of service to the community and its citizens. Sven reported that July would be used for introductions and election of officers. Discussion continued on how to make the best use of meeting time. Maybe a topic of the month approach would be beneficial. Jackie Thompson-Oster felt that there was not enough dialogue in the room and wants everyone to feel comfortable discussing. Some of the reasons include:
 - The first year was a learning year.
 - The meetings felt more like a reporting meeting and sometimes didn't lend itself to discussion.
 - Discussion needs to be well tuned.
 - Some members felt the group was accomplishing more than thought and as individuals.
- **REPORTS:**
 - A. Sports Tourism Report:
 - The Great Race, a time, speed, endurance vintage car rally, will be stopping in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, June 25, 2016. 100 vehicles built in 1972 and earlier are expected. Freedom Festival will coordinate all of the requirements for the stop. Anticipated direct spending is \$46,200.
 - B. Director's Report – The Director's Report was distributed via e-mail.
 - Sven reported on flooding at Jones Golf Course and also the damage at Ellis Harbor from the old sheet piling pulling away from the shore. This will need to be repaired sooner than anticipated as it has become a safety issue.
 - C. Council Report – Susie reported prior to her leaving. The Foundation will be a huge asset. The Commission is doing a great job melding.
 - D. Public Input – There was no public input.
 - E. Commissions Report/Agenda Items:
 - Felicia Wyrick gave an update from the Friends of Cedar Lake Blue Zones initiatives.
 - F. Motion to adjourn, Jeff McLaud, seconded by Don Clow– Meeting adjourned 9:03 am.

NEXT MEETING –Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at 7:30 AM – City Services Center - Five Seasons Conference Room – 500 15th Ave. SW.

Respectfully submitted, June Schumacher